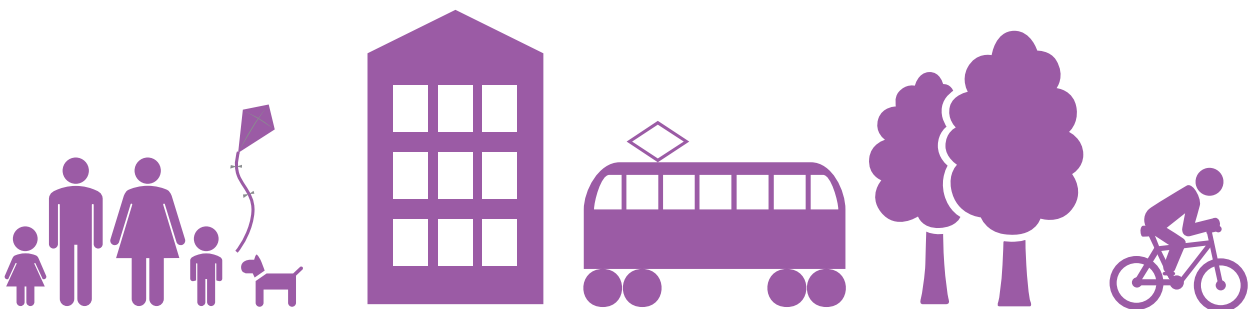


Castlelands

Masterplan

March 2021



Appendix 6 Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and Determination





**Addendum to the
Appropriate Assessment Screening Report
for Castlelands Masterplan**

Prepared for Fingal County Council

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1 Introduction

This Addendum Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, has been prepared by Scott Cawley on behalf of Fingal County Council. It provides information on, and assesses the potential for the Castlelands Masterplan (hereafter referred to as “the Masterplan”) to impact on the Natura 2000 network (hereafter referred to as European sites)¹. This report follows the initial AA screening report which assessed the Draft Masterplan, and takes into account amendments to aspects of the Masterplan following the public consultation process and motions for change to the plan.

The responsibility for carrying out Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening lies with the competent authority, Fingal County Council, and this report facilitates the completion of AA screening by the Council. The Council’s AA screening decision is published alongside the Masterplan.

An AA is required if likely significant effects on European sites arising from the Masterplan cannot be ruled out at the screening stage, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. It is the responsibility of the competent authority to make a decision as to whether or not the Masterplan is likely to have significant effects on European sites, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

Following public display of the Draft Masterplan and review of submissions received, a number of recommended amendments were proposed by elected representatives for incorporation into the plan.

This Addendum report to the AA screening, incorporates these new amendments into the AA screening process and determines whether any change in likelihood of effects on European sites is predicted.

For the reasons set out in detail in this AA Screening Report, an **Appropriate Assessment of the Masterplan is not required in this instance** as it can be concluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Masterplan, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European sites.

2 Methodology

2.1 Guidance

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared with regard to the following guidance documents, as relevant:

- *OPR Practice Note PN01. Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management* (Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021)
- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities*. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision)
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10

¹ The Natura 2000 network is a European network of important ecological sites, as defined under Article 3 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, which comprises both special areas of conservation and special protection areas. Special conservation areas are sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I, and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, of the Habitats Directive, and are established under the Habitats Directive itself. Special protection areas are established under Article 4 of the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC for the protection of endangered species of wild birds. The aim of the network is to aid the long-term survival of Europe’s most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

In Ireland these sites are designed as *European sites* - defined under the Planning Acts and/or the Birds and Habitats Regulations as (a) a candidate site of Community importance, (b) a site of Community importance, (c) a candidate special area of conservation, (d) a special area of conservation, (e) a candidate special protection area, or (f) a special protection area. They are commonly referred to in Ireland as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

- *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, 2001)
- *Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle* (European Commission, 2000), and
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission, 2019)

2.2 Assessment Methodology

The above referenced guidance sets out a staged process for carrying out Appropriate Assessment. To determine if an Appropriate Assessment is required, documented screening is required. Screening identifies the potential for effects on the conservation objectives of European sites, if any, which would arise from a proposed plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects (i.e. likely significant effects).

Significant effects on a European site are those that would negatively undermine the conservation objectives supporting the favourable conservation condition of the Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats and/or the QI/Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species of a European site(s).

Screening for Appropriate Assessment involves the following steps:



If the conclusions at the end of screening are that there is no likelihood of significant effects occurring on any European sites as a result of the proposed plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, then there is no requirement to undertake an Appropriate Assessment.

In establishing which European sites are potentially at risk (in the absence of mitigation) from the Masterplan, a source-pathway-receptor approach was applied. In order for an impact to occur, there must be a risk enabled by having a source (e.g. water abstraction or construction works), a receptor (e.g. a European site or its QI(s) or SCI(s)²), and a pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. pathway by air for airborne pollution, or a pathway by a watercourse for mobilisation of pollution). For an impact to occur, all three elements must exist; the absence or removal of one of the elements means there is no possibility for the impact to occur.

The identification of source-pathway-receptor connection(s) between the Masterplan area and European sites essentially is the process of identifying which European sites are within the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the Masterplan, and therefore potentially at risk of significant effects. The Zoi is the area over which the Masterplan could affect the receiving environment such that it could potentially have significant effects on the QI habitats or QI/SCI species of a European site, or on the achievement of their conservation objectives³.

The identification of a source-pathway-receptor link does not automatically mean that significant effects will arise. The likelihood for significant effects will depend upon the characteristics of the source (e.g. extent and duration of construction works), the characteristics of the pathway (e.g. direction and strength of prevailing winds for airborne pollution) and the characteristics of the receptor (e.g. the sensitivities of the European site and its QIs/SCIs). Where uncertainty exists, the precautionary principle⁴ is applied.

2.3 Desktop Data Review

The desktop data sources used to inform the assessment presented in this report are as follows (accessed between in October 2021):

- Online data available on European sites and protected habitats/species as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie, including conservation objectives documents
- Online data available on protected species as held by the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) from www.biodiversityireland.ie
- Information on the surface water network and surface water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie
- Information on groundwater resources and groundwater quality in the area available from www.epa.ie and www.gsi.ie
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie

² The term qualifying interest is used when referring to the habitats or species for which an SAC is designated; the term special conservation interest is used when referring to the bird species (or wetland habitats) for which an SPA is designated.

³ As defined in the *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland* (CIEEM, 2018)

⁴ The precautionary principle is a guiding principle that derives from Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and has been developed in the case law of the European Court of Justice (e.g. ECJ case C-127/02 – Waddenzee, Netherlands).

The guidance document *Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle* (European Commission, 2000) notes that the precautionary principle “covers those specific circumstances where scientific evidence is insufficient, inconclusive or uncertain and there are indications through preliminary objective scientific evaluation that there are reasonable grounds for concern that the potentially dangerous effects on the environment, human, animal or plant health may be inconsistent with the chosen level of protection”.

Applying the precautionary principle in the context of screening for appropriate assessment requires that where there is uncertainty or doubt about the risk of significant effects on a European site(s), it should be assumed that significant effects are possible and AA must be carried out.

- Information on the location, nature and policies, objectives, and design of the Masterplan supplied by the planning team
- Information on land use and zoning within the *Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023*⁵

2.4 Consultation Stage

Consultation during the Appropriate Assessment process provides important information on the state of European sites and any specific concerns that key stakeholders may have. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have been given the opportunity to comment on the Masterplan and this AA Screening addendum, and all submissions received after the period of public display along with recommended amendments and motions from elected representatives, have been taken into account during the subsequent stages in the preparation of the Final Masterplan.

2.5 Baseline Surveys

This section describes the ecological surveys carried out to inform the assessment of likely significant effects on European sites.

Wintering bird survey visits were undertaken within the lands on three occasions: an initial site walkover survey, which included a walked transect of the lands to check for signs of wintering birds, such as feathers or droppings, was undertaken on 7th February 2019. This survey also included observations of wintering birds flying over the lands from a vantage point within the lands. Following completion of this initial survey, two full-day wintering bird surveys were undertaken on 22nd and 28th March 2019 following the same methodologies.

3 Provision of Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

The following sections provide information to facilitate the Appropriate Assessment screening of the Masterplan to be undertaken by the competent authority.

A description of the Masterplan and the receiving environment is provided to identify the potential ecological impacts. The environmental baseline conditions are discussed, as relevant to the assessment of ecological impacts where they may highlight potential pathways for impacts associated with the Masterplan to affect the receiving ecological environment (e.g. hydrological data).

The potential impacts are examined in order to define the potential zone of influence of the Masterplan on the receiving environment. This then informs the assessment of whether the Masterplan will result in likely significant effects on any European sites; i.e. affect the conservation objectives supporting the favourable conservation condition of the European site's QIs or SCIs.

3.1 Description of the Masterplan

Fingal County Council has prepared a Masterplan for the townland of Castlelands, located south of Balbriggan in Co. Dublin in response to objectives in the Fingal Development Plan⁶.

Balbriggan is situated on the northern edge of Fingal's administrative area and is accessed from the national and regional road network via the M1 Dublin-Belfast motorway and the R132 corridor.

The lands are bound to the east by the Dublin-Belfast main railway and the R127 Balbriggan - Skerries Road with open coastal lands beyond. To the north and west lie the established residential areas of Hampton Cove, Pinewood, Castleland, Ardgillan, and The Chancies. To the south lies the agricultural parkland of Hampton Demesne.

⁵ Fingal County Council (2017). *Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023*. Available from www.fingal.ie/planning-and-buildings

⁶ Fingal County Council (2017). *Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023*. Available from www.fingal.ie/planning-and-buildings

The Masterplan Site comprises c.24.2 hectares (ha) of primarily greenfield, undulating lands that benefit from sea views to the east. Approximately 22ha are zoned as a 'RA - Residential Area' in the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023. A small residential development has recently been constructed at the southern end of Pinewood in the northeast corner of the Site. The remaining c.2.2ha of the Masterplan Site are zoned as 'OS - Open Space'.

The Masterplan will provide a robust development framework for the long-term sustainable development of the Castlelands area. The overarching vision for Castlelands is to create a new, distinct and sustainable urban quarter of high-quality residential accommodation in a landscape setting. The aim is to deliver a unique identity for Castlelands as a vibrant residential community, a place that is desirable to live, where the needs of the residents are met through high quality private and public open spaces. Further details are outlined in the Masterplan⁷.

3.2 Overview of the Receiving Environment

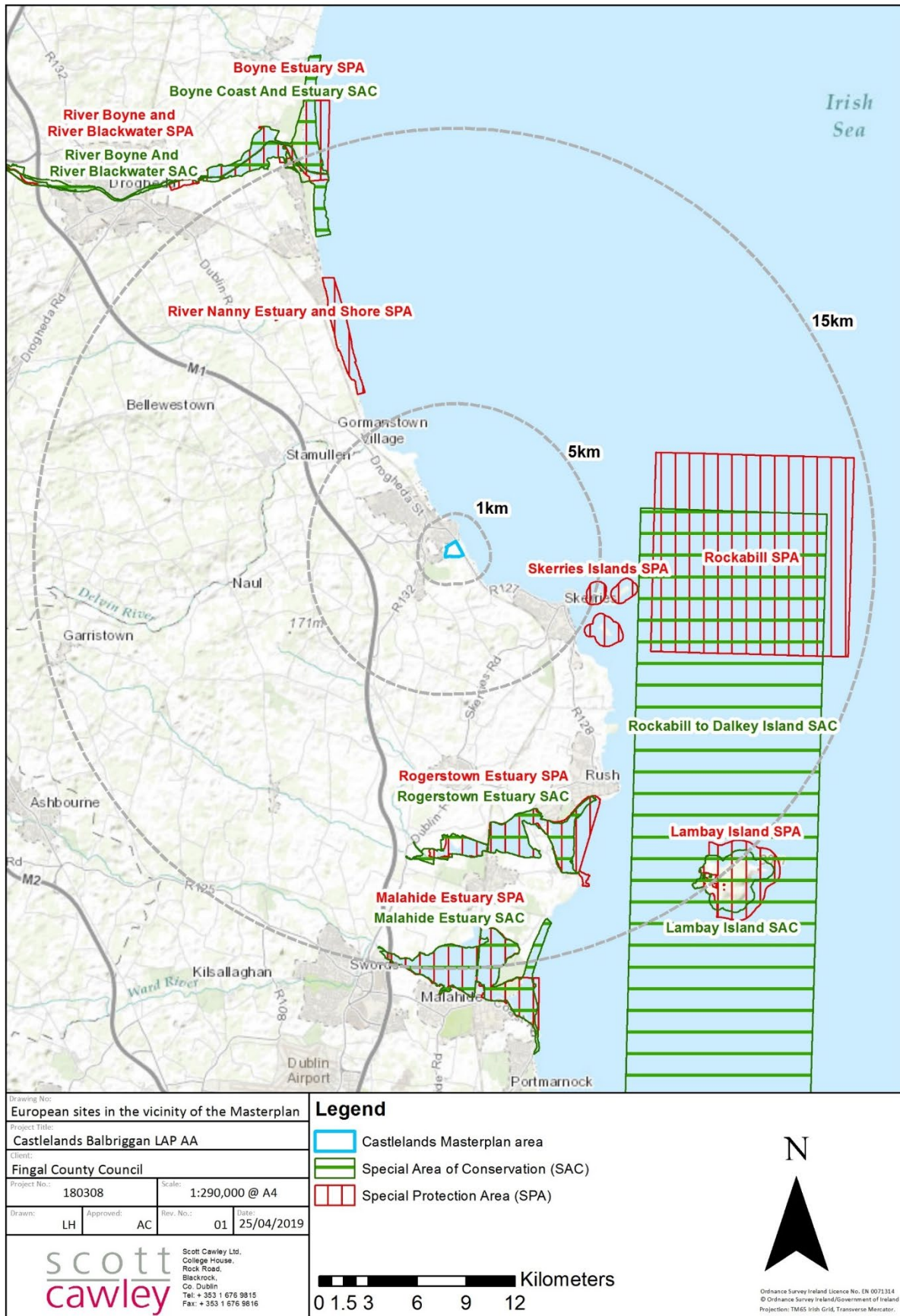
3.2.1 European sites

The plan area does not overlap with any European sites, and no European sites are located either immediately adjacent to or downstream of the plan area. The closest European site to the plan area is Skerries Islands SPA (004122), which is located c. 5km southeast. The Skerries Islands SPA has been designated for a range of SCI breeding and wintering wetland bird species. Other European sites within the wider area are Rockabill SPA (004014), c. 6.8km east and designated for its population of terns *Sterna* spp., the River Nanny Estuary SPA (004158) c. 6.3km north and designated for its population of wintering wetland birds, and Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (003000) c. 6km east, which has been designated for its population of harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* and the habitat reefs.

All of the European sites present in the wider area of the Masterplan area are shown on Figure 1 below. The QIs/SCIs of the European sites in the wider area of the Masterplan area are provided in Appendix I.

⁷ Fingal County Council (2019). *Castlelands Draft Masterplan*.

Figure 1 European sites in the vicinity of the Masterplan area



3.2.2 Habitats

The plan area is a greenfield site with a new housing development in the north-eastern corner. The plan area is a large field under cultivation for arable crops (potatoes) and the perimeter of the site is comprised of hedgerows and treelines. The lands were identified as potentially suitable foraging habitat for a range of bird species for which European sites in Appendix I are designated.

3.2.3 Flora and Fauna Species

A search of the NBDC database returned records of several species for which European sites are designated. These include the following:

- [1351] Harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*. This marine species is a QI of the Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (003000). This is the most abundant species of cetacean in Irish waters⁸. There are numerous records of the species offshore from Balbriggan, including records of stranded animals and sightings of live animals;
- [1355] Otter *Lutra lutra*. This aquatic species is a QI of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (002299). It has a widespread distribution in Ireland and is especially associated with rivers, lakes and coastal waters⁹;

Neither of the aforementioned species occur within or have potential to occur within the plan area.

The database search also returned a range of seabird records. Wintering bird surveys conducted by Scott Cawley in the Masterplan area recorded several bird species which are SCIs for European sites. Small numbers (*i.e.* 15 birds or fewer) of herring gull *Larus argentatus*, black-headed gull *Larus ridibundus*, bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*, grey heron *Ardea cinerea* and curlew *Numenius arquata* were recorded flying over the lands. Additionally, small numbers of curlew, herring gull and lesser black-backed gull were observed foraging within the lands. Data collected for full day wintering bird surveys is presented within Appendix II of this report.

3.2.4 Hydrology

The Masterplan area is located within the Nanny-Delvin catchment and the Matt sub-basin. The Castlelands Stream¹⁰ traverses the extreme southeast corner of the Masterplan area, before discharging directly into the Irish Sea, c.150m east of the Masterplan area. There is no water quality data on this watercourse available from the EPA database of watercourses. The Northwest Irish Sea coastal waterbody has a water quality status of 'good' and its WFD risk status is currently under review.

3.3 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on European Sites

This section identifies the potential impacts associated with the Masterplan, examines whether there are any European sites within the Zol of effects from the Masterplan, and assesses whether there is any risk of the Masterplan resulting in a likely significant effect on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

⁸ Berrow, S.D. and O'Brien, J. (2013). *Harbour porpoise SAC survey 2013*. Report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Irish Whale and Dolphin Group. pp. 37.

⁹ Reid, N., Hayden, B., Lundy, M.G., Pietravalle, S., McDonald, R.A., and Montgomery, W.I. (2013). *National otter survey of Ireland 2010/12*. Irish Wildlife Manuals No. 76. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.

¹⁰ The Castlelands Stream is not listed as a watercourse on the EPA database of river waterbodies, but has been identified within the surface water management plan for the Draft Masterplan.

In assessing the potential for the proposed development to result in a likely significant effects on any European sites, any measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan on European sites are not taken into account.

3.3.1 Habitat loss and fragmentation

The Masterplan area does not overlap with the boundary of any European site. Therefore, there are no European sites at risk of direct habitat loss impacts. Wintering bird surveys were carried out by Scott Cawley to identify whether the Masterplan area is used by SCI species for which European sites have been designated. As outlined in Section 3.2.3, several species of wintering wetland birds were observed passing through or foraging within the plan area. For this reason, and on a precautionary basis, the closest SPAs for which these species are SCIs have been included within the zone of influence of the Masterplan.

The SCI species recorded within the plan area are discussed in relation to the closest SPA populations as follows:

- [A184] Herring gull *Larus argentatus*. Small numbers observed flying over the lands (peak count: 8), and foraging within the lands (peak count: 5). This species is listed as an SCI for River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA (004158)¹¹, c. 6.3km north of the plan area where it is listed as an overwintering species. The baseline population for the species in the River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA (004158) is 509. Records of gull species are not regularly recorded as part of IWeBS. The birds noted flying over the lands potentially represent a maximum of 1.6% of the SPA population, if they form part of the population of the SPA at all;
- [A160] Curlew *Numenius arquata*. Small numbers were observed foraging within the lands (peak count: 2), and one individual flying overhead. This species is listed as an SCI for North Bull Island SPA (004006)¹², c. 23km south of the plan area, where it is listed as an overwintering species. The baseline population for the species in the North Bull Island SPA (004006) is 937 birds, based on the 5-year mean peak count for the period 1995/96-1999/00¹³. More recent data (2006/07-2015-16) from IWeBS¹⁴ indicates mean peak counts for Dublin Bay of 993 birds. The birds noted within the lands potentially represent a maximum of 0.2% of the SPA population, if they form part of the population of the SPA at all;
- [A183] Lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*. A single bird observed foraging within the lands. This species is listed as an SCI for Lambay Island SPA (004069)¹⁵, c. 14km southwest of the plan area, where it is known to breed. There is no publicly available information on the baseline population for lesser black-headed gulls on Lambay Island SPA, and full species are not regularly recorded through IWeBS. Notwithstanding its status as a red-listed species in *Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 4 2020-2026*¹⁶, a single bird is considered to form a very small proportion of the overall population of the SPA, if the bird observed within the lands belongs to the Lambay Island population at all;
- [A028] Grey heron *Ardea cinerea*. Individual birds were observed flying overhead on two occasions during the surveys. This species is listed as an SCI for Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA (004076), c. 125km south of the plan area, where it is known to breed¹⁷. The baseline population for the species in the Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA (004076) is 52 birds¹⁷. The birds noted within the lands potentially represent a maximum of

¹¹ NPWS (2017). *Natura 2000 Standard Data Form – River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA (IE0004158)*.

¹² NPWS (2017). *Natura 2000 Standard Data Form – North Bull Island SPA (IE0004006)*.

¹³ NPWS (2014). *North Bull Island Special Protection Area (Site Code 4006) and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary Special Protection Area (Site Code 4024). Conservation Objectives Supporting Document*. National Parks and Wildlife Service. October 2014.

¹⁴ Birdwatch Ireland (2019). *IWeBS Site Summary Data*. Hosted online at www.birdwatchireland.ie.

¹⁵ NPWS (2017). *Natura 2000 Standard Data Form – Lambay Island SPA (IE0004069)*

¹⁶ Gilbert, G., Stanbury, A., & Lewis, L. (2021). *Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 4: 2020-2026*. Irish Birds 43:1-22.

¹⁷ NPWS (2011). *Wexford Harbour and Slobs Special Protection Area (Site Code 4076) & the Raven Special Protection Area (Site Code 4019). Conservation Objectives Supporting Document*. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service.

4% of the SPA population, although it is considered highly unlikely that they form part of the SPA population in light of the very large distance between the lands and the European site;

- [A157] Bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*. A small flock of birds was observed flying over the site on two occasions during the surveys (peak count: 17). This species is listed as an SCI of Malahide Estuary SPA (004025)¹⁸, c. 13km south of the plan area. The baseline population for the species in the Malahide Estuary SPA (004006) is 156 birds, based on the 5-year mean peak count for the period 1995/96-1999/00¹⁹. More recent data (2006/07-2015-16) from IWeBS¹⁴ indicates mean peak counts for the Broadmeadow (Malahide) Estuary of 96 birds. The birds noted flying over the lands potentially represent a maximum of 18% of the SPA population, if they form part of the population of the SPA at all;

As demonstrated above, and based on a review of available data, the number of individuals of the aforementioned species recorded feeding within the lands was small and represent a small proportion of the European sites' populations. It is worth noting also that only three of the SCI species were noted foraging within the lands, with most bird species recorded flying over the lands without landing. The lands are therefore not considered to be an important *ex situ* site for any SCI species as defined within the supporting documentation of any European sites. Additionally, a large proportion of lands within the area surrounding Masterplan contain similar habitats to the plan area. For these reasons, any habitat loss as a result of developments within the Masterplan will not have a significant effect on any SCI species. The amendments and motions for change to the Masterplan following the consultation process (see Appendix III), will not affect this conclusion.

In Combination

As the lands are not considered to form part of an important *ex situ* site for any SCIs of any European sites, there is no potential for in-combination effects arising from habitat loss or fragmentation.

3.3.2 Habitat degradation as a result of hydrological impacts

Surface water run-off and discharges from the Masterplan area enter the Irish Sea c. 150m east of the Masterplan area, via the Castlelands Stream. The zone of influence (Zoi) of potential effects on water quality from the Masterplan is considered, on a precautionary basis, to extend to the discharge point of the Castlelands Stream only. In light of the following, the zone of influence is not considered to extend beyond this, and the Masterplan development will not have any measurable effects on water quality in the Irish Sea:

- The location of the Masterplan lands relative to the surface water network;
- The relatively small area of the Masterplan lands, and the relatively small scope and potential scale of development within the plan area;
- The resultant relatively low volume of any surface water run-off or discharge events relative to the receiving surface water and marine environments; and
- The level of mixing, dilution and dispersion of any surface water run-off/discharges in the receiving watercourses and the Irish Sea. There is a large distance of separation and marine water buffer between Balbriggan town and any European sites in the Irish Sea. It is anticipated that any pollutants entering the sea from the plan area will be diluted to such an extent that they will not be discernible, before they reach any European sites.

Therefore, there is no possibility of the Masterplan undermining the conservation objectives of any of the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of the European sites in, or associated with, Dublin Bay as a result of surface water run-off or discharges. The amendments and motions for change to the Masterplan following the consultation process (see Appendix III), will not affect this conclusion.

¹⁸ NPWS (2017). *Natura 2000 Standard Data Form – Malahide Estuary SPA (IE0004025)*

¹⁹ NPWS (2013). *Malahide Estuary Special Protection Area (Site Code 4025). Conservation Objectives Supporting Document*. National Parks and Wildlife Service. August 2013.

Foul Water

Foul water, comprising sewage and industrial effluent (and some surface water run-off), from the Masterplan area will be treated at Balbriggan Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The most recent information from Irish Water indicates that the plant is operating below its capacity of 70,000 PE²⁰ with a current operational loading of 41,406 PE. Balbriggan WWTP operates under a discharge licence from the EPA (D0023-01) and must comply with the licence conditions.

Considering the spare capacity at Balbriggan WWTP, and the 'good' water quality status of the Irish Sea in the vicinity of Balbriggan town, the Masterplan will not impact the overall water quality status of the Irish Sea as a result of increased foul water loading from developments within the Masterplan area.

Therefore, there is no possibility of the Masterplan undermining the conservation objectives of any of the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of the European sites in, or associated with, the north-western Irish Sea as a result of foul water discharges. The amendments and motions for change to the Masterplan following the consultation process (see Appendix III), will not affect this conclusion.

In Combination

Theoretically, there is potential for "in-combination" effects on water quality in the north-western Irish sea from any other projects or land use plans carried out which can influence conditions in this area via rivers and other surface water features.

The Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly, Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019-2031²¹ (Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly, 2019) includes a range of policy objectives relevant to the protection of European sites and the protection of water quality in Dublin Bay, to which the relevant planning authorities must have regard to in the preparation and adoption of their development plans (included in Appendix IV).

The planning authority for the Masterplan is Fingal County Council (FCC). Plans and developments within Fingal must comply with the following policy objectives of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 relevant to the protection of European sites and the protection of water quality in the Northwest Irish Sea:

Objective NH10

Ensure that the Council takes full account of the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives, as they apply both within and without European Sites in the performance of its functions.

Objective NH11

Ensure that the Council, in the performance of its functions, takes full account of the objectives and management practices proposed in any management or related plans for European Sites in and adjacent to Fingal published by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Objective NH15

Strictly protect areas designated or proposed to be designated as Natura 2000 sites (i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); also known as European sites) including any areas that may be proposed for designation or designated during the period of this Plan.

Objective SW04

Require the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques where appropriate, for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.

²⁰ Irish Water (2017) *Annual Environmental Report- Balbriggan Wastewater Treatment Plant*.

²¹ Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly (2019) *Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019-2031*

Objective WQ01

Strive to achieve 'good status' in all waterbodies in compliance with the Water Framework Directive, the Eastern River Basin District Management Plan 2009-2015 and the associated Programme of Measures (first cycle) and to cooperate with the development and implementation of the second cycle national River Basin Management Plan 2017-2021.

Objective WQ04

Protect existing riverine wetland and coastal habitats and where possible create new habitats to maintain naturally functioning ecosystems whilst ensuring they do not impact negatively on the conservation objectives of any European Sites.

Objective WT01

Liaise with and work in conjunction with Irish Water during the lifetime of the plan for the provision, extension and upgrading of waste water collection and treatment systems in all towns and villages of the County to serve existing populations and facilitate sustainable development of the County, in accordance with the requirements of the Settlement Strategy and associated Core Strategy.

Objective WT02

Liaise with Irish Water to ensure the provision of wastewater treatment systems in order to ensure compliance with existing licences, EU Water Framework Directive, River Basin Management Plans, the Urban Waste Water Directive and the EU Habitats Directive.

Plans and developments within the other local authority areas which could influence conditions in the Northwest Irish Sea via rivers and other surface water features, also must comply with the policies and objectives relevant to the protection of European sites and water quality. These include the *Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019* (Meath County Council, 2013), the *Draft Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 (Stage 2)* (Meath County Council, 2021), *Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021* (Louth County Council, 2015), and the *Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027* (Louth County Council, 2021). The relevant policies and objectives in those plans for the protection of European sites and water quality are included in Appendix IV.

As noted under the surface water and foul water sections above, the Northwest Irish Sea is currently unpolluted, and the Masterplan will not result in any measurable effect on water quality in the Northwest Irish Sea. There are also protective policies and objectives in place at a strategic planning level to protect water quality in the Northwest Irish Sea.

Therefore, and having regard to the policies and objectives referred to under the relevant development plans, it is concluded that the possibility of any other plans or projects acting in combination with the Masterplan to give rise to significant effects on any European site in, or associated with, the Northwest Irish Sea can be excluded.

3.3.3 Disturbance and displacement impacts

Construction-related disturbance and displacement of fauna species could potentially occur within the vicinity of the Masterplan. For mammal species such as otter, disturbance effects would not be expected to extend beyond 150m²². For birds, disturbance effects would not be expected to extend beyond a distance of c.300m, as noise levels associated with general construction activities would attenuate to close to background levels at that distance. There are no European sites within the disturbance Zol; the next nearest European site to the Masterplan is c. 5.2km east of the Masterplan area.

²² This is consistent with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) guidance (*Guidelines for the Treatment of Otters prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes* and *Guidelines for the Treatment of Badgers prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes*) documents. This is a precautionary distance, and likely to be moderated by the screening effect provided by surrounding vegetation and buildings, with the actual Zol of construction related disturbance likely to be much less in reality.

There is a possibility that birds recorded on the lands during the surveys could form part of a European site’s population. However, as the populations in the masterplan area are not considered to form an important *ex situ* population of any SCIs of any European sites (as outlined in Section 3.3.1), and due to the availability of similar habitats in the surrounding landscape, there is no possibility of significant effects arising from disturbance or displacement impacts. The amendments and motions for change to the Masterplan following the consultation process (see Appendix III), will not affect this conclusion.

3.3.4 Screening of Amendments

Following public display of the Draft Masterplan and review of submissions received, a number of recommended amendments, and motions from elected representatives, were proposed and incorporated into the final Masterplan. The recommended amendments and motions were also screened out for the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA), refer to Appendix III, tables 4 and 5.

The recommended amendments were incorporated in the Masterplan, and are generally minor in nature, supportive or provide clarification to the existing intention of the Plan. Individually or in combination, they do not change the nature and character of the Masterplan. Likewise, no significant interactions arise and there is no change to the finding of the Screening of the Masterplan for the requirement for SEA.

The recommended amendments do not result in any significant effects on the QIs or SCIs of any European sites, and will thus not require Appropriate Assessment (AA) or a NIS.

3.3.5 Summary

The potential impacts associated with the Masterplan do not have the potential to affect the receiving environment and, consequently, do not have the potential to affect the conservation objectives supporting the qualifying interest/special conservation interests of any European sites. Therefore, the Masterplan is not likely to have significant effects on any European sites.

As the Masterplan itself will not have any effects on the QIs/SCIs or conservation objectives of any European sites, and taking into account the policies and objectives of the statutory plans referred to above, there is no potential for any other plan or project to act in combination with it to result in likely significant effects on any European sites.

The potential impacts of the Masterplan on the receiving environment, their Zol, and the European sites at risk of likely significant effects are summarised in Table 1 below. In assessing the potential for the proposed development to result in a significant effect on any European sites, any measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the project on European sites are not taken into account.

Table 1: Summary of analysis of likely significant effects on European sites.

Potential Direct, Indirect In Combination Effects and the Zol of the Potential Effects	Are there any European sites within the Zol of the Masterplan?
<p>Habitat loss</p> <p>Habitat loss will be confined to the lands within the Masterplan boundary.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>There are no European sites within the Masterplan boundary. The Masterplan area potentially provides some foraging habitat for SCI species of European sites but does not support numbers large enough to be considered an important <i>ex situ</i> site as defined within the supporting documents of any European sites.</p>
<p>Habitat degradation as a result of hydrological impacts</p>	<p>No</p>

Potential Direct, Indirect In Combination Effects and the Zol of the Potential Effects	Are there any European sites within the Zol of the Masterplan?
Habitats and species downstream of the Masterplan area and the associated surface water drainage discharge points, and downstream of offsite wastewater treatment plants.	There are no European sites at risk of hydrological effects associated with the Masterplan.
<p>Disturbance and displacement impacts</p> <p>Potentially up to several hundred metres from the Masterplan boundary, dependent upon the predicted levels of noise, vibration and visual disturbance associated with the Masterplan, in conjunction with the sensitivity of the qualifying interest species to disturbance effects</p>	<p>No</p> <p>There are no European sites within the potential zone of influence of disturbance effects associated with the construction or operation of the Masterplan.</p> <p>Although some SCI species of European sites occur within the masterplan area from time to time, the masterplan area does not support numbers large enough to be considered an important <i>ex situ</i> site as defined within the supporting documents of any European sites.</p>

4 Conclusions of Screening Assessment Process

Following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the best available information, and applying the precautionary principle, it can be concluded that the possibility of any significant effects on any European sites, whether arising from the amendments to the Masterplan on their own, or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded, for the reasons set out in Section 3.3 above. In reaching this conclusion, the nature of the Masterplan and its potential relationship with all European sites within the zone of influence, and their conservation objectives, have been fully considered.

Therefore, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that the application for consent for the proposed development does not require an Appropriate Assessment or the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

Appendix I – European sites in relation to the Masterplan

Table 2: The Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European sites in the vicinity of the Masterplan Area (locations illustrated in Figure 1). Where a statutory instrument (S.I.) has been made for the relevant European site, this has been included.

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Masterplan Area
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	
<p>Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [003000] [1170] Reefs [1351] Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocaena</i></p> <p>NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>S.I. No. 94/2019 - European Union Habitats (Rockabill to Dalkey Island Special Area Of Conservation 003000) Regulations 2019</p>	<p>Located c. 6.8km east of the Masterplan area</p>
<p>Rogerstown Estuary SAC [000208] [1130] Estuaries [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)</p> <p>NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: Rogerstown Estuary SAC 000208</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>S.I. No. 286/2018 - European Union Habitats (Rogerstown Estuary Special Area of Conservation 000208) Regulations 2018</p>	<p>Located c. 10.2 km south of the Masterplan area</p>
<p>Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC [001957] 1130 Estuaries 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes') 2130 *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')</p> <p>NPWS (2012) <i>Conservation Objectives: Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC 001957</i>. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>Located c. 12.3km north of the Masterplan area</p>

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Masterplan Area
<p>Malahide Estuary SAC [000205] [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)</p> <p>NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: Malahide Estuary SAC 000205</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>S.I. No. 91/2019 - European Union Habitats (Malahide Estuary Special Area of Conservation 000205) Regulations 2019</p>	<p>Located c.13km south of the Masterplan area</p>
<p>Lambay Island SAC [000204] [1170] Reefs [1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1364] Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> [1365] Harbour seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i></p> <p>NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: Lambay Island SAC 000204</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>S.I. No. 294/2019 - European Union Habitats (Lambay Island Special Area Of Conservation 000204) Regulations 2019</p>	<p>Located c. 14.2km south-east of the Masterplan area</p>
<p>River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC [002299] 7230 Alkaline fens 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)* 1099 River Lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> 1106 Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> 1355 Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></p> <p>NPWS (2021). <i>Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC [002299]</i>. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>	<p>Located c.16km north-west of the Masterplan area</p>
Special Protection Area (SPA)	
<p>Malahide Estuary SPA [004025] [A005] Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A048] Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A054] Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> [A067] Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> [A069] Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> [A130] Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A140] Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i></p>	<p>Located c. 13km south of the Masterplan area</p>

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Masterplan Area
<p>[A141] Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A143] Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A149] Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A156] Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A162] Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds</p> <p>NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: Malahide Estuary SPA 004025</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>S.I. No. 285/2011 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Malahide Estuary Special Protection Area 004025)) Regulations 2011.</p>	
<p>Rogerstown Estuary SPA [004015] [A043] Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i> [A046] Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A048] Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A056] Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A130] Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A137] Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A141] Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A143] Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A149] Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> [A156] Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A162] Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A999] Wetlands</p> <p>NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: Rogerstown Estuary SPA 004015</i>. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>S.I. No. 271/2010 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Rogerstown Estuary Special Protection Area 004015)) Regulations 2010.</p>	<p>Located c. 10.2km south of the Masterplan area</p>
<p>Lambay Island SPA [004069] [A009] Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> [A017] Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A018] Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> [A043] Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i> [A183] Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> [A184] Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> [A188] Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [A199] Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> [A200] Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i> [A204] Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i></p> <p>NPWS (2021) <i>Conservation objectives for Lambay Island SPA [004069]</i>. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>Located c. 14km south-east of the Masterplan area</p>

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Masterplan Area
<p>S.I. No. 242/2010 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lambay Island Special Protection Area 004069)) Regulations 2010.</p>	
<p>Rockabill SPA [004014] [A148] Purple Sandpiper <i>Calidris maritima</i> [A192] Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [A193] Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A194] Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i></p> <p>NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: <i>Rockabill SPA 004014. Version 1.</i> National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>S.I. No. 94/2012 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Rockabill Special Protection Area 004014)) Regulations 2012.</p>	<p>Located c. 7km east of the Masterplan area</p>
<p>Skerries Islands SPA [004122] [A017] Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A018] Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A148] Purple Sandpiper <i>Calidris maritima</i> [A169] Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> [A184] Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i></p> <p>NPWS (2021) <i>Conservation objectives for Skerries Islands SPA [004122].</i> Generic Version 8.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>S.I. No. 245/2010 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Skerries Islands Special Protection Area 004122)) Regulations 2010.</p>	<p>Located c. 5km east of the Masterplan area</p>
<p>River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA [001458] [A130] Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A137] Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A140] Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A143] Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A144] Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> [A184] Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> [A999] Wetlands</p> <p>NPWS (2012) <i>Conservation Objectives: River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA 004158. Version 1.0.</i> National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>S.I. No. 140/2012 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA 004158)) Regulations 2012.</p>	<p>Located c. 6.3km north of the Masterplan area</p>

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Masterplan Area
<p>Boyne Estuary SPA [004080] [A048] Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A130] Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A140] Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A141] Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A142] Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> [A143] Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A144] Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> [A156] Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A162] Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A169] Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> [A195] Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> [A999] Wetlands</p> <p>NPWS (2013) <i>Conservation Objectives: Boyne Estuary SPA 004080. Version 1.</i> National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>S.I. No. 626/2011 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Boyne Estuary Special Protection Area 004080)) Regulations 2011.</p>	<p>Located c. 14km north of the Masterplan area</p>
<p>River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [004232] [A229] Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i></p> <p>NPWS (2021) <i>Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [004232]. Generic Version 8.0.</i> Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>S.I. No. 462/2012 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Protection Area 004232)) Regulations 2012.</p>	<p>Located c. 20.5km north-west of the Masterplan area</p>
<p>North Bull Island SPA [004006] [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A048] Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A052] Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A054] Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> [A056] Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A130] Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A140] Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A141] Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A143] Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A144] Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> [A149] Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A156] Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A160] Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> [A162] Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A169] Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> [A179] Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds</p>	<p>Located c. 23km south of the Masterplan area</p>

European Site Name [Code] and its Qualifying interest(s) / Special Conservation Interest(s) (*Priority Annex I Habitats)	Location Relative to the Masterplan Area
<p>NPWS (2015). <i>Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006. Version 1.</i> National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>S.I. No. 211/2010 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (North Bull Island Special Protection Area 004006)) Regulations 2010.</p>	
<p>Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA [004076]</p> <p>[A004] Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> [A005] Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> [A017] Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A028] Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i> [A037] Bewick's Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> [A038] Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A048] Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A050] Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> [A052] Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A053] Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> [A054] Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> [A062] Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i> [A067] Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> [A069] Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> [A082] Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> [A125] Coot <i>Fulica atra</i> [A130] Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A140] Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A141] Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A142] Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> [A143] Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A144] Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> [A149] Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A156] Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A160] Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> [A162] Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A179] Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A183] Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> [A195] Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> [A395] Greenland White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds</p> <p>NPWS (2012) <i>Conservation objectives for Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA [004076]. Version 1.</i> Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>S.I. No. 194/2012 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Wexford Harbour and Slobs Special Protection Area 004076)) Regulations 2012.</p>	<p>Located c. 135km south of the Masterplan area</p>

Appendix II – Full-day wintering bird survey results.

Table 3: Wintering bird survey observations for Castlelands Masterplan

Date	Time	BTO Code	Number	Activity	Habitat
22.03.19	09:05	HG	1	Flying	BC1
22.03.19	09:21	HG	8	Flying	BC1
22.03.19	10:15	CU	2	Foraging	BC1
22.03.19	14:50	CU	1	Flying	BC1
22.03.19	16:35	BA	15	Flying	BC1
28.03.19	09:42	H.	1	Flying	BC1
28.03.19	09:46	H.	1	Flying	BC1
28.03.19	09:53	H.	1	Flying	BC1
28.03.19	10:35	HG	5	Foraging	BC1
28.03.19	13:44	BA	17	Flying	BC1
28.03.19	16:33	LB	1	Foraging	BC1

Appendix III – Screening of Masterplan Amendments and Motions

Table 4 – Screening of proposed Amendments to Masterplan following consultation

No.	Recommended Amendment	Implications for European sites
1. Chief Executive’s Amendments		
1	<p>Include following new paragraph Section 6, Page 16 of the Draft Masterplan, as follows:</p> <p><u>Existing Rising Mains</u></p> <p><i>A wayleave of 15 metres (7.5m from centre line either side) is required in order to facilitate access to the rising mains. No buildings should be constructed in this wayleave except with prior agreement from the Planning Authority and Irish Water.</i></p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites</p>
2	<p>Update indicative Masterplan layout, all figures, to omit 1 no. 2 storey block, located adjacent (to the south) of the junction of the proposed Castlelands Link Road and the R127 (Skerries Road).</p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites.</p>
3	<p>Update indicative Masterplan layout, all figures, to omit 2 no. 2 storey blocks, located within flood risk areas adjacent to the R127 (Skerries Road) to the south-east of the Masterplan lands.</p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites</p>
4	<p><u>Page 9 of the Draft Masterplan</u> – insert the following sentence at the end of the paragraph on Archaeological Impact Assessment:</p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives.</p>

No.	Recommended Amendment	Implications for European sites
	<i>'The recommendations of the Archaeological Impact Assessment prepared by Archer Heritage Planning shall be complied with in the development of the Masterplan lands'.</i>	Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites
5	<p>Map on Page 17 of the Draft Masterplan: Amend key to read as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castlelands Link Road- Avenue • Link Road – Circular Boulevard • Local Access Road • Pedestrian/ Cyclist Street • Path 	The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites
6	<p>Page 21 of the Draft Masterplan: replace last sentence in first paragraph by following:</p> <p><i>To promote sustainable transportation, it is an objective of the Masterplan to encourage pedestrian/cyclist movement from Castlelands to the train station and the town centre.</i></p>	The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites
7	<p>Page 21 of the Draft Masterplan, Key Principles: replace second bullet point by the following:</p> <p>Deliver an integrated network of pedestrian and cyclist links within the Masterplan lands connecting to the surrounding area including Tanners Water Lane, Pinewood and bus network.</p>	The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites
8	<p>Page 22 of the Masterplan: replace the following sentence in the last Paragraph:</p> <p><i>This will relieve the traffic congestion on school entry/exit hours.</i></p> <p><u>with the following sentence:</u></p> <p><i>This will relieve the traffic congestion at the school during entry/exit hours.</i></p>	The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites

No.	Recommended Amendment	Implications for European sites
9	<p>Insert the following sentence at the top of the first paragraph in Section 9 of the Draft Masterplan: <i>'Development of the Masterplan lands will likely occur over a period of circa 10 years'.</i></p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites</p>
10	<p>FCC will consider providing for a future pedestrian access connecting Ardgillan Estate to Tanners Lane.</p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites</p>
11	<p>Page 9 of the Draft Masterplan: <i>An Economic Baseline Review</i> Replace following text: <i>..... It also looked at retail and commercial uses, tourism and employment, showing that the employment rate for residents is very good with the majority of persons working in 'Professional Occupations'.</i> <u>with the following:</u> <i>... The Balbriggan workforce is comparatively more concentrated in occupation groups with lower average wage levels.</i></p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites</p>
12	<p>Page 39 of the Draft Masterplan: insert note as follows: <i>'Typologies are examples of residential types – the intention is not to be prescriptive'.</i></p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites</p>

No.	Recommended Amendment	Implications for European sites
2. Amendments in Response to Submissions		
1	<p>Update Cross Sections and plan layout to reflect 2 metre wide cycle track along the Castlelands Link Road (Avenue) and the Loop Road (Boulevard) as per the NTA recommendation.</p> <p>Note – <i>the cycle tracks along the Boulevard should be separated from the carriageway by a planted verge.</i></p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites.</p>
2	<p>Update maps on page 17 and page 21 of the Draft Masterplan: to include in the key Pedestrian/Cyclist Street.</p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites</p>
3	<p>Insert the following paragraphs in Section 6 on page 16 of the Draft Masterplan</p> <p>Traffic congestion on existing Castlelands Link Road</p> <p><i>FCC acknowledges that there are existing traffic congestion issues along the Castlelands Link Road, particularly during school drop-off and collection times and is currently developing traffic management solutions to improve current conditions and safety along the Link Road. Alongside that, two high quality cycle routes, the Harry Reynolds Road pedestrian and cycle route scheme and the Fingal Coastal Way scheme will be developed which will significantly improve accessibility for students to walk and cycle to school, thereby reducing general traffic congestion and the need for car drop-offs near the schools.</i></p> <p><i>In this regard, a public information meeting was held in November with a view to implementing the proposed measures as part of the Harry Reynolds Road pedestrian and cycle scheme, which is programmed for construction prior to any development of the Masterplan lands.</i></p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites</p>

No.	Recommended Amendment	Implications for European sites
4	Section 9 of the Draft Masterplan, Phasing and Implementation [page 27]: include new paragraph <u>Pre-Planning Phase</u> .	The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites
5	Include the following in Section 9 of the Draft Masterplan, Phasing and Implementation [pg. 27] under a new Pre-Planning Phase: <i>Implement traffic management measures along the existing link road.</i>	The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites
6	<p>Insert following paragraphs in Section 6 on page 16 of the Draft Masterplan:</p> <p>Transport assessments</p> <p><i>Transport assessments will be required to support the development of the future Link Road and the development of future developments within the Masterplan lands.</i></p> <p><i>A transport assessment will be undertaken as part of the statutory process for the completion of the Castlelands Link Road which will include the proposed new road and the impact on existing communities. Detailed transport assessments will also be required to accompany proposed planning applications submitted for the Masterplan lands.</i></p>	The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites
7	<p>Insert following paragraph in Section 6 on page 16 of the Draft Masterplan:</p> <p><i>No vehicular access shall be provided for from Hampton Lane /Tanners water Lane to serve the proposed development. In the interest of permeability and amenity pedestrian and cycle routes shall connect the Masterplan lands to Tanners Water lane which adjoins the Masterplan lands to the south. These pedestrian and cycle routes shall be provided in the Green Fingers radiating south of the central green corridor connecting to Tanners Water Lane.</i></p>	The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites

No.	Recommended Amendment	Implications for European sites
8	Insert the following sentence in Section 6 on page 16 of the Draft Masterplan: <i>No vehicular access shall be provided through Pinewood Estate to serve the proposed development. Pedestrian and cycle routes shall be provided from the Masterplan lands to Pinewood.</i>	The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites
9	Update the Draft Masterplan at Section 6, page 20 to include the following: <i>'It an objective of FCC to investigate the feasibility of a pedestrian link to the adjacent Ardgillan Demesne'.</i>	The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites
10	The Draft Masterplan shall be amended to omit any 6 storey buildings being constructed on the Masterplan lands.	The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites
11	The Draft Masterplan will state the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The average net residential density across the Masterplan lands shall be between 35-50 dwelling units per hectare [in accordance with the DOE Guidelines - <i>Sustainable Residential development in urban areas May 2009</i>]. ▪ The Masterplan lands shall provide for 600 plus residential units ▪ The appropriate heights of buildings across the Masterplan lands shall comprise 2- 4.5 storeys [<i>The 4.5 storey buildings will be limited to appropriate locations</i>]. 	Provides for clarification of required The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites

No.	Recommended Amendment	Implications for European sites
12	<p>The Draft Masterplan shall include the following statement:</p> <p><i>Future proposals for development within the Masterplan lands shall provide for sufficient EV charging points in line with best practice.</i></p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites</p>
13	<p><u>Insert following Paragraph on page 15:</u></p> <p>A landscape plan for the proposed <i>Green Infrastructural Spine</i> running through the Masterplan lands shall be prepared and submitted to the Planning Authority for its agreement prior to any development occurring on the Masterplan lands, as part of the new Pre-planning Phase <i>of the implementation of the Castlelands Masterplan lands</i>. This landscape plan shall provide for inter alia the following: pedestrian paths and/ cycleways, local play facilities and proposed SuDs features.</p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites</p>
14	<p>Include the following in Section 9 of the Draft Masterplan, Phasing and Implementation [pg. 27] under the new <u>Pre-planning Phase</u> paragraph: A landscape plan for the proposed <i>Green Infrastructural Spine</i> running through the Masterplan lands shall be prepared and submitted to the Planning Authority for its agreement prior to any development occurring on the Masterplan lands.</p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites</p>
15	<p>Insert following paragraph on page 2 of the Draft Masterplan:</p> <p><u><i>Our Balbriggan 2019-2025 Rejuvenation Plan</i></u></p> <p><i>The ‘Our Balbriggan’ strategy is an ambitious plan for the rejuvenation of the original town centre and the surrounding area in the period up to 2025. The plan seeks to improve the public realm in the town centre, to boost the local economy and enterprise as well as putting in place community strengthening initiatives. The plan contains a host of actions to be undertaken over the short, medium and longer term, to enable the town to catch-up in terms of its public realm, employment and infrastructure.</i></p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites</p>

No.	Recommended Amendment	Implications for European sites
16	<p>In the interest of clarity, the Key on the map showing indicative layout [page 22 of the Draft Masterplan] should be amended to replace: ‘Ground floor retail’ by ‘Local services and facilities [including retail] at ground floor level’.</p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites</p>
17	<p><u>Replace the following sentence on page 41 of the Draft Masterplan:</u></p> <p><i>‘Ensure the appropriate provision of parking spaces and private open space in line with the Fingal Development Plan’</i></p> <p><u>By the following:</u></p> <p><i>Any future planning applications for residential development will have to demonstrate compliance with the Fingal Development Plan 2017 -2023 standards with regard inter alia to adequate private and public open space provision and car parking spaces.</i></p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites</p>
18	<p><u>Add in the following new paragraph on page 24 of the Draft Masterplan:</u></p> <p>Compliance with the Fingal Development Plan 2017 -2023 standards: <i>Any future planning applications for residential development will have to demonstrate compliance with the Fingal Development Plan standards with regard inter alia to adequate private and public open space provision and car parking spaces.</i></p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not have any implications for European sites, their QIs, SCIs, or conservation objectives. Therefore there is no possibility of significant effects on any European sites</p>

Table 5 – Screening of Motions following consultation

No.	Amendments in response to Motions	AA and / or SEA Comment and Screening
1	Amend the Masterplan throughout to state: Densities ranging between 35-45 units per hectare	Amendment provides for update of densities SEA / AA not applicable.
2	Amend the Masterplan throughout to state: Up to a maximum of 650 new units to be provided.	Amendment provides for update of residential units. SEA / AA not applicable.
3	Amend the Masterplan throughout to state: Heights up to a maximum of 3 storeys to be provided.	Amendment provides for update of storey heights. SEA / AA not applicable.
4	Amend the Masterplan to state: In conjunction with the construction of the Castlelands Link Road that the traffic issues along the Hamilton Road leading to the Church Roundabout be addressed by Fingal County Council.	Amendment provides for update on the construction of the Castlelands Link Road and the traffic issues with Hamilton Road leading to the Church Roundabout. AA not required. SEA not required.
5	Amend the Masterplan to state: In advance of any development at Castlelands this roundabout be moved and expanded to facilitate both the additional traffic - both car, bike and EPV as well as pedestrian.	Amendment provides for update on the location of a roundabout to facilitate the addition of both traffic and pedestrians. AA not required. SEA not required.
6	Amend the Masterplan as follows: Make reference to Objectives ED107 and ED108 in Appendix 1, Policy Context.	Amendment provides for inclusion of objectives. SEA / AA not applicable.
7	Insert new objectives into the Masterplan as follows: Require energy efficiency and conservation in the design and development of all new buildings within the masterplan lands. Promote energy efficiency and conservation in the design and development of all new buildings and residential schemes in particular and require designers to demonstrate that they have taken maximising energy efficiency	Amendment provides for the inclusion of a new objective that focuses on energy efficiency and conservation in the design. AA not required. SEA not required.

No.	Amendments in response to Motions	AA and / or SEA Comment and Screening
	and the use of renewable energy into account in their planning application.	
8	Insert new objective into the Masterplan as follows: Ensure crime prevention measures are incorporated in new developments.	Amendment provides for the inclusion of a new objective to crime prevention measures are considered. SEA / AA not applicable.
9	Insert new objective into the Masterplan as follows: Permit new development only where it can be clearly demonstrated that there is adequate capacity in the wastewater disposal infrastructure in accordance with applicable requirements and standards including urban wastewater treatment disposal standards.	Amendment provides for the inclusion of a new objective to ensure there is adequate capacity in wastewater infrastructure. AA not required. SEA not required.
10	Amend the Masterplan and its appendices to reflect changes from Variation no. 2 of the Fingal Development Plan.	Amendment provides for update of the Masterplan to include the update to the Fingal Development Plan - Variation No. 2. SEA / AA not applicable.
11	Insert new objective into the Masterplan as follows: It an objective of Fingal County Council to investigate the feasibility of a pedestrian and cycle link to the adjacent Ardgillan Demesne.	Amendment provides for the inclusion of a new objective to investigate a pedestrian and cycle link to the adjacent Ardgillan Demesne. Any future scheme will be subject to screening for Environmental Impact Assessment. AA not required. SEA not required.

Appendix IV - Planning polices/objectives relating to the protection of European sites and water quality

Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly, Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019-2031

Regional Policy Objective 3.4

Ensure that all plans, projects and activities requiring consent arising from the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy are subject to the relevant environmental assessment requirements including SEA, EIA and AA as appropriate. In addition the future strategic development of settlements throughout the Region will have full cognisance of the legal requirements pertaining to sites of International Nature Conservation Interest.

Regional Policy Objective 7.2

To achieve and maintain 'Good Environmental Status' for marine waters and to ensure the sustainable use of shared marine resources in the Region, and to promote the development of a cross-boundary and cross-border strategic management and stakeholder engagement framework to protect the marine environment.

Regional Policy Objective 7.10

Support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in achieving and maintaining at least good environmental status for all water bodies in the Region and to ensure alignment between the core objectives of the Water Framework Directive and other relevant Directives, River Basin Management plans and local authority land use plans.

Regional Policy Objective 7.11

For water bodies with 'high ecological status' objectives in the Region, local authorities shall incorporate measures for both their continued protection and to restore those water bodies that have fallen below high ecological status and areas 'At Risk' into the development of local planning policy and decision making any measures for the continued protection of areas with high ecological status in the Region and for mitigation of threats to waterbodies identified as 'At Risk' as part of a catchment based approach in consultation with the relevant agencies. This shall include recognition of the need to deliver efficient wastewater facilities with sufficient capacity and thus contribute to improved water quality in the Region.

Regional Policy Objective 7.12

Future statutory land use plans shall include Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and seek to avoid inappropriate land use zonings and development in areas at risk of flooding and to integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, nonporous surfacing and green roofs) to create safe places in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines for Local Authorities.

Regional Policy Objective 7.15

Local authorities shall take opportunities to enhance biodiversity and amenities and to ensure the protection of environmentally sensitive sites and habitats, including where flood risk management measures are planned.

Regional Policy Objective 7.16

Support the implementation of the Habitats Directives in achieving an improvement in the conservation status of protected species and habitats in the Region and to ensure alignment between the core objectives of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and local authority development plans.

Regional Policy Objective 7.22

Local authority development plan and local area plans, shall identify, protect, enhance, provide and manage Green Infrastructure in an integrated and coherent manner and should also have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks and protected species.

Regional Policy Objective 10.6

Delivery and phasing of services shall be subject to the required appraisal, planning and environmental assessment processes and shall avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

Regional Policy Objective 10.7

Local authority core strategies shall demonstrate compliance with DHPLG Water Services Guidelines for local authorities and demonstrate phased infrastructure – led growth that is commensurate with the carrying

capacity of water services and prevent adverse impacts on the integrity of water dependent habitats and species within the Natura 2000 network.

Regional Policy Objective 10.10

Support Irish Water and the relevant local authorities in the Region to eliminate untreated discharges from settlements in the short term, while planning strategically for long term growth in tandem with Project Ireland 2040 and in increasing compliance with the requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive from 39% today to 90% by the end of 2021, to 99% by 2027 and to 100% by 2040.

Regional Policy Objective 10.11

EMRA supports the delivery of the waste water infrastructure set out in Table 10.2, subject to appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process.²³

Regional Policy Objective 10.12

Development plans shall support strategic wastewater treatment infrastructure investment and provide for the separation of foul and surface water networks to accommodate the future growth of the Region.

Regional Policy Objective 10.15

Support the relevant local authorities (and Irish Water where relevant) in the Region to improve storm water infrastructure to improve sustainable drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in the urban environment and in the development and provision at a local level of Sustainable Urban Drainage solutions.

Regional Policy Objective 10.16

Implement policies contained in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GDSDS), including SuDS.

Regional Policy Objective 10.18

Local authorities shall ensure adequate surface water drainage systems are in place which meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the associated River Basin Management Plans.

Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023

Objective NH10

Ensure that the Council takes full account of the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives, as they apply both within and without European Sites in the performance of its functions.

Objective NH11

Ensure that the Council, in the performance of its functions, takes full account of the objectives and management practices proposed in any management or related plans for European Sites in and adjacent to Fingal published by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Objective NH15

Strictly protect areas designated or proposed to be designated as Natura 2000 sites (i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); also known as European sites) including any areas that may be proposed for designation or designated during the period of this Plan.

Objective SW04

Require the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques where appropriate, for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.

Objective WQ01

Strive to achieve ‘good status’ in all waterbodies in compliance with the Water Framework Directive, the Eastern River Basin District Management Plan 2009-2015 and the associated Programme of Measures (first

²³ The Greater Dublin Drainage Project, the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, the Athlone Main Drainage Project and the Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme

cycle) and to cooperate with the development and implementation of the second cycle national River Basin Management Plan 2017-2021.

Objective WQ04

Protect existing riverine wetland and coastal habitats and where possible create new habitats to maintain naturally functioning ecosystems whilst ensuring they do not impact negatively on the conservation objectives of any European Sites.

Objective WT01

Liaise with and work in conjunction with Irish Water during the lifetime of the plan for the provision, extension and upgrading of waste water collection and treatment systems in all towns and villages of the County to serve existing populations and facilitate sustainable development of the County, in accordance with the requirements of the Settlement Strategy and associated Core Strategy.

Objective WT02

Liaise with Irish Water to ensure the provision of wastewater treatment systems in order to ensure compliance with existing licences, EU Water Framework Directive, River Basin Management Plans, the Urban Waste Water Directive and the EU Habitats Directive.

Draft Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 (Stage 2)

HER POL 31: To ensure that the ecological impact of all development proposals on habitats and species are appropriately assessed by suitably qualified professional(s) in accordance with best practice guidelines – e.g. the preparation of an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA), Screening Statement for Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment, Natura Impact Statement (NIS), species surveys etc. (as appropriate).

HER POL 32: To permit development on or adjacent to designated Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, or those proposed to be designated over the period of the Plan, only where the development has been subject to the outcome of the Appropriate Assessment process and had been carried out to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife

HER POL 33: To have regard to the views and guidance of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in respect of proposed development where there is a possibility that such development may have an impact on a designated European or National site or a site proposed for such designation.

HER POL 34: To undertake appropriate surveys and collect data to provide an evidence-base to assist the Council in meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC) as transposed into Irish Law, subject to available resources.

HER POL 35: To ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological/networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites and to require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professional(s) to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.

Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019

NH POL 5

To permit development on or adjacent to designated Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, National Heritage Area or those proposed to be designated over the period of the plan, only where an assessment carried out to the satisfaction of the Meath County Council, in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service, indicates that it will have no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

NH POL 6

To have regard to the views and guidance of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in respect of proposed development where there is a possibility that such development may have an impact on a designated European or National site or a site proposed for such designation.

NH POL 7

To undertake appropriate surveys and collect data to provide an evidence-base to assist Meath County Council in meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitats Directives, subject to available resources.

NH OBJ 2

To ensure an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, and in accordance with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009 and relevant EPA and European Commission guidance documents, is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site(s), either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

NH OBJ 3

To protect and conserve the conservation value of candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, National Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas as identified by the Minister for the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan.

RD POL 51

To ensure that direct discharge of effluent from on site waste water disposal systems to surface water is not permitted.

RD POL 52

To ensure wastewater treatment plants discharging into the Boyne catchment or to coastal Natura 2000 sites are suitably maintained and upgraded in advance of any additional loadings beyond their capacity in order to protect water quality, as required.

RD POL 53

To promote good practice with regard to the siting and design of septic tanks and the maintenance of existing tanks. A high level of scrutiny will be placed on applications within 2km of watercourses in the Boyne catchment. Proposals in this Chapter 10 – Rural Development 218 area shall not have an adverse impact on local water quality that could affect the qualifying interests of the cSAC and SPA.

WS POL 14

To implement the policies developed for the Greater Dublin Area by the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study and to ensure that all developments will have regard to the policies as expressed in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study.

WS POL 15

To co-operate with adjoining Planning Authorities to increase services capacity where necessary, particularly in relation to the Drogheda Wastewater Treatment and Kilcock/Maynooth Wastewater scheme (i.e. lower Liffey valley sewerage scheme) to service settlements in North-East Meath and the Meath environs of Kilcock and Maynooth. To also jointly investigate proposals for the further upgrade/extension of the treatments plants to provide for a long-term solution for wastewater treatment in the north east region.

WS POL 18

To provide for the separation of foul and surface water drainage networks and to upgrade the drainage network so as to reduce foul sewer discharges for treatment by identification and removal of surface water misconnection and infiltration.

WS POL 20

To provide for the separation of foul and surface water drainage networks and to upgrade the drainage network so as to reduce foul sewer discharges for treatment by identification and removal of surface water misconnection and infiltration.

WS POL 27

To ensure that proposed septic tanks and proprietary treatment systems, or other waste water treatment and storage systems, and associated percolation areas where required as part of a development, comply with the recommendations of the Environmental Protection Agency and that they are employed only where site conditions are appropriate.

Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

NBG 3: To protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

NBG 4: 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”.

NBG 5: To ensure that no plan, programme, or project giving rise to 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 Draft Plan, either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects2 .

NBG 6: To ensure a screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) on all plans and projects and or Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Report/ Natura Impact Assessment) where appropriate, is undertaken to make a determination. European Sites located outside of the County but within 15 km of the proposed development site shall be included in such screenings as should those to which there are pathways, for example, hydrological links for potential effects.

NBG 57: To ensure that no development, including clearing or storage of materials, takes place within a minimum distance of 10m measured from each bank of any river, stream or watercourse.

ENV 15: To ensure that no development, including clearing or storage of materials, takes place within a minimum distance of 10m measured from each bank of any river, stream or watercourse.

ENV 17: To implement the recommendations contained in any Groundwater Protection Scheme prepared under EU Ground Water Directives and to protect ground water resources in County Louth, nutrient sensitive areas and the designated shellfish growing areas within Carlingford Lough and Dundalk Bay.

ENV 18: To protect fisheries in all rivers in the County, where appropriate, including relevant species as contained in Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

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.

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.

ENV 31: 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.

Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021

HER 3: To ensure that all proposed developments comply with the DECLG “Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities 2010”

HER 4: The Local Authority will ensure that a screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) on all plans and projects and or Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (NIS/NIR) where appropriate , is undertaken to make a determination. Natura 2000 sites located outside of the County but within 15 km of the proposed development site should also be included in such screenings. All screening assessments submitted to the planning authority shall include a written statement indicating control methods proposed to prevent the spread of invasive species onto a Natura 2000 site.

HER 5: The Local Authority will ensure that a screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) on all plans and projects and or Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (NIS/NIR) where appropriate , is undertaken to make a determination. Natura 2000 sites located outside of the County but within 15 km of the proposed development site should also be included in such screenings. All screening assessments submitted to the planning authority shall include a written statement indicating control methods proposed to prevent the spread of invasive species onto a Natura 2000 site.

RD14: To ensure that agricultural developments provide adequate waste collection and storage facilities and adhere to all legislation on water quality including the Water Framework Directive, Nitrates Directive and Phosphorus Regulations.

RD15: To ensure that agricultural developments provide adequate waste collection and storage facilities and adhere to all legislation on water quality including the Water Framework Directive, Nitrates Directive and Phosphorus Regulations.

ENV 11: To implement the recommendations contained in the River Basin District Management Plans for the Neagh Bann and the Eastern River Basin Districts, in so far as they relate to County Louth or any subsequent RBDMPs subsequently adopted during the lifetime of the Plan

ENV13: To implement the recommendations contained in the River Basin District Management Plans for the Neagh Bann and the Eastern River Basin Districts, in so far as they relate to County Louth or any subsequent RBDMPs subsequently adopted during the lifetime of the Plan.

ENV 14: To protect fisheries in all rivers in the County, where appropriate, including relevant species as contained in Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

ENV 17: To require that all permitted development taking place within an area served by a public wastewater treatment system connects to that system.

ENV 18: To require that all permitted development taking place within an area served by a public wastewater treatment system connects to that system.

ENV 19: To require that private wastewater treatment systems for individual houses, where permitted, comply with the recommendations contained within the EPA Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems (2009) Serving Single Houses (population equivalent less than or equal to 10).



Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, Fingal County Council has prepared a Masterplan for Castlelands (the Masterplan).

This screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination of the Masterplan has been prepared as per the requirements of Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), and has been informed by the content of the appropriate assessment screening report of the draft Masterplan and its addendum, prepared by Scott Cawley Ltd., which are included with the Masterplan documentation.

The screening for appropriate assessment report presents an assessment of the potential for the Masterplan to impact on European sites and, furthermore, assesses whether the Masterplan is likely to have a significant effect on any European sites. The examination, analysis and evaluation of the various elements of the Masterplan are set out in Section 3.3 of the screening for appropriate assessment report.

Assessment of likely significant effects on European sites

All aspects of the Masterplan which are capable of having a significant effect on a European site have been identified in Section 3.2 of the screening for appropriate assessment report. The potential impacts of the Masterplan on the receiving environment, and their predicted zone of influence, are identified in Section 3.3 of the screening for appropriate assessment report.

The examination, analysis and evaluation of the potential impacts of the Masterplan on the qualifying interests of any European sites, and the implications of the Masterplan on their conservation objectives, is presented in full in Section 3.3 of the screening for appropriate assessment report.

The conclusion of that assessment is that the potential impacts associated with the Masterplan do not have the potential to affect the conservation objectives supporting the qualifying interests of any European sites. Therefore, the Masterplan is not likely to have significant effects on any European sites. In reaching that conclusion, the screening for appropriate assessment

report has not taken into account any measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the Masterplan on any European sites.

Consultation process and amendments

Following public display of the Draft Masterplan and review of submissions received, a number of recommended amendments were proposed by elected representatives for incorporation into the plan.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have been given the opportunity to comment on the Masterplan and this AA Screening report. These have been taken into account during the subsequent stages in the preparation of the Final Masterplan.

The Addendum report incorporates these new amendments and motions as listed in Appendix III of the AA Screening Addendum report, into the AA screening process and has determined whether any change in likelihood of effects on European sites is predicted.

The result of the screening of the amendments and motions was that none were likely to affect any European sites, and no additional impacts as a result of those amendments and motions, were anticipated.

In combination assessment

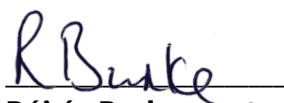
An examination and analysis of the potential for other plans and/or projects to act in combination with the Masterplan to have a significant effect on any European sites within its zone of influence is presented in Section 3.3 of the screening for appropriate assessment report. The assessment concluded that there are no other plans or projects that will act in combination with the Masterplan to have a significant effect on any European sites.

Fingal County Council finds that the scope of the evaluation presented in the screening for appropriate assessment report has fully examined the potential for in combination effects between other plans and projects and the Masterplan and agrees with the conclusion reached.

Conclusions and determination

Fingal County Council have examined, analysed and evaluated the content of the Masterplan, including the information and assessment presented in the screening for appropriate assessment report and its addendum resulting from the consultation process, and are in agreement with the conclusion of the screening for appropriate assessment report (and addendum) with respect to the potential for the Masterplan to have a likely significant effect on any European sites.

Fingal County Council have determined that, in light of best scientific knowledge, including in particular the nature of the predicted impacts that may arise from the Masterplan, and in the absence of any mitigation measures, that the Masterplan is not likely to have a significant effect on any European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.



Róisín Burke
Senior Planner