

**SCREENING
FOR
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT
REPORT**

**FOR
PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS
TO THE
DRAFT DUNDALK LOCAL AREA PLAN
2024-2030**

for: Louth County Council



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

by: CAAS Ltd.



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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Report has been prepared to assess whether or not Stage Two AA, including the preparation of a Natura Impact Report is required for the Proposed Material Alterations to the Dundalk Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030 (hereafter referred to as the "Draft Plan"), in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive") and the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

This report is part of the overall and ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Draft Plan (an AA Natura Impact Report has already been placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan). It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, at adoption of the Plan.

The following documents have informed the preparation of this report and should be considered alongside it:

- Proposed Material Alterations to the Dundalk Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030;
- AA Natura Impact Report for the Dundalk Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030; and
- Dundalk Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030.

An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared following adoption that will include the final AA determination expected to be made at adoption.

1.2 Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as European sites (also known as Natura 2000 sites).

AA is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). 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 SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

1.3 Approach

The Draft Plan was informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared to accompany it on public display. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allows the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects¹. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited.

Submissions received resulted in amendments being proposed to the Plan. These amendments are the subject of this Screening for AA report.

¹ Except as provided for in Article 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.

The Screening for AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and grey literature² was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives.

The ecological desktop study completed for the AA of Draft Plan and the Screening for AA for Proposed Material Alterations comprised the following elements:

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

There are four main stages in the AA process as follow:

Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse 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 Three.

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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

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

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

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor³ model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

In the interest of this report, receptors are the ecological features that 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 Plan provision that is known to interact with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the Plan and the Proposed Material Alterations.

² Various documents where publishing, in journals for example, is not the primary activity of the producing body. Examples include: conference presentations; regulatory data; unpublished trial data; government publications; and dissertations/theses.

³ Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works; Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European sites.

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

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

This evaluation has been made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which the relevant European sites have been designated.

Section 2 Description of the Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate

The Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan (LAP) 2024-2030 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements and provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the Act). The Draft Plan provides a spatial framework for the future growth and development of Dundalk for the next six years and beyond, in the context of the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 (as varied), the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 and the National Planning Framework. The Draft Plan has also been informed by Ministerial Guidelines issued pursuant to Section 28 of the Act.

The Draft Plan comprises of a written statement with accompanying maps and appendices. The written statement shall take precedence over the maps should any discrepancy arise. The documents and maps associated with the Plan are as follows:

- Volume 1: Written Statement
- Volume 2:
 - Map 1 – Zoning and Flood Zones
 - Map 2 – Composite Map
- Volume 3:
 - Appendix 1 – Settlement Capacity Audit
 - Appendix 2 – Local Transport Plan
 - Appendix 3 – Retail Strategy Quantitative Analysis
 - Appendix 4 – Mullagharlin Masterplan
 - Appendix 5 – Social Infrastructure Audit
 - Appendix 6 – Architectural Conservation Areas
- Volume 4: Environmental Reports:
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment
 - Natura Impact Report
 - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

The Vision for the Plan seeks to ensure that Dundalk fulfils its role as a Regional Growth Centre while delivering a thriving town as an inclusive, attractive place and which enshrines the principles of compact growth, environmental, social and economic sustainability, protects and enhances the natural and built environment and which supports a strong economy while ensuring a transition to a low carbon, climate resilient society.

The Vision for Dundalk will be achieved through the realisation of the following Strategic Objectives:

- **SO 1** To promote the development and growth of Dundalk as a Regional Growth Centre along the Belfast-Dublin Economic Corridor through sustainable economic development including increased and competitive enterprise and employment opportunities.
- **SO 2** To achieve sustainable growth and consolidation of the existing built environment of Dundalk through the delivery of the principles of compact growth, infill and brownfield development, the delivery of a suitable mix of quality housing in appropriate locations, the creation of neighbourhoods where there is a sense of place and where housing is supported by the requisite physical and community infrastructure.
- **SO 3** To promote and facilitate sustainable mobility, prioritising walking, cycling and public transport through the improvement of existing infrastructure, connectivity and the implementation of the Local Transport Plan.
- **SO 4** Transition to a low carbon and climate resilient town, prioritising climate mitigation and adaptation measures in line with the Louth Climate Action Plan and implementing any actions identified for the Dundalk Blackrock Decarbonisation Zone.
- **SO 5** To recognise, protect and enhance the character, and in particular, the built and archaeological heritage of Dundalk while facilitating regeneration and growth in an appropriate and sustainable manner.
- **SO 6** To protect, conserve, enhance and sustain the natural environment of Dundalk while promoting climate adaptation and enhancing biodiversity through the protection and promotion of green infrastructure for future generations.
- **SO 7** To ensure the provision of appropriate levels of community, cultural and civic amenities and infrastructure to meet the needs of existing and future residents.

The Draft Plan sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management. The Plan must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions and will, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions. These documents have been subject to their own

environmental assessment processes, as relevant. The National Planning Framework⁴ sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the years 2018-2040. The National Planning Framework is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 (as varied), which sets out the overarching development strategy for the County, and the Local Area Plan.

In order to be realised, projects included in the Local Area Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

The Proposed Material Alterations are outlined in detail in the accompanying Proposed Material Alterations document. The Amendments propose a number of text and map-based changes to the Draft Plan.

⁴ At the time of writing this report, a process to provide a First Revision to the National Planning Framework is underway.

Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any potential significant affects to European sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.

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

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

- For SACs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected; and
- For SPAs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat⁵ or species⁶ at that site have been considered.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km pathway consideration zone to be considered. A review of all sites within this zone, in the context of the nature and scope of the Proposed Material Alterations, has allowed a determination to be made that with the exception of hydrological links, the characteristics of the Proposed Material Alterations will not impose effects beyond the 15 km zone.

Details of European sites that occur within 15 km of the Plan are listed in Table 3.1. Figure 3.1 maps European sites and Pathway Consideration Zones up to 15 km from the Draft Plan area, Figure 3.2 maps European sites that occur within the same groundwater body⁷ as the Draft Plan area⁸ (these can occur beyond the 15 km Pathway Consideration Zone).

Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) has been considered by the AA screening assessment. Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following NPWS documents:

- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Dundalk Bay SAC [IE0000455] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Dundalk Bay SPA [IE0004026] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Carlingford Mountain SAC [IE0000453] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Stabannan-Braganstown SPA [IE0004091] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Carlingford Shore SAC [IE0002306] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Carlingford Lough SPA [IE0004078] Version 1.
- NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives for North-west Irish Sea SPA [IE0004236] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC [IE0001957] Version 1.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Special Areas of Conservation with groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests

⁸ Source: EPA datasets on waterways in Ireland (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>). Accessed: May 2024

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

Screening for AA Report for Proposed Material Alterations

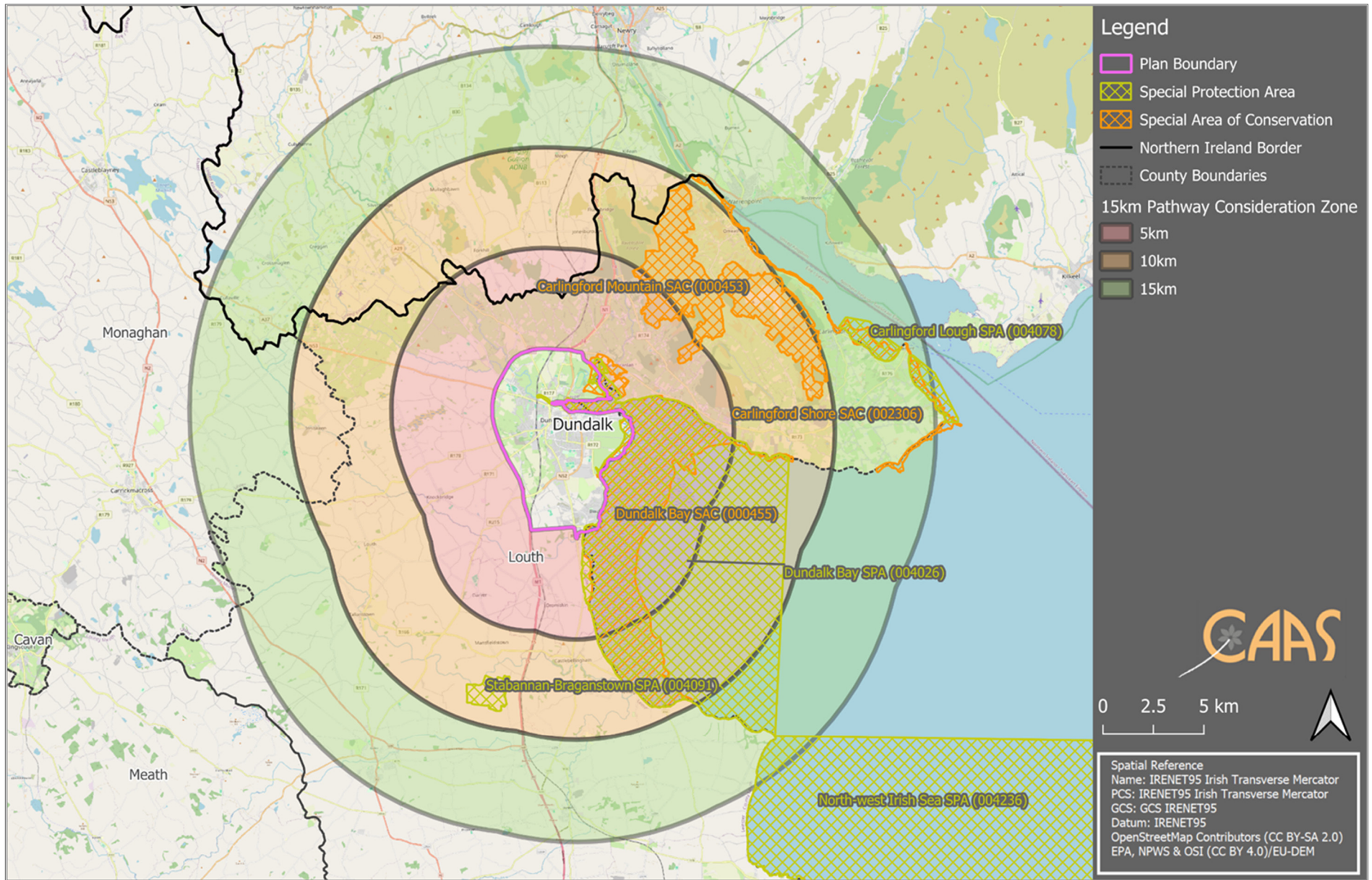


Figure 3.1 European sites and Pathway Consideration Zones up to 15 km from the Draft Plan area

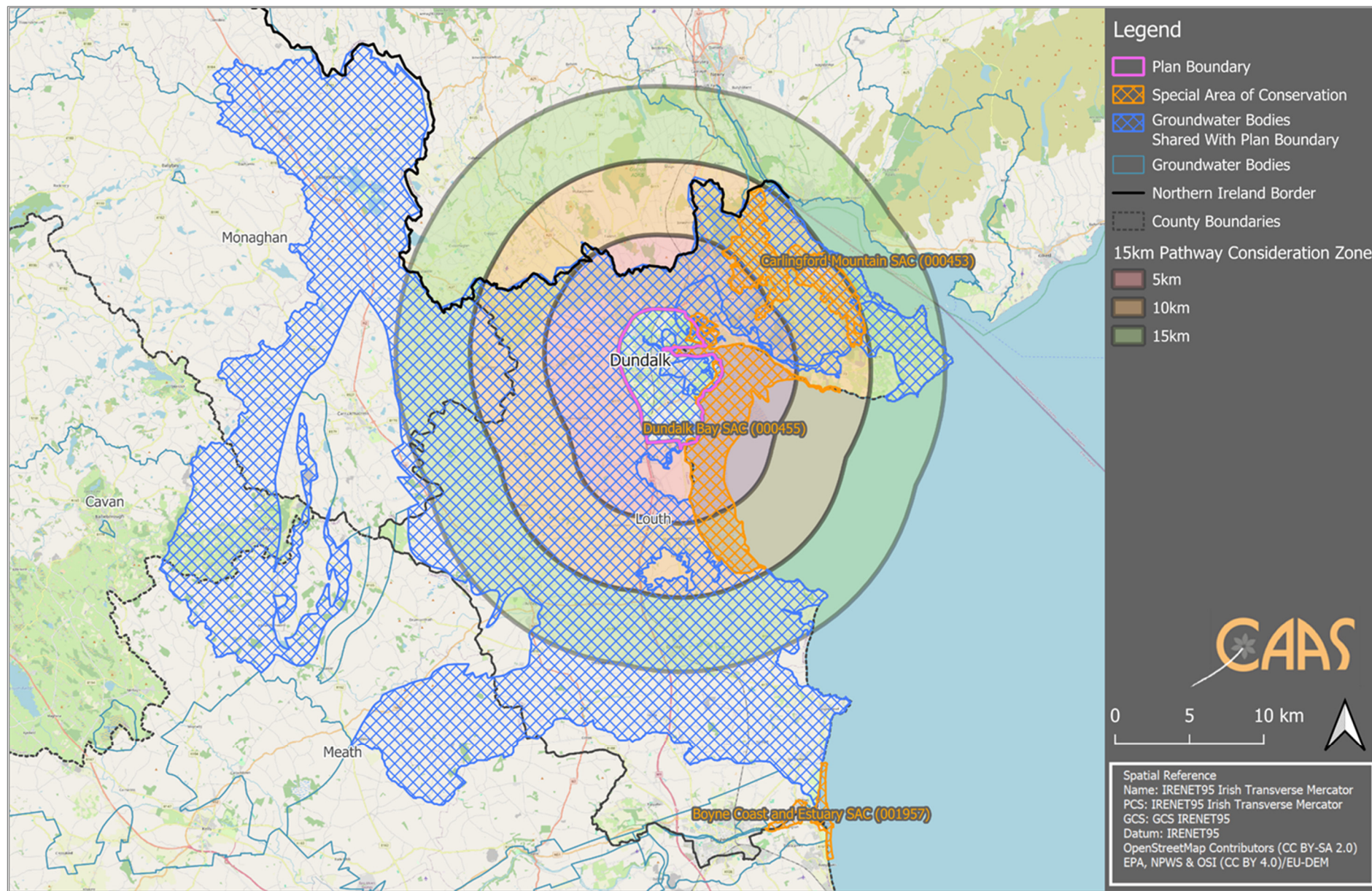


Figure 3.2 European sites⁹ with shared groundwater bodies¹⁰ with the Draft Plan area

⁹ Special Areas of Conservation and/or Special Protection Areas with groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests

¹⁰ Source: EPA datasets – accessed at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

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

The overarching objective of the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to coordinate and plan the future development of the area to which the Plan relates. Therefore, the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites.

3.3.2 Elements of the Plan with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

The Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, provides a framework for the sustainable development of Dundalk. Draft Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites include:

- The Plan's provisions, including those relating to the development strategy, key development and character areas, climate action, sustainable neighbourhoods and communities, economy and employment, retail and tourism, movement, infrastructure and culture and heritage, which introduce sources for potential effects through construction phase such as habitat loss, light pollution, disturbance effects and hydrological interactions through surface hydrological connectivity and/or shared groundwater sources;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss/fragmentation, light pollution, disturbance effects and interactions with water quality (surface and/or groundwater); and
- Increases in visitor numbers to ecologically sensitive areas during the operational phase of developments which have potential to introduce sources for significant effects, such as recreational and tourism developments.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects¹¹.

3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 examine whether there is potential for significant effects on European Sites considering information provided above.

¹¹ Except as provided for in Article 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.

Table 3.1 Screening of European sites within 15 km of the Plan boundary

| Ref | AA Screening Consideration |
|-----|---|
| 1 | This amendment would further contribute towards provisions related to this sector/topic that are already contained within the Draft Plan. Considering the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan and the existing Development Plan that contribute towards the protection of European sites, all potential risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required. Refer also to Appendix II. |
| 2 | The update to terminology/language/wording/mapping would not result in effects on any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required. |
| 3 | This amendment relates to plan text that sets the context for, summarises and/or provides clarification to Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would result in effects on any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required. |
| 4 | This amendment adds more detail but would not have the potential to result in result in effects on any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required. |
| 5 | This amendment provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and/or with the wider planning and policy framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would result in effects on any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required. |
| 6 | Removal of this provision/text would remove the potential for any environmental effects; however, removal of the provision/text would not be likely to result in effects on any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required. |

| Proposed Material Alteration No. | AA Screening Consideration Reference |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 2 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 3 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 4 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 5 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 6 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 7 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 8 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 9 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
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| 19 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 20 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 21 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 22 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
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| 47 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 48 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 49 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 50 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 51 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 52 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |

Screening for AA Report for Proposed Material Alterations

| Proposed Material Alteration No. | AA Screening Consideration Reference |
|---|--|
| 125 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 126 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 127 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 128 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
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| 143 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 144 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 145 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 146 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 147 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |
| 148 | Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required |

Table 3.2 Screening of European sites

| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Feature ¹² | Analysis for Likely Significant Effects | Likelihood of Significant Effects | Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 000455 | Dundalk Bay SAC | Within | Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Estuaries [1130] | <p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions. This site exists within the Draft Plan boundary.</p> <p>Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics¹³; and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams¹⁴. It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water¹⁵. However, given that this SAC exists within the Draft Plan boundary, a pathway for likely significant effects via groundwater has been identified as: the SAC and Draft Plan boundary are within the same groundwater body¹⁶ (see Figure 3.2); and sources for potential effects regarding groundwater interactions have been identified in the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given that this SAC is within the Draft Plan boundary, sources for potential significant effect have been identified for direct land use management activities and for hydrological interactions, via both groundwater and surface hydrological interactions, within the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Thus, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site, resulting from the implementation of the Draft Plan, have been identified. These effects have already been addressed by the integration of mitigation into the Draft Plan. Therefore, no further consideration is required.</p> | No – see also Table 3.1 | No – see also Table 3.1 |
| 004026 | Dundalk Bay SPA | Within | Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A674], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184], Greylag | <p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, direct land use management activities and disturbance effects. This site exists within the Draft Plan boundary.</p> <p>SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects^{17,18}. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year^{19,20}. However, given that this site exists within the Draft Plan boundary, pathways for potential significant effects via disturbance effects have been identified, and sources for potential effects regarding disturbance to SCI species have been identified in the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Draft Plan and this SPA lies within the Draft Plan boundary, there are sources with pathways of potential significant effect via direct land use management activities and hydrological interactions.</p> <p>Thus, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site, resulting from the implementation of the Draft Plan, have been identified. These effects have already been addressed by the integration of mitigation into the Draft Plan. Therefore, no further consideration is required.</p> | No – see also Table 3.1 | No – see also Table 3.1 |

¹² Term used to encompass both Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests

¹³ Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

¹⁴ Silva, A.C.F. *et al.* 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

¹⁵ Lasagna, M. *et al.* 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.

¹⁶ EPA groundwater datasets. Available at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

¹⁷ Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.

¹⁸ Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.

¹⁹ Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 284(1858), p.20170846.

²⁰ Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. *Ibis*, 162(3), pp.845-862.

Screening for AA Report for Proposed Material Alterations

| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Feature ¹² | Analysis for Likely Significant Effects | Likelihood of Significant Effects | Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| | | | Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] | | | |
| 000453 | Carlingford Mountain SAC | 3.41 | Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Alkaline fens [7230], European dry heaths [4030], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230] | <p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions. This site exists 3.41 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site. However, this European site has groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests, and shares the same groundwater body as the Draft Plan area (see Figure 3.2).</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, and given the nature of the Draft Plan, and the distances involved, there are no potential sources for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. In addition, there is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and the SAC, therefore, there are no pathways for likely significant effects via direct surface hydrological interaction with the SAC.</p> <p>Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics²¹, and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams²². It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water²³. Given the distance involved, a pathway for likely significant effects via groundwater has been identified as the SAC and Draft Plan boundary are within the same groundwater body²⁴ (see Figure 3.2); and sources for potential effects regarding groundwater interactions have been identified in the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Thus, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site, resulting from the implementation of the Draft Plan, have been identified. These effects have already been addressed by the integration of mitigation into the Draft Plan. Therefore, no further consideration is required.</p> | No – see also Table 3.1 | No – see also Table 3.1 |
| 000491 | Stabannan-Braganstown SPA | 7.33 | Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] | <p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. The SPA is sensitive to direct land use management, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. This site exists 7.33 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site.</p> <p>SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects^{25,26}. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year^{27,28}. Given the distance between the Draft Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for potential significant effects via disturbance effects identified.</p> <p>Considering the SCI of this SPA and given the nature of the Draft Plan and the distance involved between the Draft Plan area and the SPA, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or disturbance effects on the SPA. In addition, there are no direct surface hydrological pathways between the site and the Draft Plan boundary, therefore, there are no pathways of effect for hydrological interactions to the SPA.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects identified and no further assessment is required.</p> | No – see also Table 3.1 | No – see also Table 3.1 |

²¹ Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

²² Silva, A.C.F. *et al.* 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

²³ Lasagna, M. *et al.* 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.

²⁴ EPA groundwater datasets – accessed at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

²⁵ Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.

²⁶ Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.

²⁷ Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 284(1858), p.20170846.

²⁸ Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. *Ibis*, 162(3), pp.845-862.

Screening for AA Report for Proposed Material Alterations

| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Feature ¹² | Analysis for Likely Significant Effects | Likelihood of Significant Effects | Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 002306 | Carlingford Shore SAC | 9.71 | Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] | <p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and hydrological interactions. This site exists 9.71 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, and given the nature of the Draft Plan, and the distances involved, there are no potential sources for direct land use management effects, as the site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. In addition, there are no direct surface hydrological pathways between the site and the Draft Plan boundary, therefore, there are no sources of effect for hydrological interactions to the SAC.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p> | No – see also Table 3.1 | No – see also Table 3.1 |
| 004078 | Carlingford Lough SPA | 11.28 | Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A674] | <p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. The SPA is sensitive to direct land use management, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. This site exists 11.28 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site.</p> <p>SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects^{29,30}. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year^{31,32}. Given the distance between the Draft Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for potential significant effects via disturbance effects identified.</p> <p>Considering the SCIs of this SPA and given the nature of the Draft Plan and the distance involved between the Draft Plan area and the SPA, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or disturbance effects on the SPA. In addition, there are no direct surface hydrological pathways between the site and the Draft Plan boundary, therefore, there are no pathways of effect for hydrological interactions to the SPA.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects identified and no further assessment is required.</p> | No – see also Table 3.1 | No – see also Table 3.1 |
| 004236 | North-west Irish Sea SPA | 13.57 | Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001], Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003], Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Little Gull (<i>Larus minutus</i>) [A177], Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013], Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195], Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192], Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204], Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200], Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199], Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188], Black-headed Gull | <p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. The SPA is sensitive to direct land use management, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. This site exists 13.57 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site.</p> <p>SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects^{33,34}. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year^{35,36}. Given the distance between the Draft Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for potential significant effects via disturbance effects identified.</p> <p>Considering the SCIs of this SPA and given the nature of the Draft Plan and the distance involved between the Draft Plan area and the SPA, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or disturbance effects on the SPA. In addition, there are no direct surface hydrological pathways between the site and the Draft Plan boundary, therefore, there are no pathways of effect for hydrological interactions to the SPA.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects identified and no further assessment is required.</p> | No – see also Table 3.1 | No – see also Table 3.1 |

²⁹ Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.

³⁰ Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.

³¹ Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.

³² Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.

³³ Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.

³⁴ Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.

³⁵ Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.

³⁶ Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.

Screening for AA Report for Proposed Material Alterations

| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Feature ¹² | Analysis for Likely Significant Effects | Likelihood of Significant Effects | Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| | | | <i>(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)</i> [A179], Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184], Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>) [A187] | | | |
| 001957 | Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC | 23.19 | Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Estuaries [1130], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] | <p>The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions. This site exists 23.19 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site. However, this European site has groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests, and shares the same groundwater body as the Draft Plan area (see Figure 3.2).</p> <p>Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics³⁷, and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams³⁸. It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water³⁹. However, considering the nature of the Draft Plan, the distances involved and the significant dilution factor of over 5km, there is no pathway with sources for likely significant effects via groundwater interactions as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, and given the nature of the Draft Plan, and the distances involved, there are no potential sources for direct land use management effects, as the site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. In addition, there are no direct surface hydrological pathways between the site and the Draft Plan boundary, therefore, there are no sources of effect for hydrological interactions to the SAC. There are also no sources with pathways for likely significant effects via groundwater interactions for this SAC.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p> | No – see also Table 3.1 | No – see also Table 3.1 |

³⁷ Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

³⁸ Silva, A.C.F. *et al.* 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

³⁹ Lasagna, M. *et al.* 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.

3.4 Other Plans and Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely affect European sites. There are no provisions in the Proposed Material Alterations that introduce any potential sources for effects in addition to those already identified as being mitigated by the Stage 2 AA carried out for the Draft Plan. Therefore, there are no in combination effects identified.

Section 4 AA Screening Conclusion

This Screening for AA Report demonstrates that the implementation of the Proposed Material Alterations will not result in any likely significant effect on any European site.

Following the source-pathway-receptor model, the relevant attributes of European sites were assessed. No source for a likely significant effect to any European site would arise from the Proposed Material Alterations that have not already been considered by the existing AA process for the Draft Plan.

The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed through measures that have already been integrated into the Draft Plan and through existing, already in force, policies and objectives within the Louth County Development Plan (as varied) with which the Proposed Material Alterations and all lower tier plans/projects must comply. In addition, any future projects, plans etc. that may arise will themselves be subject to AA/Screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.

It is concluded that the Proposed Material Alterations will not give rise to any likely significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes and projects.

This report is part of the overall and ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Draft Plan (an AA Natura Impact Report has already been placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan). It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, at adoption of the Plan.

Appendix I Background information on European sites Assessed

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

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressure Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---|---|--|
| 000453 | Carlingford Mountain SAC | Alkaline fens [7230], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], European dry heaths [4030], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230] | J03.01, I02, A04.03, A04.02, B02.01, G05, I03.01, J01, K04.01, G01.08, G02, B02.02, X, J02.01.03, D02.03, G05.01, G01.03.02, J03.02, I01 | Reduction or loss of specific habitat features, problematic native species, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, non-intensive grazing, forest replanting, other human intrusions and disturbances , genetic pollution (animals), fire and fire suppression, competition (flora), other outdoor sports and leisure activities, sport and leisure structures, forestry clearance, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, communication masts and antennas, trampling, overuse, off-road motorized driving, anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity, invasive non-native species |
| 000455 | Dundalk Bay SAC | Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Estuaries [1130], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] | H02.06, H04.02, I01, G01, G02.09, M02.04, H01.06, G01.01.01, G02, J02.01.03, J02.12.01, J02.01.02, K01.01, J02.04, E03.03, G05.02, K04.01, H01, F05, J03.02, E03.01, H05.01, J03.01, F02.03.01, K02, H05, J02.04.01 | Diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, nitrogen-input, invasive non-native species, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, wildlife watching, migration of species (natural newcomers), diffuse pollution to surface waters due to transport and infrastructure without connection to canalization or sweepers, motorized nautical sports, sport and leisure structures, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, erosion, flooding modifications, disposal of inert materials, shallow surface abrasion or mechanical damage to seabed surface, competition (flora), pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), illegal taking or removal of marine fauna, anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, garbage and solid waste, reduction or loss of specific habitat features, bait digging or collection, biocenotic evolution, succession, soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges), flooding |
| 001957 | Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC | Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Estuaries [1130], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120] | E03.01, H01, E01, J03.03, L07, D01.05, I01, J02.12.01, D01.01, G01.03.02, E03.03, J02.02, G01.02, E05, J02.12, J02.01.03, G03, G05, J02, G05.04, K02 | Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), urbanised areas, human habitation, reduction, lack or prevention of erosion, storm, cyclone, bridge, viaduct, invasive non-native species, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, off-road motorized driving, disposal of inert materials, removal of sediments (mud...), walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, storage of materials, dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, marshes or pits, interpretative centres, other human intrusions and disturbances , human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, vandalism, biocenotic evolution, succession |
| 002306 | Carlingford Shore SAC | Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] | F02.03, X, F01.03, F04.02.01, H01, F01.02, F06, F05, F05.07, G01.01, G05, F02, F03.01, G01.03, G01.03.01, F01, H01.01 | Leisure fishing, bottom culture, hand raking, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), suspension culture, hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, illegal taking or removal of marine fauna, other (i.e. drift nets), nautical sports, other human intrusions and disturbances , fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, hunting, motorised vehicles, regular motorized driving, marine and freshwater aquaculture, pollution to surface waters by industrial plants |
| 004026 | Dundalk Bay SPA | Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A674], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] | A04, A08, J02.11, D01.02, G01.01, E01.03, D03.02, I01, E01, J02.12, F02.03, E02, E03, G01.02 | Grazing, fertilisation, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, roads, motorways, nautical sports, dispersed habitation, shipping lanes, invasive non-native species, urbanised areas, human habitation, dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, leisure fishing, industrial or commercial areas, discharges, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles |
| 004078 | Carlingford Lough SPA | Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A674], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] | F01 | Marine and freshwater aquaculture |
| 004091 | Stabannan-Braganstown SPA | Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] | A01, A02, A04, A08, D01.02 | Cultivation, modification of cultivation practices, grazing, fertilisation, roads, motorways |
| 004236 | North-West Irish Sea SPA | Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003], Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199], Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018], Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001], Little Gull (<i>Larus minutus</i>) [A177], Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013], Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192], Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204], Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200], Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184], Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>) [A187], Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] | N/A | N/A |

Screening for AA Report for Proposed Material Alterations

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

| EU Code | Qualifying Interests | Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures | Threats and Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|---------|---|--|--|--|--|
| [1130] | Estuaries | Most of the pressures on estuaries come from various sources of pollution, including domestic wastewater, agriculture and marine aquaculture. Alien invasive species such as the naturalised Pacific oyster (<i>Magallana gigas</i>) are also recognised as a significant pressure | A28, F20, G16, I02, XU | Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), unknown pressure | Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity |
| [1140] | Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide | Pressures on mudflats and sandflats are partly caused by pollution from agricultural, forestry and wastewater sources, as well as impacts associated with marine aquaculture, particularly the Pacific oyster (<i>Magallana gigas</i>). | A28, F20, G16 | Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution | Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development. |
| [1210] | Annual vegetation of drift lines | Most of the pressures on drift lines are associated with activities such as recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics. | C01, F01, F06, F07, F08 | Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures) | Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management. |
| [1220] | Perennial vegetation of stony banks | The main pressures on this habitat are associated with coastal defences (which can interfere with sediment dynamics), recreation and shingle removal. | C01, E01, F07, F08, F09, I02 | Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), deposition and treatment of waste/garbage from household/recreational facilities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern) | Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal. |
| [1310] | Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand | Pressures on Salicornia mud are caused by alien species and overgrazing by livestock | A09, I02 | Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern) | Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species. |
| [1330] | Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) | The main pressures on Atlantic salt meadows are from agriculture, including ecologically unstable grazing regimes and land reclamation, and the invasive non-native species common cord-grass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>). | A09, A33, A36, F07, F08, I02 | Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern) | Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion. |
| [1410] | Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) | Most of the pressures on Mediterranean salt meadows are associated with agriculture, including overgrazing, under-grazing and land reclamation. | A09, A10, A33, A36 | Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above | Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation. |
| [2110] | Embryonic shifting dunes (<i>Embryonic shifting dunes</i>) | The majority of pressures on this habitat are associated with recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics. | C01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, L01, L02 | Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices) | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| [2120] | Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>) | Most of the pressures on marram dunes are caused by the interference on sediment dynamics due to recreation and coastal defences. | E01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, I02, L01 | Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization) | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| [2130] | Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (<i>grey dunes</i>) | Pressures on fixed dunes are associated with recreation and ecologically unsuitable grazing practices. | A02, A09, A10, F07, F08, I02, L02 | Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices) | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| [4010] | Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erika tetralix | Overgrazing, burning, wind farm development and erosion are the main pressures associated with this habitat, along | A09, A11, A27, B01, D01, L01, N01, N02 | Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |

Screening for AA Report for Proposed Material Alterations

| EU Code | Qualifying Interests | Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures | Threats and Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|---------|---|---|--|--|---|
| | | with nitrogen deposition from agricultural activities that generate air pollution. | | | |
| [4030] | European dry heaths | A number of significant pressures were recorded for this habitat in the current reporting period, particularly overgrazing by sheep and burning for agriculture with afforestation and wind farms also being recognised as pressures. | A09, A11, B01, D01, N01, N02 | Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change | Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status. |
| [4060] | Alpine and Boreal heaths | Overgrazing by livestock, tourism (hill walking) and agricultural activities that cause air pollution are considered significant pressures for this habitat. | A09, A27, F07, N01, N02 | Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, sports, tourism and leisure activities, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change | Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. |
| [6230] | Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) | The main pressures on this habitat are due to bracken encroachment and succession. | I04, L02 | Problematic native species, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices) | Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species. |
| [7130] | Blanket bogs (* if active bog) | The main pressures on blanket bogs are overgrazing, burning, afforestation, peat extraction, and agricultural activities causing nitrogen deposition. Erosion, drainage and wind farm construction are also pressures relating to this habitat. | A09, A11, A27, B01, C05, D01, K02, L01, N01, N02 | Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, drainage, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change | Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things. |
| [7140] | Transition mires and quaking bogs | The main pressures facing transition mires in Ireland are afforestation, water pollution, drainage and hydrological changes with grazing/agricultural management also being a pressure. | A06, A09, B01, C05, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02 | Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change | Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things. |
| [7230] | Alkaline fens | The main pressures facing this habitat are land abandonment (and associated succession), overgrazing, drainage and pollution. | A06, A09, A26, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02, N02, N03 | Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| [8110] | Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) | The main pressures on siliceous scree come from overgrazing, under-grazing and succession. | A09, A10, L02 | Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices) | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| [8210] | Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation | The majority of pressures related to this habitat are associated with overgrazing and the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb (<i>Epilobium brunnescens</i>). | A09, A27, I02 | Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern) | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |

Screening for AA Report for Proposed Material Alterations

Special Conservation Interests and Vulnerabilities of SPAs

| Species Code | Common Name | Scientific Name | Threats and Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| A003 | Common Loon | <i>Gavia immer</i> | C03, F02, G01, H03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution |
| A009 | Northern Fulmar | <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> | C03, F02 | Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources |
| A013 | Manx Shearwater | <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> | C03, H03, I01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution, invasive non-native species |
| A017 | Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i> | C03, F02, F03, G01, H03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution |
| A018 | Shag | <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> | C03, H03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution |
| A043 | Greylag Goose | <i>Anser anser</i> | A02, A11, C03, D02, F03, G01, H07 | Modification of cultivation practices, agriculture activities not referred to above, renewable abiotic energy use, utility and service lines, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, other forms of pollution |
| A048 | Common Shelduck | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> | F01, F02, G01, H03, M01 | Marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, changes in abiotic conditions |
| A054 | Northern Pintail | <i>Anas acuta</i> | C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02 | Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions |
| A069 | Red-Breasted Merganser | <i>Mergus serrator</i> | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution |
| A130 | Eurasian Oystercatcher | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02 | Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions |
| A137 | Common Ringed Plover | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions |
| A140 | European Golden Plover | <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> | A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02 | Modification of cultivation practices, grazing, forest planting on open ground, mining and quarrying, renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, fire and fire suppression, interspecific faunal relations, changes in biotic conditions |
| A141 | Grey Plover | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions |
| A142 | Northern Lapwing | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> | A02, C03, F01, G01, H03 | Modification of cultivation practices, renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution |
| A143 | Red Knot | <i>Calidris canutus</i> | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions |
| A149 | Dunlin | <i>Calidris alpina</i> | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions |
| A157 | Bar-Tailed Godwit | <i>Limosa lapponica</i> | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions |
| A162 | Common Redhank | <i>Tringa totanus</i> | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions |
| A177 | Little Gull | <i>Larus minutus</i> | Xxp/Xxt | No threats and pressures identified by the npws |
| A179 | Black-Headed Gull | <i>Larus ridibundus</i> | A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01 | Grazing, renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions |
| A182 | Common Gull | <i>Larus canus</i> | A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01 | Grazing, renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions |
| A183 | Lesser Black-Backed Gull | <i>Larus fuscus</i> | C03, F02, H03, J03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications |
| A184 | European Herring Gull | <i>Larus argentatus</i> | C03, F02, H03, J03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications |
| A187 | Great Black-Backed Gull | <i>Larus marinus</i> | Xxp/Xxt | No threats and pressures identified by the npws |
| A188 | Black-Legged Kittiwake | <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> | C03, F02, H03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution |
| A192 | Roseate Tern | <i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i> | C03, D01, G01, I01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species |
| A193 | Common Tern | <i>Sterna hirundo</i> | C03, D01, D03, G01, I01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species |
| A194 | Arctic Tern | <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> | C03, D01, G01, I01, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species, changes in abiotic conditions |
| A200 | Razorbill | <i>Alca torda</i> | C03, H03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution |
| A204 | Atlantic Puffin | <i>Fratercula arctica</i> | C03, H03, I01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution, invasive non-native species |
| A674 | Light-Bellied Brent Goose | <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> | A02, A11, C03, D02, F01, G01, G05, H03, H07, I01, J03 | Modification of cultivation practices, agriculture activities not referred to above, renewable abiotic energy use, utility and service lines, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, other human intrusions and disturbances, marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, invasive non-native species, other ecosystem modifications |

Appendix II Mitigation Measures from the existing Draft Plan

This appendix outlines measures that have been incorporated into the Draft Plan and associated existing Louth County Development Plan (as varied) in order to mitigate against potential effects to European sites as already identified by the Stage 2 AA for the Draft Plan.

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Measures that will protect European sites and their sustaining resources integrated into the Draft Plan⁴⁰

| Component ⁴¹ | Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s) |
|---|--|
| Alignment with County Development Plan | <p>DM 1 To require planning applications to be consistent with the relevant guidance and comply with the relevant standards set out in the Development Management Guidelines of the County Development Plan and any relevant policy objectives, designation, or standards set out in this Plan, the County Development Plan, or Section 28 Guidelines.</p> <p>DM 2 To ensure the Dundalk Local Area Plan is consistent with the County Development Plan. A Variation to the County Development Plan will be required to take account of any amendments made to text and policy objectives, zoning and flood zones map, or composite map relating to Dundalk during the preparation of this Plan.</p> |
| Natural Heritage and Biodiversity | <p>SC 1 To ensure that any development in Dundalk makes a positive contribution to the character, setting, and built and natural environment of the town.</p> <p>CH 1 To protect and conserve the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) designated under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.</p> <p>CH 2 To ensure that all proposed developments comply with the requirements set out in the DECLG 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities 2010'.</p> <p>CH 3 To ensure that no plan, programme, or project giving rise to likely significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Local Area Plan, either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes or projects⁴².</p> <p>CH 4 All masterplans, and the objectives therein, being implemented by the Council for the Plan area shall have regard to the requirements under Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CH 5 To co-operate with the Regional Planning Assembly and adjoining local authorities, public agencies and community interests to protect regionally significant heritage assets, environmental quality, and to identify threats to existing environmental quality in a transboundary context throughout the region including Northern Ireland.</p> <p>CH 6 To ensure that any development within or adjacent to a pNHA is designed and sited to minimise its impact on the ecological value of the site and to resist development that would result in a significant deterioration of habitats or a disturbance of species</p> <p>CH 7 To ensure the preservation of the uniqueness of Dundalk's sensitive landscape setting by ensuring that new development meets high standards of siting and design and does not unduly damage or detract from the character of a landscape or natural environment.</p> <p>CH 10 To ensure that any development proposals protect and enhance the wetland sites in Dundalk.</p> <p>Section 10.7 Trees Woodland and Hedgerows Where trees and/or hedgerows are required to be removed in order to facilitate development, this shall be done outside the nesting season (1st of March to the 31st of August each year). Any development that, in exceptional circumstances, requires the removal of trees or groups of trees shall include proposals that replace the trees to be removed with semi-mature, native trees at a ratio of five new trees per single tree felled (5:1). On smaller, more constrained sites, where the ratio of 5:1 trees cannot be provided, consideration may be given to reducing this ratio. Where trees and/or hedgerows are required to be removed in order to facilitate development, this shall be done outside the nesting season (1 st of March to the 31st of August each year).</p> <p>Section 10.8 Hedgerows This Plan will seek to protect and retain hedgerows of visual and ecological value. Where hedgerows cannot be retained as part of a development, a new hedgerow consisting of native species shall be planted when feasible.</p> <p>Section 10.10 Green Infrastructure⁴³ This Plan will seek to enhance and protect the wildlife corridors and habitats throughout Dundalk. Any new development shall strive to identify existing features of ecological importance and, where possible, should incorporate and utilise these to facilitate the building of a coherent network of rich biodiversity sites and linkages. All development proposals should seek to enhance biodiversity and make a positive contribution to the overall green infrastructure network of Dundalk. It is considered that the augmentation of Dundalk's green infrastructure through the provision of ecological enhancement, will make a positive contribution to Dundalk's ecological value and also climate change mitigation.</p> <p>CH 15 To protect and enhance Dundalk's Green Infrastructure in accordance with the details and recommendations included in Table 10.7 'Dundalk's Green Infrastructure Features and Potential for Enhancement'.</p> <p>Section 10.11 Species Protected by Law The presence of species such as otters, pine martins, badgers, frogs, newts, bats and swifts which are protected by law is a material consideration when the Council is considering any development proposal.</p> <p>CH 16 To protect and enhance features of interest in Dundalk's Green Infrastructure network thereby ensuring that sensitive habitats and protected species are safeguarded, unless in exceptional circumstances or when an alternative habitat can be provided.</p> |
| Peatlands, wetlands and surface water courses | <p>CH 10 To ensure that any development proposals protect and enhance the wetland sites in Dundalk.</p> <p>CH 15 To protect and enhance Dundalk's Green Infrastructure in accordance with the details and recommendations included in Table 10.7 'Dundalk's Green Infrastructure Features and Potential for Enhancement'.</p> <p>CH 16 To protect and enhance features of interest in Dundalk's Green Infrastructure network thereby ensuring that sensitive habitats and protected species are safeguarded, unless in exceptional circumstances or when an alternative habitat can be provided.</p> <p>INF 27 To ensure that, where feasible, no development, including clearing or storage of materials, takes place within a minimum distance of 10m measured from the bank of any river, stream, or watercourse unless the development is water compatible. New developments shall seek to incorporate the 'Four Steps to Good Riparian and River Planning for Urban Areas' as set out in 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (Inland Fisheries Ireland, 2020).</p> |
| Water services, groundwater, water quality and SuDs ⁴⁴ | <p>INF 1 To liaise and work in partnership with Uisce Éireann in identifying, prioritising and progressing the implementation of water and wastewater projects and policies over the lifetime of this Plan that will enable Dundalk to achieve the projected population target and housing allocation set out in Table 2.4 in the Development Strategy (chapter 2) of this Plan.</p> <p>INF 3 To support the provision, extension and upgrade of high-quality water and wastewater services infrastructure for both existing and future developments within the plan area, consistent with the principles of sustainability.</p> <p>INF 4 To require all new developments to connect to the public supply where public water and wastewater infrastructure is available, or likely to be available, and which has sufficient capacity.</p> <p>INF 5 To discourage the use of pump stations for conveyance of sewage unless the proposed pump station will cater for a significant catchment of zoned development lands that otherwise cannot be serviced. Where deemed appropriate, in consultation with Uisce Éireann, temporary pumping arrangements may be considered as an interim measure, pending the provision of more permanent arrangements within a reasonable timeframe. All arrangements for same will be as per the requirements and agreement of Uisce Éireann.</p> <p>INF 6 To promote the sustainable use of water and water conservation (such as rainwater harvesting) in existing and new developments within Dundalk and to support the commitment to water conservation and leakage reduction in accordance with best practice, and through the implementation of the National Leakage Reduction Programme.</p> <p>Section 9.4 Surface Water Management and Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) All new developments in the Plan area shall incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) into their design proposals and shall be designed in accordance with the best practice guidance set out in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDSD) and the Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas – Best Practice Interim Guidance Document.</p> <p>INF 7 To require the use of sustainable drainage systems to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of SuDS measures be incorporated in all new development (including extensions to existing developments). All development proposals shall be accompanied by a comprehensive SuDS assessment including run-off quantity, run off quality and impacts on habitat and water quality and should have particular regard to nature-based solutions and section 3.5 of the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in Volume 4, 'Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and Surface Water Guidance and Strategy'.</p> <p>INF 8 To require that all development proposals meet the design criteria, (adjusted to reflect local conditions), and material designs contained in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDSD) and demonstrate how runoff is captured as close to source as possible with subsequent slow release to the drainage system and watercourse.</p> <p>INF 9 To seek to avoid the discharge of additional surface water to combined sewers and promote Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and solutions to maximise the capacity of Dundalk's combined drainage system.</p> |

⁴⁰ These measures may be amended on foot of Proposed Material Alterations and/or further modifications, in advance of Plan adoption

⁴¹ The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e., a measure providing for the protection of water could beneficially impact upon the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, for example. All of the measures included in this table would benefit the protection of European sites.

⁴² Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, where there must be no alternatives, imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed and adequate compensatory measures are in place.

⁴³ As defined in the Plan: Green infrastructure is a term used to describe the network of natural spaces and corridors in a given area. Green infrastructure assets include open spaces, such as, parks and gardens, woodlands, fields, hedges, playing fields, coastal habitats, as well as footpaths, cycleways and/or rivers. Assets involving water are often referred to as 'blue infrastructure', but these are all included in the overarching term of 'Green Infrastructure'.

⁴⁴ Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

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| Component ⁴¹ | Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s) |
|-----------------------------|--|
| | <p>INF 10 To ensure all new developments provide for separated drainage systems.</p> <p>INF 11 To promote rainwater harvesting and grey water use in all developments and in particular for larger developments, as an alternative to attenuation.</p> <p>INF 12 To encourage in all buildings, and particular in buildings of increased height, the provision of green roofs and green walls as an integrated part of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), wherever possible.</p> <p>INF 13 To encourage the use of Nature based Sustainable Urban Drainage System (NbSUDS), when feasible, where streetscape enhancement programmes or resurfacing programmes are planned.</p> <p>Section 9.5 Water Quality and River Basin Management Plan This Plan will aim to support the improvement of waterbodies throughout Dundalk.</p> <p>INF 14 To implement the EU Water Framework Directive through the implementation of the appropriate River Basin Management Plan and Programme of Measures to protect and improve water bodies and to ensure developments shall not, individually or cumulatively, adversely impact on the status of waterbodies, subject to Water Framework Directive exemptions.</p> <p>INF 15 To ensure all new development incorporates appropriate measures to protect existing water bodies, through appropriate treatment of runoff. In particular, discharges from car parks shall be appropriately treated so as to remove pollutant materials.</p> <p>INF 16 To protect any groundwater resources in Dundalk and to implement the recommendations included in any Groundwater Protection Scheme prepared under the EU Groundwater Directives</p> |
| Tourism | <p>RT 15 To develop and enhance the tourism, recreational and amenity potential of the town's waterways and coastal area, while not compromising the ecological importance of these areas.</p> |
| Green / Blue Infrastructure | <p>MOV 13 To continue to support the development of a network of greenways in Dundalk and the surrounding areas including those set out in section 8.6 of this Plan, and to continue to engage and work with stakeholders including Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the Office of Public Works (OPW) in the progression of these projects.</p> <p>DM 1 To require planning applications to be consistent with the relevant guidance and comply with the relevant standards set out in the Development Management Guidelines of the County Development Plan and any relevant policy objectives, designation, or standards set out in this Plan, the County Development Plan, or Section 28 Guidelines.</p> <p>DM 2 To ensure the Dundalk Local Area Plan is consistent with the County Development Plan. A Variation to the County Development Plan will be required to take account of any amendments made to text and policy objectives, zoning and flood zones map, or composite map relating to Dundalk during the preparation of this Plan.</p> |
| Built environment | <p>INF 2 To support the delivery of essential infrastructure, incorporating appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, concurrent with the future residential, commercial and employment growth of Dundalk.</p> <p>INF 28 To protect and maintain environmental quality in Dundalk through the implementation of relevant European, National and Regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution, noise pollution and waste management.</p> <p>EE 12 To support on-site renewable energy projects and any other initiatives by businesses to reduce their carbon footprint, which will contribute to achieving national targets in transitioning towards a zero carbon economy.</p> |
| Flood Risk Management | <p>INF 17 To support the progression of the Dundalk and Blackrock Flood Relief Scheme and the delivery of associated infrastructure critical to the implementation of the Scheme; and to prohibit development that could prejudice the future delivery of the Scheme.</p> <p>INF 19 To require all proposals for development falling within or adjacent to an identified flood zone(s) to submit a site-specific flood Risk Assessment, based on the most up to date information available, that demonstrates that the proposal identifies all sources of flood risk to and from the proposed development, can adequately manage and mitigate any flood risk arising from the development including details of any structural and non-structural risk management measures (e.g. floor levels, flood-resilient construction etc.), and will not exacerbate flood risk elsewhere⁴⁵.</p> |
| Coastal Erosion | <p>INF 22 To require, on a case-by-case basis to be determined by the Planning Authority at either the preplanning or planning application stage, the preparation of a Coastal Erosion Assessment Report for development within 100 metres of the coastline. New development will be prohibited unless it can be objectively established based on the best scientific information at the time of the application, that the likelihood of erosion at a specific location is minimal taking into account, inter alia, any impacts.</p> <p>INF 23 To ensure that Dundalk's natural coastal defences (beaches, salt marshes and estuary lands) are protected and to ensure they are not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>INF 24 To explore, where coastal erosion is considered a threat to existing properties, the technical, environmental, and economic feasibility of coastal adaptation and coastal retreat management options.</p> <p>INF 25 To employ soft engineering techniques as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever possible.</p> <p>INF 26 To identify, prioritise and implement necessary coastal protection works subject to the availability of resources, whilst ensuring a high level of protection for natural habitats and features, and ensure due regard is paid to visual and other environmental considerations in the design of any such coastal protection works.</p> |
| Invasive species | <p>The management of invasive species' occurrence and risk where required is provided for by adherence to the policy objectives of the current Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 (as varied) via policies NBG 12 and NBG 13, as outlined below:</p> <p>NBG 13 Prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species within the County.</p> <p>NBG 13 Development sites must be investigated for the presence of invasive species, which if present must be treated and/or eradicated in accordance with best practice. Where appropriate, Invasive Species Management Plans will be prepared for such sites.</p> <p>The above policy objectives therefore render any development or project resulting from the implementation of this Draft Plan subject to compliance with policy objectives NBG 12 and NBG 13 of the current Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 (as varied).</p> |
| Agriculture | <p>INF 28 To protect and maintain environmental quality in Dundalk through the implementation of relevant European, National and Regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution, noise pollution and waste management.</p> <p>The sustainable and appropriate management of the agricultural sector within the Draft Plan area are provided for by adherence to the policy objectives of the current Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 (as varied) via policies ENV 20, ENV 21, ENV 22 and ENV 23, as outlined below:</p> <p>ENV 20 To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.</p> <p>ENV 21 To assess agricultural developments and associated agricultural waste matters within the County in accordance with the European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2017 for the purpose of preventing or eliminating the entry of polluting matters to waters.</p> <p>ENV 22 To encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>ENV 23 To implement the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2011, and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations 2011, which require planning permission be sought where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares, or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment.</p> <p>The above policy objectives therefore render any development or project resulting from the implementation of this Draft Plan subject to compliance with policy objectives ENV 20, ENV 21, ENV 22 and ENV 23 of the current Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 (as varied).</p> |
| Forestry | <p>The sustainable and appropriate management of the forestry sector within the Draft Plan area are provided for by adherence to the policy objectives of the current Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 (as varied) via policy objective ENV 32, as outlined below:</p> <p>ENV 32 To encourage the development of a well-managed sustainable forestry sector, which is compatible with the protection of the environment including the avoidance of likely significant effects on European sites (SACs and SPAs) and is planted, managed and harvested in accordance with the Forest Service Guidelines for Landscape, Forest Harvesting and Environmental, Archaeology, Biodiversity and Water Quality' and any subsequent guidelines.</p> <p>The above policy therefore renders any development or project resulting from the implementation of this Draft Plan subject to compliance with policy objective ENV 32 of the current Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 (as varied).</p> |
| Light pollution | <p>INF 28 To protect and maintain environmental quality in Dundalk through the implementation of relevant European, National and Regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution, noise pollution and waste management.</p> <p>INF 32 To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.</p> |

⁴⁵ More information on requirements in relation to Structural and Non-Structural Risk Management Measures are provided in a footnote to this Policy Objective at Table 5 of the accompanying SFRA report in Volume 4.

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| Component ¹¹ | Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s) |
|--|---|
| Air Pollution | <p>INF 28 To protect and maintain environmental quality in Dundalk through the implementation of relevant European, National and Regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution, noise pollution and waste management.</p> <p>Section 9.9.2 Air Quality This Plan will support the provision of air quality real time monitoring stations at appropriate locations in Dundalk.</p> |
| Noise Pollution | <p>INF 28 To protect and maintain environmental quality in Dundalk through the implementation of relevant European, National and Regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution, noise pollution and waste management.</p> <p>INF 33 To implement the Noise Action Plan for Louth County Council in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects to humans and wildlife, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure.</p> <p>INF 34 Developments for noise sensitive uses shall have regard to the noise maps contained within the Louth Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 or any subsequent plan and developers shall be required, where deemed necessary by the Planning Authority, to produce a noise impact assessment and mitigation plans, for any new noise sensitive development within these areas.</p> |
| Geology Extractive Industry / Contaminated Lands | <p>CH 8 In consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland – protect from inappropriate development and maintain the character, integrity and conservation value of those features or areas of geological interest.</p> <p>Section 9.9.5 Contaminated Land and Soil Remediation Any lands that are known or suspected of contamination will require detailed investigative works to be carried out as part of a planning application to identify the source and extent of contamination. A risk-based approach in accordance with best practice techniques, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency and any other relevant bodies (as required or necessary), shall be taken to the remediation of contaminated lands to ensure works are completed to the highest standards.</p> <p>INF 35 To ensure that development on contaminated lands includes appropriate remediation measures.</p> |
| Climate | <p>CA 1 To support the implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2024, the National Energy Climate Plan and the Louth Climate Action Plan 2024- 2029 and other relevant policy and legislation or subsequent publications.</p> <p>CA 2 To reduce carbon emissions and create a climate resilient town by prioritising measures to address climate change by way of both effective mitigation and adaptation responses in accordance with available guidance and best practice.</p> <p>CA 4 To support the implementation of the Dundalk Blackrock Decarbonisation Zone through the delivery of the 16 actions contained within the Louth Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.</p> <p>INF 2 To support the delivery of essential infrastructure, incorporating appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, concurrent with the future residential, commercial and employment growth of Dundalk.</p> <p>INF 28 To protect and maintain environmental quality in Dundalk through the implementation of relevant European, National and Regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution, noise pollution and waste management.</p> <p>MOV 2 To support investment in sustainable transport infrastructure that will make walking, cycling and public transport more attractive and appealing, and facilitate accessibility for all, regardless of age, physical mobility, or economic status.</p> <p>MOV 4 To encourage a modal shift from use of the private car towards more sustainable modes of transport including walking, cycling, and public transport and to support any initiatives that would assist in the attainment of any national targets relating to modal change published during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>Section 8.4.3 Objectives of the Local Transport Plan Align with the Climate Action Plan and reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions</p> <p>MOV 8 To support the retrospective provision of walking and cycling infrastructure, where feasible, to achieve growth in sustainable mobility and strengthen and improve the walking and cycling network.</p> <p>MOV 12 To support the design and implementation of public realm projects within the Plan area that will make Dundalk and Blackrock more attractive and liveable spaces which are climate resilient, promote sustainable transport, and facilitate accessibility for all, regardless of age, physical mobility, or social disadvantage.</p> <p>MOV 15 To support the Green School Travel and Safe Routes to School Programmes and any other sustainable transport initiative developed by schools.</p> <p>MOV 28 To facilitate the switch to Electric Vehicles through the roll-out of additional electric charging points at appropriate locations within Dundalk in association with relevant agencies and stakeholders and facilitate the provision of electricity charging infrastructure within Dundalk in accordance with the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025 and any subsequent strategy.</p> <p>EE 12 To support on-site renewable energy projects and any other initiatives by businesses to reduce their carbon footprint, which will contribute to achieving national targets in transitioning towards a zerocarbon economy.</p> |
| Renewable Energy | <p>CA 3 To promote awareness of climate change and to work in partnership with other bodies to ensure best practice with regard to use of renewable energy technologies.</p> <p>INF 39 To support initiatives for limiting and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases through energy efficiency and the development and progression of renewable energy projects at suitable locations, utilising the natural resources available in Dundalk, in an environmentally acceptable manner subject to normal proper planning considerations including in particular the impact on areas of environmental or landscape sensitivity.</p> <p>EE 12 To support on-site renewable energy projects and any other initiatives by businesses to reduce their carbon footprint, which will contribute to achieving national targets in transitioning towards a zerocarbon economy.</p> |
| Waste Management | <p>INF 28 To protect and maintain environmental quality in Dundalk through the implementation of relevant European, National and Regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution, noise pollution and waste management.</p> <p>INF 29 To support the ongoing investment and maintenance of existing waste disposal and recycling facilities within the Plan area and to facilitate the provision of additional facilities in appropriate locations in accordance with the requirements of the current National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2020-2025 or any subsequent plan.</p> <p>INF 30 To encourage and support the expansion and improvement of the three-bin system (mixed dry recyclables, organic waste and residual waste) in order to increase the quantity and quality of materials collected for recycling in conjunction with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>INF 31 To support circular economy principles, prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery, to support a healthy environment, economy and society and to enhance employment opportunities.</p> |
| Monitoring | <p>Section 11.3 Monitoring procedures are being developed in line with the Louth County Development Plan. The Planning Department will be the lead section for the implementation and monitoring of this plan, primarily through the application of the development management process.</p> <p>Section 9.9.2 Air Quality This Plan will support the provision of air quality real time monitoring stations at appropriate locations in Dundalk.</p> |
| Masterplans | <p>CH 4 All masterplans, and the objectives therein, being implemented by the Council for the Plan area shall have regard to the requirements under Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.</p> |