



Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017

Proposed Variation

Lands at Tyrrelstown, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

February 2014



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

This report comprises information in support of screening for an Appropriate Assessment in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) of the proposed variation to the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 in Blanchardstown Dublin 15. The report has taken into consideration the European Commissions publication- *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on the provisions of Articles 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*, Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2010 and *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Project in Ireland –Guidance for Planning Authorities* (February 2010) from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

1.2 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

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

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA):

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

Article 6(4) states ‘*If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the [Natura 2000] site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all*

compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted’.

Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. The Habitats Directive is implemented in Ireland by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations SI 94/1997.

1.3 SCREENING OF APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

This Appropriate Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission Environment DG document *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, referred to as the “EC Article 6 Guidance Document (EC2000)”. The guidance within this document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, and are viewed as an interpretation of the EU Commission’s document “*Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*”, referred to as “MN2000”.

This Assessment has also taken into consideration the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government publication *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Project in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities* (February 2010).

In complying with the obligations under Article 6(3) and following the EC2000 and MN2000 Guidelines, this AA has been structured as a stage by stage approach as follows:

Screening stage

- Description of the plan;
- Identification of Natura 2000 sites potentially affected;
- Identification and description of individual and cumulative impacts likely to result;
- Assessment of the significance of the impacts identified above on site integrity;
- Exclusion of sites where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no significant effects;
- Screening conclusion.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. First, the plan should aim to avoid any negative impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making, and writing the plan in order to avoid such impacts. Second, mitigation measures should be

applied, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If the plan is still likely to result in adverse effects, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, then it is rejected. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI test) under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect.

2 SCREENING OF PROPOSED CHANGE IN ZONING, RELOCATION OF EXISTING SCHOOL SYMBOL AND NEW LOCAL OBJECTIVE

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The subject lands are located between Powerstown Road to the north and Damastown Avenue to the south. General Enterprise and Employment zoned land is situated to the west with a roundabout incorporating Church Road, Powerstown Road and Damastown Avenue located to the east. There are 2 no. temporary schools accessed off Powerstown Road on the lands and ESB power-lines (220Kv) run along its southern boundary. Tyrrelstown House and grounds are located to the north across Powerstown Road. To the west there is an area of General Enterprise and Employment zoned land and a small allotment complex.

Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 Objectives relating to the land

The land-bank of 5.9hectares is zoned 'GE' – *'Provide opportunities for general enterprise and employment.'*

Specific Objective – Protect and preserve trees, woodland and hedgerows.

Local Objective 425 – Preserve views along Powerstown Road, and trees along the northern and eastern side of the GE zoned lands.

2.2 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED VARIATION

This variation is to allow for

- (i) the change in zoning from General Enterprise, 'GE' - *'Provide opportunities for general enterprise and employment'* to Community Infrastructure, 'CI' – *'Provide for and protect civic, religious, community, education, health care and social infrastructure'*,
- (ii) relocate the school symbol located on open space to the south of Damastown Avenue to the subject lands, and
- (iii) insert Local Objective to read 'Provide for primary school'

2.3 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURA 2000 SITES

This section of the screening process describes the Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius of the Plan Area. A 15km buffer zone has been chosen as a precautionary measure, to ensure that all potentially affected Natura 2000 sites are included in the screening process, which is in line with *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities* produced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Table 2.1a and Table 2.1b lists the Natura 2000 sites that are within 15km of the plan area and Figure 1 shows their locations in relation to the plan area. The qualifying features for each site area have been obtained through a review of the site synopses available from the NPWS website.

TABLE 2.1a SPAs located within 15km of the site.

Site Code	Site Name	Approximate distance from Natura 2000 Site	Qualifying Feature Annex I Species	Likely Impacts
004025	Broadmeadow/Swords (Malahide) Estuary SPA	13.7km	Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit and Ruff.	At a sufficient distance from the Plan area to not be impacted directly or indirectly
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	12.5km	Light-bellied Brent Goose, Oystercatcher, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank, Black-headed Gull, Roseate Tern, Common Tern and Arctic Tern.	At a sufficient distance from the Plan area to not be impacted directly or indirectly.

Broadmeadow/Swords (Malahide) Estuary SPA (Site Code 004025)

This SPA site is situated in north Co. Dublin, between the towns of Malahide and Swords. The SPA comprises of the River Broadmeadow Estuary. This is a substantial river into which mainly agricultural land drains but within an increasingly urbanised catchment. A railway viaduct, built in the 1800s, crosses the site. This has led to the inner estuary becoming lagoonal in character and only partly tidal. Much of the outer part of the estuary is well-sheltered from the sea by a large sand spit, known as “The Island”. This spit is now mostly converted to golf-course. The outer part empties

almost completely at low tide and there are extensive intertidal flats exposed. The site extends eastwards to the rocky shore at Robswalls. Substantial stands of eelgrass (both *Zostera noltii* and *Z. angustifolia*) occur in the sheltered part of the outer estuary, along with Tasselweed (*Ruppia maritima*). Green algae, mostly *Enteromorpha* spp. and *Ulva lactuca*, are frequent on the sheltered flats. Common Cord-grass (*Spartina anglica*) is well established in the outer estuary and also in the innermost part of the site. The intertidal flats support a typical macroinvertebrate fauna, with polychaete worms (*Arenicola marina* and *Hediste diversicolor*), bivalves such as *Cerastoderma edule*, *Macoma balthica* and *Scrobicularia plana*, the small gastropod *Hydrobia ulvae* and the crustacean *Corophium volutator*. Salt marshes, which provide important roosts during high tide, occur in parts of the outer estuary and in the extreme inner part of the inner estuary. These are characterised by such species as Sea Purslane (*Halimione portulacoides*), Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*) and Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*). This SPA site is of high importance for wintering waterfowl and supports a particularly good diversity of species. It has an internationally important population of Brent Goose (956) or 4.8% of the national total (figures given here and below are average maximum counts for the five winters 1995/96-1999/00). It has nationally important populations of a further 12 species as follows: Shelduck (439), Pintail (58), Goldeneye (215), Red-breasted Merganser (105), Oystercatcher (1,493), Golden Plover (1,843), Grey Plover (201), Knot (915), Dunlin (1,594), Black-tailed Godwit (409), Redshank (581) and Greenshank (38). A range of other species occur in numbers of regional importance, including Great Crested Grebe, Mute Swan, Pochard, Ringed Plover, Lapwing, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew and Turnstone. The high numbers of diving ducks reflects the lagoon-type nature of the inner estuary. This SPA is one of the few sites in eastern Ireland where substantial numbers of Goldeneye can be found. The estuary also attracts on a regular basis migrant wader species such as Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank, Green Sandpiper and Little Stint. These occur mainly in autumn, though occasionally in spring and winter. Breeding birds of the site include Ringed Plover, Shelduck and Mallard. Up to the 1950s there was a major tern colony at the southern end of Malahide Island. Grey Herons breed nearby and feed regularly within the site. The inner part of the estuary is heavily used for water sports, which causes disturbance to the bird populations. A section of the outer estuary has recently been in-filled for a marina and housing development. Broadmeadow/Swords Estuary SPA is a fine example of an estuarine system, providing both feeding and roosting areas for a range of wintering waterfowl. The lagoonal nature of the inner estuary is of particular value as it increases the diversity of birds which occur. The site is of high conservation importance, with an internationally important population of Brent Goose and nationally important populations of a further 12 species. Three of the species which occur regularly (Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit and Ruff) are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.

South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (Site code 004024):

The South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA comprises a substantial part of Dublin Bay. It includes the intertidal area between the River Liffey and Dun Laoghaire, and the estuary of the River Tolka to the north of the River Liffey, as well as Booterstown Marsh. A portion of the shallow marine waters of the bay is also

included. In the south bay, the intertidal flats extend for almost 3 km at their widest. The sediments are predominantly well-aerated sands. Several permanent channels exist, the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates. Some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. The landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Light-bellied Brent Goose, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank, Black-headed Gull, Roseate Tern, Common Tern and Arctic Tern. The E.U. Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands, and as these form part of the SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds. The site is an important site for wintering waterfowl, being an integral part of the internationally important Dublin Bay complex. The south bay is an important tern roost in the autumn (mostly late July to September). Birds also use the Dalkey Islands to the south. The South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA is of international importance for Light-bellied Brent Goose and of national importance for nine other waterfowl species.

TABLE 2.1b SACs located within 15km of the site.

Site Code	Site Name	Approximate distance for Plan Area	Qualifying Feature		Likely Impacts
			Annex I Species/Habitat	Annex II habitat	

000205	Malahide Estuary	13.7km	Tidal mudflats and sandflats, Atlantic salt meadows, <i>Spartina</i> swards, Mediterranean salt meadows, <i>Salicornia</i> mud, Marram dunes and fixed dunes.		At a sufficient distance from the Plan area to not be impacted directly or indirectly
000210	South Dublin Bay	15km	Tidal mudflats and sandflats.		At a sufficient distance from the Plan area to not be impacted directly or indirectly
001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton	8.2km	Kingfisher	Vertigo angustior; Vertigo moulinsiana. Mineral spring	At a sufficient distance from the Plan area to not be impacted directly or indirectly

Malahide Estuary (Site Code 000205)

Malahide Estuary is situated immediately north of Malahide and east of Swords. It is the estuary of the River Broadmeadow. The site is divided by a railway viaduct built in the 1800s. The outer part of the estuary is mostly cut off from the sea by a large sand spit, known as "the island". The outer estuary drains almost completely at low tide, exposing sand and mud flats. There is a large bed of Eelgrass (*Zostera noltii* and *Z. angustifolium*)

in the north section of the outer estuary, along with Tassel Weed (*Ruppia maritima*) and extensive mats of green algae (*Enteromorpha* spp., *Ulva lactuca*). Cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*) is also widespread in this sheltered part of the estuary. The dune spit has a well developed outer dune ridge dominated by Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*). The dry areas of the stabilised dunes have a dense covering of Burnet Rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and species such as Yellow Wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*), Field Gentian (*Gentianella amarella*), Hound's Tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), Carline Thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*) and Pyramidal Orchid

(*Anacamptis pyramidalis*). Much of the interior of the spit is taken up by a golf course. The inner stony shore has frequent Sea-holly (*Eryngium maritimum*). Well-developed saltmarshes occur at the tip of the spit. Atlantic salt meadow is the principle type and is characterised by species such as Sea Purslane (*Halimolobos portulacoides*), Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*) and Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*). Elsewhere in the outer estuary, a small area of Mediterranean salt meadow occurs which is characterised by the presence of Sea Rush (*Juncus maritimus*). Below the salt marshes there are good examples of pioneering Glasswort swards and other annual species, typified by *Salicornia dolichostachya* and Annual Sea-blite (*Suaeda maritima*). The inner estuary does not drain at low tide apart from the extreme inner part. Here, patches of saltmarsh and salt meadows occur, with Sea Aster, Sea Plantain (*Plantagomaritima*) and Sea Clubrush (*Scirpus maritimus*). Tassel Weed (*Ruppia maritima*) occurs in one of the channels. The site includes a fine area of rocky shore south-east of Malahide and extending towards Portmarnock. This represents the only continuous section through the fossiliferous Lower Carboniferous rocks in the Dublin Basin, and is the type locality for several species of fossil coral. The estuary is an important wintering bird site. It holds an internationally important population of Brent Geese and nationally important populations of a further 15 species. Average maximum counts during the 1995/96-1997/98 period were Brent Geese 1217; Great Crested Grebe 52; Mute Swan 106; Shelduck 471; Pochard 200; Goldeneye 333; Red-breasted Merganser 116; Oystercatcher 1228; Golden Plover 2123; Grey Plover 190; Redshank 454; Wigeon 50; Teal 78; Ringed Plover 106; Knot 858; Dunlin 1474; Greenshank 38; Pintail 53; Black-tailed Godwit 345; Bar-tailed Godwit 99. The high numbers of diving birds reflects the lagoon-type nature of the inner estuary. The estuary also attracts migrant species such as Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank and Little Stint. Breeding birds of the site include Ringed Plover, Shelduck and Mallard. Up to the 1950s there was a major tern colony at the southern end of the island and the habitat remains suitable for these birds. The inner part of the estuary is heavily used for water sports. A section of the outer estuary has recently been infilled for a marina and housing development. This SPA site is a fine example of an estuarine system with all the main habitats represented. The SPA site is important ornithologically, with a population of Brent Geese of international significance.

South Dublin Bay (Site Code 000210)

This site lies south of the River Liffey and extends from the South Wall to the west pier at Dun Laoghaire. It is an intertidal site with extensive areas of sand and mudflats, a habitat listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The sediments are predominantly sands but grade to sandy muds near the shore at Merrion gates. The main channel which drains the area is Cockle Lake. There is a bed of Eelgrass (*Zostera noltii*) below Merrion Gates which is the largest stand on the east coast. Green algae (*Enteromorpha* spp. and *Ulva lactuca*) are distributed throughout the area at a low density. Furoid algae occur on the rocky shore in the Maretimo to Dún Laoghaire area. Species include *Fucus spiralis*, *F. vesiculosus*, *F. serratus*,

Ascophyllum nodosum and *Pelvetia canaliculata*. Several small, sandy beaches with incipient dune formation occur in the northern and western sectors of the site, notably at Poolbeg, Irishtown and Merrion/Boosterstown. The formation at Boosterstown is very recent. Driftline vegetation occurs in association with the embryonic and incipient fore dunes. Typically drift lines occur in a band approximately 5 m wide, though at Boosterstown this zone is wider in places. The habitat occurs just above the High Water Mark and below the area of embryonic dune. Species present are Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*), Frosted Orache (*Atriplex laciniata*), Spear-leaved Orache (*A. prostrata*), Prickly Saltwort (*Salsola kali*) and Fat Hen (*Chenopodium album*). Also occurring is Sea Sandwort (*Honkenya peploides*), Sea Beet (*Beta vulgaris*) and Annual Sea-blithe (*Suaeda maritima*). A small area of pioneer salt marsh now occurs in the lee of an embryonic sand dune just north of Boosterstown Station. This early stage of salt marsh development is here characterized by the presence of pioneer stands of Glasswort (*Salicornia* spp.) occurring below an area of drift line vegetation. As this is of very recent origin, it covers a small area but ample areas of substrate and shelter are available for the further development of this habitat. Lugworm (*Arenicola marina*) and Cockles (*Cerastoderma edule*) and other annelids and bivalves are frequent throughout the site. The small gastropod *Hydrobia ulvae* occurs on the muddy sands off Merrion Gates. South Dublin Bay is an important site for waterfowl. Although birds regularly

commute between the south bay and the north bay, recent studies have shown that certain populations which occur in the south bay spend most of their time there. The principal species are Oystercatcher (1215), Ringed Plover (120), Sanderling (344) and Dunlin (2628), Redshank (356) (average winter peaks 1996/97 and 1997/98). Up to 100 Turnstones are usual in the south bay during winter. Brent Geese regularly occur in numbers of international importance (average peak 299). Bar-tailed Godwit (565), a species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, also occur. Large numbers of gulls roost in South Dublin Bay, e.g. 4,500 Black-headed Gulls in February 1990; 500 Common Gulls in February 1991. It is also an important tern roost in the autumn, regularly holding 2000-3000 terns including Roseate Terns, a species listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. South Dublin Bay is largely protected as a Special Protection Area. At low tide the inner parts of the south bay are used for amenity purposes. Bait digging is a regular activity on the sandy flats. At high tide some areas have windsurfing and jet-skiing. This SPA site is a fine example of a coastal system with extensive sand and mudflats, a habitat listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. South Dublin Bay is also an internationally important bird site.

Rye Water Valley/Carton (Site Code 001398):

This site is located between Leixlip and Maynooth. It extends along the Rye Water, a tributary of the River Liffey. The woods at Carton Demesne are the site of a rare Myxomycete fungus, *Diderma deplanatum*. Within the woods, Blackcap, Woodcock and Longeared Owl have been recorded. Little Grebe, Coot, Moorhen, Tufted Duck, Teal and Kingfisher, the latter a species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, occur on and about the lake. The mineral spring found at the SPA site is of a type considered to be rare in Europe and is a habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The Rye Water is a spawning ground for Trout and Salmon, and the rare, Whiteclawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) has been recorded at Leixlip. The latter two species are listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive. The semi-aquatic snails *Vertigo angustior* and *V. moulinsiana* occur in marsh vegetation near

Louisa Bridge; both are rare in Ireland and Europe and are listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive. The scarce Dragonfly, *Orthetrum coerulescens*, has been recorded at Louisa Bridge. The main importance of the SPA site lies in the presence of several rare and threatened plant and animal species, and of a rare habitat, thermal, mineral, petrifying spring. The woods found on Carton Estate and their birdlife are of additional interest.

2.4 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES OF THE NATURA 2000 SITES

2.4.1 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES OF THE SACS

The integrity of a Natura 2000 site (referred to in Article 6.3 of the EU Habitats Directive) is determined based on the conservation status of the qualifying features of the SAC. The following Conservation Objectives for the SACs located within 15 km of the subject site are set out below:

Malahide Estuary (Site Code 000205)(Version 1, 27th May 2013)

- To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in Malahide Estuary SAC
- To maintain the favourable conservation condition of *Salicornia* and other annuals
- colonising mud and sand in Malahide Estuary SAC
- To restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) in Malahide Estuary SAC,
- To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mediterranean salt meadows
- (*Juncetalia maritimi*) in Malahide Estuary SAC,
- To restore the favourable conservation condition of Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes') in Malahide Estuary SAC
- To restore the favourable conservation condition of Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') in Malahide Estuary SAC

South Dublin Bay (Site Code 000210)(Version 1, 22 August 2013)

- To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in South Dublin Bay SAC

Rye Water Valley/Carlton (Site Code 001398)(Generic Version 3.0, 18th July 2011):

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

Vertigo angustior
Vertigo moulinsiana
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion).

2.4.2 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES OF SPAs

Conservation objectives for SPAs are available from the NPWS. The following Conservation Objectives for the SPAs located within 15 km of the subject site are set out below:

Broadmeadow/Swords (Malahide) Estuary SPA (Site Code 004025) (Version 1, 16th August 2013):

To maintain the favourable conservation condition in Malahide Estuary SPA for

- *Great Crested Grebe*
- *Light-bellied Brent Goose,*
- *Shelduck,*
- *Pintail,*
- *Goldeneye,*
- *Red-breasted Merganser,*
- *Oystercatcher,*
- *Golden Plover,*
- *Grey Plover,*
- *Knot,*
- *Dunlin,*
- *Bar-tailed Godwit*
- *Black-tailed Godwit,*
- *Redshank,*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in Malahide Estuary SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.

South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (Site code 004024)(Generic Version 4.0, 16th April 2012):

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

Branta bernicla hrota [wintering]
Haematopus ostralegus [wintering]
Charadrius hiaticula [wintering]
Pluvialis squatarola [wintering]
Calidris canutus [wintering]
Calidris alba [wintering]
Calidris alpina [wintering]
Limosa lapponica [wintering]
Tringa totanus [wintering]
Chroicocephalus ridibundus [wintering]
Sterna dougallii [passage]
Sterna hirundo [breeding + passage]
Sterna paradisaea [passage]
Wetlands

2.5 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

2.5.1 DIRECT, INDIRECT OR SECONDARY IMPACTS

Table 2.1a and 2.1b list the Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the lands the subject of the proposed variation. There are 5 sites in all, 3 no. SAC and 2 no. SPA. None of the Natura 2000 sites lie within the boundaries of the subject land. Consequently no direct impacts will occur through land-take or fragmentation of habitats.

The proposed variation lands are currently zoned for employment generating uses. The proposed variation is for a change of zoning from general enterprise type employment uses to community infrastructure uses. The lands could be developed under the current zoning objective, which was subject to Appropriate Assessment as part of the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 process.

The subject land is approximately 8.2km from the closest Natura 2000 site. An indirect impact identified with the variation is surface water run-off. The site is covered by the Pinkeen River catchment, a tributary of the Tolka River which flows into Dublin Bay. The Strategic Environmental Assessment and Natura Impact Assessment of the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 has assessed the impact of development on the lands and the resource requirement from the proposed variation is not increased from the existing 'GE' zoning on site. The implementation of sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDs) are required within any future development of the lands to restrict surface water runoff in accordance with Fingal County Council's storm water management policy in line with the requirements of the 'Greater Dublin Region code of Practice for Drainage Works, Version 6.0, April 2006, Section 16. The maximum permitted discharge from any new development of the site will be restricted to that of a greenfield site. The implementation of sustainable urban drainage will prevent pollution, downstream flooding and improve water quality.

The Planning Authority is satisfied that no significant impacts through direct disturbance of habitats and species will occur from development resulting through this variation.

TABLE 2.5.1 Potential Direct, Indirect or Secondary Impacts of the Development on Natura 2000 Sites

Site Name	Direct Impacts	Indirect Impacts	Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction etc)	Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air)	Excavation Requirements	Transportation Requirements	Duration of Construction and Operation
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	At a sufficient distance from the Plan area to not be impacted directly	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species
Broadmeadow/ Swords Estuary SPA	At a sufficient distance from the Plan area to not be impacted directly	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species
Malahide Estuary SAC	At a sufficient distance from the Plan area to not be impacted directly	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species
South Dublin Bay SAC	At a sufficient distance from the Plan area to not be impacted directly	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species
Rye Water Valley /Carton SAC	At a sufficient distance from the Plan area to not be impacted directly	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species	No impact on qualifying habitat or species

2.5.2 CUMULATIVE AND IN COMBINATION IMPACTS

There is no potential for cumulative and in combination impacts on any Natura 2000 Site, in particular having regard to the proposed variation and the subject land's location distant from any Natura 2000 Site.

2.5.3 LIKELY CHANGES TO THE NATURA 2000 SITES

The likely changes that will arise from the development have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura

2000 sites. Overall, it has been found that the proposed variation will not cause any changes to the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites.

TABLE 2.5.2 Likely Changes to Natura Sites

Site Name	Reduction of Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Habitat or Species Fragmentation	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality etc)	Climate Change
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	None	None	None	None	None	None
Broadmeadow /Swords Estuary SPA	None	None	None	None	None	None
Malahide Estuary SAC	None	None	None	None	None	None
South Dublin Bay SAC	None	None	None	None	None	None
Rye Water Valley /Carton SAC	None	None	None	None	None	None

3.0 PRELIMINARY SCREENING OUTCOME:

A screening process in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive was carried out to determine whether a full appropriate assessment is required for the proposed variation of the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017. All Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius of the site were considered. On the basis of the findings of this Screening for Appropriate Assessment of Natura 2000 sites, it is concluded that the proposed variation will not have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 network and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment Process - A Natura Impact Statement - is not required.

4.0 CONSULTATION

Notice was given by Fingal County Council to the following environmental authorities:

- ✓ The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
- ✓ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- ✓ The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
- ✓ The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

- ✓ The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The notices stated that Fingal County Council was screening the requirement for a full Natura Impact Statement of the Tyrrelstown Variation and requested submissions or observations in relation to whether the plan would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Based on the initial determination by Fingal County Council, together with the outcome of consultation with the consultees, this Screening Statement has been updated and the Planning Authority is still satisfied that the proposed variation will not have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 network and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment Process - A Natura Impact Statement - is not required.



**Proposed Variation to lands
at Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15**

Appropriate Assessment

Figure 1

- Variation Location
- Distance (kms)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Tyrrelstown15KM Catchment area
- Fingal County Boundary



Scale @ A3 1:125,000

