

APPENDIX 2

Habitats Directive Screening

Habitats Directive Assessment of Proposed Amendments

Cherryhound Local Area Plan

Habitats Directive Screening

Report prepared for MacCabe Durney Barnes

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been written to assist Fingal County Council in carrying out an appropriate assessment of the Killamonan/Cherryhound Local Area Plan under the terms of the EU Habitats Directive.

Appropriate Assessment was introduced by the EU Habitats Directive as a way of determining during the planning process whether a project is likely to have a significant effect on one of the Natura 2000 sites so far designated (i.e. the candidate SAC's and SPA's), or their conservation objectives.

Article 6(3) states

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives....

In the Irish context this has been interpreted as a four stage process. Firstly a screening exercise (Stage 1) determines if a project could have significant effects on a Natura site. If it does or the situation is unclear a Natura Impact Statement (Stage 2) is provided to the planning or regulatory authority which then conducts an Assessment of the information supplied. Examples of significant effects are loss of habitat area, fragmentation of the habitat, disturbance to species using the site and changes in water resources or quality. If such negative effects come to light in the assessment, alternative solutions are investigated by the proponent (Stage 3) and modifications made unless the project is deemed to be driven by 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' in its current form. Stage 4 then deals with compensatory action.

The EU Commission's methodological guidance and the ensuing Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects in Ireland (DoEHLG 2009) outline four steps in screening. These are:

- Establishing whether a plan is connected to or necessary for the management of a Natura 2000 site
- Describing the plan and any other plans and projects that in combination have the potential for having significant effects on a Natura 2000 site
- Identifying potential effects on the Natura 2000 sites
- Assessing the significance of any effects on Natura 2000 sites

The plan in question is a draft LAP and does not directly concern the management of any Natura site. It covers agricultural land, some houses and a quarry in Killamonan and Cherryhound townlands, an area broadly to the west of Dublin Airport and located between the M2 and M3. There are no major streams but collected water from run-off and field drains flows northwest to the Ward River catchment or southwest to the Pinkeen (Tolka).

There are no Natura 2000 sites included in the lands; the only sites within a radius of 15km are Rogerstown Estuary cSAC (Site Code 0208), Rogerstown Estuary SPA (Site Code 4015), Malahide Estuary cSAC (Site Code 0205), Broadmeadow/Swords Estuary SPA (Site Code 4025), Baldoyle Bay SPA (Site Code 4016), Baldoyle Bay cSAC (Site Code 0199), North Dublin Bay cSAC (Site Code 0206), North Bull Island (Site Code 4006), Sandymount Strand/Tolka Estuary SPA (Site Code 4024), South Dublin Bay cSAC (Site Code 0210) and Rye Water Valley/Cartron (Site Code 1398)

With the exception of the Rye Water Valley/Cartron Site, these are all east coast sites, all 'downstream' of the plan area.

2. KILLAMONAN/CHERRYHOUND LOCAL AREA PLAN

The broad objective of the plan is to achieve the sustainable development of the area, creating employment and achieving a high quality environment for living and working.

The relevant objectives and goals which could have secondary impacts on the downstream Natura 2000 sites, both positive and negative, are to

1. Require the development of at least 10% of the lands as open space
2. Require the retention of all significant trees and hedgerows in good and fair condition
3. Seek the creation of new open spaces based around existing tree groups and heritage features for passive and some limited active recreation.
4. Require significant tree planting to create a buffer zone between existing housing/areas zoned for residential development and areas zoned for employment use, as well as buffer planting at the boundaries of the LAP Area
5. Seek the development of a network of landscaped routes throughout the area linking new nodes of activity, linking to surrounding areas and providing attractive recreational walking, running and cycling routes.
6. Protect existing significant hedgerows to protect their ecological character as wildlife corridors
7. Require high standards in the public realm in terms of landscaping,
8. Ensure that private sites are landscaped in a manner that is sympathetic to the landscaping of the public realm

Where development is permitted the Council will

1. Require the application of sustainable design principles to the layout, buildings and drainage
2. Require compliance with its SuDs Strategy for the area
3. Ensure buildings are designed to maximize their sustainability
4. Encourage the use of alternative energy sources
5. Require the retention of all major tree groupings and hedgerows to preserve

- their value as habitats and wildlife corridors
6. Require ecological assessments to be carried out as part of planning applications where warranted.

The timescale of the plan will depend on economic activity but it is considered that the development of the area could be completed in a 12-20 yr period. The initial phase of development is likely to be close to the Cherryhound Junction where the lands have high visibility and where some capacity exists for drainage service provision.

3. IMPACTS ON NATURA 2000 SITES

3.1 Natura 2000 sites

The local sites are listed below to show their main interests and their closest approach to the plan area. Special habitats and species that are priorities for conservation in a European context are named. More details may be found in Appendix 2.

Site Name	NPWS Code	Interest	Minimum distance from Plan area
Rogerstown Estuary cSAC	0208	Coastal habitats incl. *fixed dunes	13
Rogerstown Estuary SPA	4015	Wintering wildfowl & waders	13
Malahide Estuary cSAC	0205	Coastal habitats, incl. *fixed dunes	10
Broadmeadow/Swords Estuary SPA	4025	Wintering grebes, wildfowl & waders incl. **golden plover.	10
Baldoyle Bay cSAC	0199	Coastal habitats	13.5
Baldoyle Bay SPA	4016	Wintering wildfowl and waders incl. **golden plover	14
North Dublin Bay cSAC	0206	Coastal habitats, incl. *fixed dunes	13.5
North Bull Island SPA	4006	**Wintering Wildfowl & Waders	13.7
South Dublin Bay	0210	*Tidal mudflats and sandflats.	13.9
Sandymount Strand/Tolka Estuary SPA	4024	Wintering wildfowl & waders Breeding **common tern	11
Rye Water Valley/Cartron	1398	*Vertigo angustior; Vertigo moulinsiana; Mineral spring	10.9

* priority habitat (Habitats Directive)

** Annex I species (Birds Directive)

The site synopses at the end (Appendix 1) show that with the exception of the Rye Water Valley/Cartron Site, all the above Natura 2000 sites are all in coastal waters and do not extend to the freshwater stretches of the inflowing rivers. Some of their fish

fauna does make use of both fresh and salt water, for example the flounder and sea trout but in general the flora and fauna of land and sea is distinct.

The sites themselves have intrinsic habitat value as well as supporting large numbers of birds, especially in winter. It is for this reason that they are protected by both the EU Habitats Directive (SAC's) and the Birds Directive (SPA's). Their conservation objectives (Appendix 2) are to maintain (or improve) the habitats and the populations of birds they support.

The plan area does not supply a significant feeding habitat for the few bird species that feed away from the shore (brent geese, golden plover, black-tailed godwit) and does not share any of the rare flora or other organisms with the Natura sites. There is therefore no potential for direct effects on the designated areas.

3.2 Potential effects of development

The only way impacts could be felt on any of these sites from the plan area is through water pollution as there is no other ecological pathway aside from climate change. Because of the watercourse connection only Malahide Estuary and the Tolka/North Dublin Bay areas are considered further.

The water quality of the inflowing rivers to these sites is already of poor status (Q2-3 on EPA data) and there have been limited fish kills in both systems in recent years. However both the Ward and Tolka rivers hold brown trout as well as small numbers of sea trout and some are likely to breed in cleaner side branches of the main channels. Salmon also enter the lower reaches of the Ward (Brian Beckett, pers.comm.). The waters at the NE end of the Plan area may provide some nursery stretches for young trout but the drains linking with the Tolka are probably too small for this. Coarse fish in the rivers include perch, eel and stickleback.

Water quality is impaired by diffuse agricultural sources in these upper reaches and urban, serviced development in the Plan area is likely to reduce nutrient input to the streams. To fulfil this potential all run-off and drainage during construction should be treated sustainably. As the streams recover, they can play a more natural role in the catchments and the estuarine ecosystems protected under Natura 2000. The Plan carries objectives in its requirement for SuDS and sustainable drainage systems and it is important that planning permissions reflect these for both phases of construction and operation. The few streams should be left with open, unmodified banks, included in public open space, if possible, and not culverted.

3.3 Combination effects

The progressive development of Fingal County results in largescale changes to the local flora and fauna and this plan will lead to further development of agricultural land, with subsequent loss of this segment of biota. However if the plan objectives are carried through it will have no additional negative impact on Natura sites; it will in fact benefit stream quality and improve the ecology of coastal waters. Organisms associated with

farmland will decline but positive impacts will accrue locally to some other wildlife species because of the improvement to tree cover and open spaces.

The demands on wastewater treatment systems will be increased as a result of development in the area. Although the pressure from the Plan area will be relatively small in that it is not to be primarily for housing, there is no doubt that some increase will be felt at the Ringsend treatment works, however small – and perhaps subsequently by a north Dublin plant when one is built.

This will not cause a negative impact on bird populations or the value of the Natura 2000 sites. All inshore water and estuaries are high-nutrient sites, a situation shown by the large populations of invertebrates and the birds they support. In terms of nitrogenous material which is the limiting nutrient in coastal waters, Wilson (2003) has shown that natural tidal exchange contributed 32,000kg/yr to the Dublin Bay ecosystem with sewage inputs at 17000kg/yr and the river water at 6000kg/yr. Since the operation of the Ringsend works the contribution of sewage has fallen hugely and the bird populations may already be adjusting to this. The trends are not yet discernible, however (Boland *et al* 2010).

As regards climate change developments in the Plan area, it is an objective that they will incorporate sustainability measures for energy use. Insofar as they replace inefficient energy systems or create new ones, the benefits to emissions will be tangible but insignificant in the context of the local Natura sites.

4. CONCLUSION

It is concluded that the LAP alone or in combination with others will not have significant effects on the Natura sites.

References

Boland, H., Walsh, A. & Crowe, O. 2010. Irish Wetland Bird Survey: results of waterbird monitoring in 2008/09. *Irish Birds* 9, 55-66.

Wilson, J.G 2003. Diffuse inputs of nutrients to Dublin Bay in Bruen, M. (ed.) 2003. *Diffuse Pollution and Basin Management*. Proceedings of the 7th International Specialised IWA Conference, Dublin, Ireland. ISBN 1902277767, 4vols. 1140 pps.

APPENDIX 1: SITE SYNOPSES

ROGERSTOWN ESTUARY cSAC

SITE CODE : 000208

Rogerstown estuary is situated about 2 km north of Donabate. It is a relatively small, narrow estuary separated from the sea by a sand and shingle bar. The estuary is divided by a causeway and narrow bridge, built in the 1840s to carry the Dublin-Belfast railway line. The site contains good examples of a number of habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.

The estuary drains almost completely at low tide. The intertidal flats of the outer estuary are mainly of sands, with soft muds in the north-west sector and along the southern shore. Associated with these muds are stands of Cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*). Green algae (mainly *Enteromorpha* spp. and *Ulva lactuca*) are widespread and form dense mats in the more sheltered areas. The intertidal angiosperm, Beaked Tasselweed (*Ruppia maritima*), grows profusely in places beneath the algal mats. The Lugworm (*Arenicola marina*) is common in the outer estuary and large Mussel beds (*Mytilus edulis*) occur at the outlet to the sea.

The area of intertidal flats in the inner estuary is reduced as a result of the local authority refuse tip on the north shore. The sediments are mostly muds, which are very soft in places. Cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*) is widespread in parts, and in summer, dense green algal mats grow on the muds. In the extreme inner part, the estuary narrows to a tidal river.

Saltmarsh fringes parts of the estuary, especially the southern shores and parts of the outer sand spit. Common plant species of the saltmarsh include Sea Rush (*Juncus maritimus*), Sea Purslane (*Halimione portulacoides*) and Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*). Salt meadows and wet brackish fields occur along the tidal river. Low sand hills occur on the outer spit, including some small areas of fixed dunes and *Ammophila* dunes. Fine sandy beaches and intertidal sandflats occur at the outer part of the estuary.

Two plant species, which are legally protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999, occur within the site: Hairy Violet (*Viola hirta*) occurs on the sand spit and Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) occurs in the saline fields of the inner estuary. This species has declined apparently due to reclamation and embankment of lands fringing estuaries. Another rare species, Green-veined Orchid (*Orchis morio*), occurs in the sandy areas of the outer estuary.

Rogerstown Estuary is an important waterfowl site, with Brent Geese having a population of international importance (1176). A further 16 species have populations of national importance: Greylag Goose (186), Shelduck (785), Teal (584), Pintail (30), Shoveler (69), Oystercatcher (1028), Ringed Plover (152), Golden Plover (1813), Grey Plover (245), Lapwing (4056), Knot (2076), Dunlin (2625), Sanderling (57), Black-tailed Godwit (272), Curlew (1549), Redshank (732) and Greenshank (22) (All counts are average peaks over four winters 1994/95 - 1997/98). The presence of a significant population of Golden Plover is of note and this species is listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. The estuary is a regular staging post for autumn migrants, especially Green Sandpiper, Ruff, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper and Spotted Redshank.

Little Tern has bred at the outer sand spit, but much of the nesting area has now been washed away as a result of erosion. The maximum number of pairs recorded was 17 in 1991. Ringed Plover breed in the same area.

The outer part of the estuary has been designated a statutory Nature Reserve and a Special Protection Area under the EU Birds Directive. The inner estuary has been damaged by the refuse tip which covers 40 hectares of mudflat.

This site is an good example of an estuarine system, with all typical habitats represented, including several listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Rogerstown is an internationally important waterfowl site and has been a breeding site for Little Terns. The presence within the site of three rare plant species adds to its importance.

ROGERSTOWN ESTUARY SPA

SITE CODE: 004015

Rogerstown estuary is situated about 2 km north of Donabate in north County Dublin. It is a relatively small, funnel shaped estuary separated from the sea by a sand and shingle peninsula and extending eastwards beyond the low water mark to include an area of shallow marine water. The estuary receives the waters of the Ballyboghil and Ballough rivers, both of which flow through intensive agricultural catchments. The estuary has a wide salinity range, from near full sea water to near full fresh water. The estuary is divided by a causeway and narrow bridge, built in the 1840s to carry the Dublin-Belfast railway line. The site contains good examples of a number of estuarine and coastal habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. At low tide extensive intertidal sand and mud flats are exposed and these provide the main food resource for the wintering waterfowl. The intertidal flats of the estuary are mainly of sands, with soft muds in the north-west sector and along the southern shore.

Associated with these muds are stands of Common Cord-grass (*Spartina anglica*). Green algae (mainly *Enteromorpha* spp. and *Ulva lactuca*) are widespread and form dense mats in the more sheltered areas. The intertidal vascular plant Beaked Tasselweed (*Ruppia maritima*) grows profusely in places beneath the algal mats and is grazed by herbivorous waterfowl (notably Brent Geese and Wigeon). The Lugworm (*Arenicola marina*) is common in the outer estuary and large Mussel beds (*Mytilus edulis*) occur at the outlet to the sea.

Salt marsh fringes parts of the estuary, especially its southern shores. Common plant species of the saltmarsh include Sea Rush (*Juncus maritimus*), Sea Purslane (*Halimione portulacoides*) and Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*). Rogerstown Estuary is an important winter waterfowl site and supports a population of Pale-bellied Brent Goose of international importance (1194 - all counts given are average peaks over the five winters 1996/97 – 2000/01). A further 14 species have populations of national importance as follows: Greylag Goose 87, Shelduck 78, Shoveler 72, Oystercatcher 1794, Ringed Plover 188, Grey Plover 343, Knot 2159, Sanderling 89, Dunlin 3128, Redshank 674, Lapwing 2166, Black-tailed Godwit 212, Greenshank 26 and Turnstone 188. The Greylag Geese are part of a larger population which spends most of the winter on Lambay Island. Other species which occur regularly in significant numbers include Wigeon 411, Teal 379, Mallard 267, Red-breasted Merganser 22, Golden Plover 159 and Curlew 245. The numbers of Golden Plover and Lapwing can at times be considerably higher than the averages given above. The presence of Golden Plover is of note as this species is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. Large numbers of gulls, mostly Herring, Great Blackbacked and Black-headed, are attracted to the area, partly due to the presence of an adjacent local authority landfill site.

MALAHIDE ESTUARY cSAC

SITE CODE : 000205

Malahide Estuary is situated immediately north of Malahide and east of Swords. It is the estuary of the River Broadmeadow. The site is divided by a railway viaduct built in the 1800s.

The outer part of the estuary is mostly cut off from the sea by a large sand spit, known as "the island". The outer estuary drains almost completely at low tide, exposing sand and mud flats. There is a large bed of Eelgrass (*Zostera noltii* and *Z. angustifolium*) in the north section of the outer estuary, along with Tassel Weed (*Ruppia maritima*) and extensive mats of green algae (*Enteromorpha* spp., *Ulva lactuca*). Cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*) is also widespread in this sheltered part of the estuary.

The dune spit has a well developed outer dune ridge dominated by Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*). The dry areas of the stabilised dunes have a dense covering of Burnet Rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and species such as Yellow Wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*), Field Gentian (*Gentianella amarella*), Hound's Tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), Carlina Thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*) and Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*). Much of the interior of the spit is taken up by a golf course. The inner stony shore has frequent Sea-holly (*Eryngium maritimum*). Well-developed saltmarshes occur at the tip of the spit. Atlantic salt meadow is the principle type and is characterised by species such as Sea Purslane (*Halimolobos portulacoides*), Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*) and Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*). Elsewhere in the outer estuary, a small area of Mediterranean salt meadow occurs which is characterised by the presence of Sea Rush (*Juncus maritimus*). Below the salt marshes there are good examples of pioneering Glasswort swards and other annual species, typified by *Salicornia dolichostachya* and Annual Sea-blite (*Suaeda maritima*).

The inner estuary does not drain at low tide apart from the extreme inner part. Here, patches of saltmarsh and salt meadows occur, with Sea Aster, Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*) and Sea Clubrush (*Scirpus maritimus*). Tassel Weed (*Ruppia maritima*) occurs in one of the channels.

The site includes a fine area of rocky shore south-east of Malahide and extending towards Portmarnock. This represents the only continuous section through the fossiliferous Lower Carboniferous rocks in the Dublin Basin, and is the type locality for several species of fossil coral.

The estuary is an important wintering bird site and holds an internationally important population of Brent Geese and nationally important populations of a further 15 species. Average maximum counts during the 1995/96-1997/98 period were Brent Geese 1217; Great Crested Grebe 52; Mute Swan 106; Shelduck 471; Pochard 200; Goldeneye 333; Red-breasted Merganser 116; Oystercatcher 1228; Golden Plover 2123; Grey Plover 190; Redshank 454; Wigeon 50; Teal 78; Ringed Plover 106; Knot 858; Dunlin 1474; Greenshank 38; Pintail 53; Black-tailed Godwit 345; Bar-tailed Godwit 99. The high numbers of diving birds reflects the lagoon-type nature of the inner estuary.

The estuary also attracts migrant species such as Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank and Little Stint. Breeding birds of the site include Ringed Plover, Shelduck and Mallard. Up to the 1950s there was a major tern colony at the southern end of the island and the habitat remains suitable for these birds.

The inner part of the estuary is heavily used for water sports. A section of the outer estuary has recently been infilled for a marina and housing development.

This site is a fine example of an estuarine system with all the main habitats represented. The site is important ornithologically, with a population of Brent Geese of international significance.

BROADMEADOW/SWORDS ESTUARY SPA

SITE CODE: 004025

This site is situated in north Co. Dublin, between the towns of Malahide and Swords. It is the estuary of the River Broadmeadow, a substantial river which drains a mainly agricultural, though increasingly urbanised, catchment. A railway viaduct, built in the 1800s, crosses the site and has led to the inner estuary becoming lagoonal in character and only partly tidal. Much of the outer part of the estuary is well-sheltered from the sea by a large sand spit, known as “The Island”. This spit is now mostly converted to golf-course. The outer part empties almost completely at low tide and there are extensive intertidal flats exposed. The site extends eastwards to the rocky shore at Robswalls.

Substantial stands of eelgrass (both *Zostera noltii* and *Z. angustifolia*) occur in the sheltered part of the outer estuary, along with Tasselweed (*Ruppia maritima*). Green algae, mostly *Enteromorpha* spp. and *Ulva lactuca*, are frequent on the sheltered flats. Common Cord-grass (*Spartina anglica*) is well established in the outer estuary and also in the innermost part of the site. The intertidal flats support a typical macroinvertebrate fauna, with polychaete worms (*Arenicola marina* and *Hediste diversicolor*), bivalves such as *Cerastoderma edule*, *Macoma balthica* and *Scrobicularia plana*, the small gastropod *Hydrobia ulvae* and the crustacean *Corophium volutator*.

Salt marshes, which provide important roosts during high tide, occur in parts of the outer estuary and in the extreme inner part of the inner estuary. These are characterised by such species as Sea Purslane (*Halimione portulacoides*), Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*) and Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*).

This site is of high importance for wintering waterfowl and supports a particularly good diversity of species. It has an internationally important population of Brent Goose (956) or 4.8% of the national total (figures given here and below are average maximum counts for the five winters 1995/96-1999/00) and nationally important populations of a further 12 species as follows: Shelduck (439), Pintail (58), Goldeneye (215), Red-breasted Merganser (105), Oystercatcher (1,493), Golden Plover (1,843), Grey Plover (201), Knot (915), Dunlin (1,594), Black-tailed Godwit (409), Redshank (581) and Greenshank (38). A range of other species occur in numbers of regional importance, including Great Crested Grebe, Mute Swan, Pochard, Ringed Plover, Lapwing, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew and Turnstone. The high numbers of diving ducks reflects the lagoon-type nature of the inner estuary, and this is one of the few sites in eastern Ireland where substantial numbers of Goldeneye can be found.

BALDOYLE BAY cSAC

SITE CODE: 000199

Baldoyle Bay extends from just below Portmarnock village to the west pier at Howth, Co. Dublin. It is a tidal estuarine bay protected from the open sea by a large sand-dune system. Two small rivers, the Mayne and the Sluice, flow into the bay. The site contains four habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats directive: *Salicornia* mud, Mediterranean salt meadows, Atlantic salt meadows and Tidal mudflats.

Large areas of intertidal flats are exposed at low tide. These are mostly sands but grade to muds in the inner sheltered parts of the estuary. Extensive areas of Common Cord-grass (*Spartina anglica*) occur in the inner estuary. Both the Narrow-leaved Eelgrass (*Zostera angustifolia*) and the Dwarf Eelgrass (*Z. noltii*) are also found here. During summer, the sandflats of the sheltered areas are covered by mats of green algae (*Enteromorpha* spp. and *Ulva lactuca*).

The sediments have a typical macrofauna, with Lugworm (*Arenicola marina*) dominating the sandy flats. The tubeworm *Lanice conchilega* is present in high densities at the low tide mark and the small gastropod *Hydrobia ulvae* occurs in the muddy areas, along with the crustacean *Corophium volutator*.

Areas of saltmarsh occur near Portmarnock Bridge and at Portmarnock Point, with narrow strips along other parts of the estuary. Species such as Glasswort (*Salicornia* spp.), Sea-purslane (*Halimione portulacoides*), Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*) and Sea Rush (*Juncus maritimus*) are found here. Portmarnock Spit formerly had a well-developed sand dune system but this has been largely replaced by golf courses and is mostly excluded from the site. A few dune hills are still intact at Portmarnock Point, and there are small dune hills east of Cush Point and below the Claremont Hotel. These are mostly dominated by Marram (*Ammophila arenaria*), though Lyme-grass (*Leymus arenarius*) is also found.

The site includes a brackish marsh along the Mayne River. Soils here have a high organic content and are poorly drained, and some pools occur. Rushes (*Juncus* spp.) and salt tolerant species such as Common Scurvygrass (*Cochleria officinalis*) and Greater Sea-spurrey (*Spergularia media*) are typical of this area. Knotted Hedge-parsley (*Torilis nodosa*), a scarce plant in eastern Ireland, has been recorded here, along with Brackish Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus baudotti*), a species of brackish pools and ditches which has declined in most places due to habitat loss.

Two plant species, legally protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999, occur in the Mayne marsh: Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia fasciculata*) and Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*).

Baldoyle Bay is an important bird site for wintering waterfowl and the inner part of the estuary is a Special Protection Area under the EU Birds Directive as well as being a Statutory Nature Reserve. Internationally important numbers of Pale-bellied Brent Geese (418) and nationally important numbers of two Annex I Birds Directive species - Golden Plover (1,900) and Bar-tailed Godwit (283) - have been recorded. Four other species also reached nationally important numbers: Shelduck (147), Pintail (26), Grey Plover (148) and Ringed Plover (218) - all figures are average peaks for four winters 1994/95 to 1997/1998. Breeding wetland birds at the site include Shelduck, Mallard and Ringed Plover. Small numbers of Little Tern, a species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, have bred on a few occasions at Portmarnock Point but not since 1991.

Because the area surrounding Baldoyle Bay is densely populated, the main threats to the site include visitor pressure, disturbance to wildfowl and dumping. In particular, the dumping of spoil onto the foreshore presents a threat to the value of the site.

Baldoyle Bay is a fine example of an estuarine system. It contains four habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and has two legally protected plant species. The site is also an important bird area and part of it is a Special Protection Area under the EU Birds Directive, as well as being a Statutory Nature Reserve. It supports internationally important numbers of Brent Geese and nationally important numbers of six other species including two Annex I Birds Directive species.

BALDOYLE BAY SPA

SITE CODE: 004016

Baldoyle Bay extends from just below Portmarnock village to the west pier at Howth, Co.

Dublin. It is a tidal estuarine bay protected from the open sea by a large sanddune system. Two small rivers, the Mayne and the Sluice, flow into the inner part of the estuary.

Large areas of intertidal flats are exposed at low tide. These are mostly sands but grade to muds in the inner sheltered parts of the estuary. Extensive areas of Common Cord-grass (*Spartina anglica*) occur in the inner estuary. Both the Narrow-leaved Eelgrass (*Zostera angustifolia*) and the Dwarf Eelgrass (*Z. noltii*) are also found here. During summer, the sandflats of the sheltered areas are covered by mats of green algae (*Enteromorpha* spp. and *Ulva lactuca*). The sediments have a typical macrofauna, with Lugworm (*Arenicola marina*) dominating the sandy flats. The tubeworm *Lanice conchilega* is present in high densities at the low tide mark and the small gastropod Laver Spire-shell (*Hydrobia ulvae*) occurs in the muddy areas, along with the crustacean *Corophium volutator*. Areas of saltmarsh occur near Portmarnock Bridge and at Portmarnock Point, with narrow strips along other parts of the estuary. Species such as Glasswort (*Salicornia* spp.), Sea-purslane (*Halimione portulacoides*), Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*) and Sea Rush (*Juncus maritimus*) are found here.

Baldoyle Bay is of high ornithological importance for wintering waterfowl, providing good quality feeding areas and roost sites for an excellent diversity of waterfowl species. It supports an internationally important population of Pale-bellied Brent Geese (726), and has a further seven species with nationally important populations (all figures are average peaks for the five winters 1995/96 to 1999/2000): Great Crested Grebe (42), Shelduck (147), Pintail (22), Ringed Plover (221), Golden Plover (1810), Grey Plover (200) and Bar-tailed Godwit (353). The occurrence of Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit is of particular note as these species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. Other species which occur in significant numbers include Teal (124), Mallard (48), Common Scoter (61), Oystercatcher (531), Lapwing (480), Knot (115), Dunlin (879), Black-tailed Godwit (72), Curlew (96), Redshank (224), Greenshank (11) and Turnstone (43).

Regular breeding birds include Shelduck, Mallard and Ringed Plover. In autumn, passage migrants such as Curlew Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank and Green Sandpiper are regular in small numbers. Baldoyle Bay SPA is of high conservation importance, with an internationally important population of Brent Geese and nationally important populations of a further seven species, including two which are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The inner estuarine section is a Statutory Nature Reserve and is also designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. The site is a candidate Special Area of Conservation under the E.U. Habitats Directive. The main threat to the birds is disturbance as it is located in a densely populated area.

SOUTH DUBLIN BAY AND RIVER TOLKA ESTUARY SPA CODE: 004024

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

In the south bay, the intertidal flats extend for almost 3 km at their widest. The sediments are predominantly well-aerated sands. Several permanent channels exist, the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates, while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. The landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. There is a bed of Dwarf Eelgrass (*Zostera noltii*) below Merrion Gates which is the largest stand on the east coast. Green algae (*Enteromorpha* spp. and *Ulva lactuca*) are distributed throughout the area at a low density. The macro-invertebrate fauna is well-developed, and is characterised by

annelids such as Lugworm (*Arenicola marina*), Nephthys spp. and Sand Mason (*Lanice conchilega*), and bivalves, especially Cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*) and Baltic Tellin (*Macoma balthica*). The small gastropod Spire Shell (*Hydrobia ulvae*) occurs on the muddy sands off Merrion Gates, along with the crustacean *Corophium volutator*. Sediments in the Tolka Estuary vary from soft thixotropic muds with a high organic content in the inner estuary to exposed, well-aerated sands off the Bull Wall. The site includes Booterstown Marsh, an enclosed area of saltmarsh and muds that is cut off from the sea by the Dublin/Wexford railway line, being linked only by a channel to the east, the Nutley stream. Sea water incursions into the marsh occur along this stream at high tide. An area of grassland at Poolbeg, north of Irishtown Nature Park, is also included in the site.

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Light-bellied Brent Goose, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank, Black-headed Gull, Roseate Tern, Common Tern and Arctic Tern. The E.U. Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands, and as these form part of the SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds.

The site is an important site for wintering waterfowl, being an integral part of the internationally important Dublin Bay complex – all counts for wintering waterbirds are mean peaks for the five year period 1995/96-99/2000. Although birds regularly commute between the south bay and the north bay, recent studies have shown that certain populations which occur in the south bay spend most of their time there. An internationally important population of Light-bellied Brent Goose (525) occurs regularly and newly arrived birds in the autumn feed on the Eelgrass bed at Merrion.

NORTH BULL ISLAND SPA

SITE CODE : 004006

This site covers all of the inner part of north Dublin Bay, with the seaward boundary extending from the Bull Wall lighthouse across to Drumleck Point at Howth Head. The North Bull Island sand spit is a relatively recent depositional feature, formed as a result of improvements to Dublin Port during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is almost 5 km long and 1 km wide and runs parallel to the coast between Clontarf and Sutton. Part of the interior of the island has been converted to golf courses. A well-developed and dynamic dune system stretches along the seaward side of the island. Various types of dunes occur, from fixed dune grassland to pioneer communities on foredunes. Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) is dominant on the outer dune ridges. Species of the fixed dunes include Wild Pansy (*Viola tricolor*), Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) and, in places, the scarce Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*). A feature of the dune system is a large dune slack with a rich flora, usually referred to as the 'Alder Marsh' because of the presence of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) trees. The water table is very near the surface and is only slightly brackish. Sea Rush (*Juncus maritimus*) is the dominant species, with Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) being frequent. The orchid flora is notably diverse in this area. Saltmarsh extends along the length of the landward side of the island and provides the main roost site for wintering birds in Dublin Bay. On the lower marsh, Glasswort (*Salicornia europaea*), Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*), Annual Seablite (*Suaeda maritima*) and Greater Sea-spurrey (*Spergularia media*) are the main species. Higher up in the middle marsh Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*), Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*) and Thrift (*Armeria maritima*) appear. Above the mark of the normal high tide, species such as Common Scurvygrass (*Cochlearia officinalis*) and Sea Milkwort (*Glaux maritima*) are found, while on the extreme upper marsh, Sea Rush and Saltmarsh Rush (*Juncus gerardi*) are dominant.

The island shelters two intertidal lagoons which are divided by a solid causeway. These lagoons provide the main feeding grounds for the wintering waterfowl. The sediments of the lagoons are mainly sands with a small and varying mixture of silt and clay. Tasselweed (*Ruppia maritima*) and small amounts of Eelgrass (*Zostera* spp.) are found in the lagoons. Common Cord-grass (*Spartina anglica*) occurs in places. Green algal mats (*Enteromorpha* spp., *Ulva lactuca*) are a feature of the flats during summer. These sediments have a rich macro-invertebrate fauna, with high densities of Lugworm (*Arenicola marina*) and Ragworm (*Hediste diversicolor*). Mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) occur in places, along with bivalves such as *Cerastoderma edule*, *Macoma balthica* and *Scrobicularia plana*. The small gastropod *Hydrobia ulvae* occurs in high densities in places, while the crustaceans *Corophium volutator* and *Carcinus maenas* are common. The sediments on the seaward side of North Bull Island are mostly sands and support species such as Lugworm and the Sand Mason (*Lanice conchilega*). The site includes a substantial area of the shallow marine bay waters.

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Light-bellied Brent Goose, Shelduck, Teal, Pintail, Shoveler, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Turnstone and Black-headed Gull. The site is also of special conservation interest for holding an assemblage of over 20,000 wintering waterbirds. The E.U. Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands and, as these form part of this SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds.

The North Bull Island SPA is of international importance for waterfowl on the basis that it regularly supports in excess of 20,000 waterfowl. It also qualifies for international importance as the numbers of three species exceed the international threshold – Light-bellied Brent Goose (1,548), Black-tailed Godwit (367) and Bar-tailed Godwit (1,529) (all waterfowl figures given are average maxima for the five winters 1995/96 to 1999/00). The site is the top site in the country for both of these species. A further 14 species have populations of national importance – Shelduck (1,259), Teal (953), Pintail (233), Shoveler (141), Oystercatcher (1,784), Ringed Plover (139), Golden Plover (1,741), Grey Plover (517), Knot (2,623), Sanderling (141), Dunlin (3,926), Curlew (937), Redshank (1,431) and Turnstone (157). The populations of Pintail and Knot are of particular note as they comprise more than 10% of the respective national totals. Species such as Grey Heron, Cormorant, Wigeon, Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser and Greenshank are regular in winter in numbers of regional or local importance. Gulls are a feature of the site during winter, especially Black-headed Gull (2,196). Common Gull (332) and Herring Gull (331) also occur here. While some of the birds also frequent South Dublin Bay and the River Tolka Estuary for feeding and/or roosting purposes, the majority remain within the site for much of the winter. The wintering bird populations have been monitored more or less continuously since the late 1960s and the site is now surveyed each winter as part of the larger Dublin Bay complex.

The North Bull Island SPA is a regular site for passage waders, especially Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper and Spotted Redshank. These are mostly observed in single figures in autumn but occasionally in spring or winter. The site formerly had an important colony of Little Tern but breeding has not occurred in recent years. Several pairs of Ringed Plover breed, along with Shelduck in some years. Breeding passerines include Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Stonechat and Reed Bunting. The island is a regular wintering site for Short-eared Owl, with up to 5 present in some winters.

The site has five Red Data Book vascular plant species, four rare bryophyte species, and is nationally important for three insect species. The rare liverwort, *Petalophyllum ralfsii*, was first recorded from the North Bull Island in 1874 and its presence here has recently been re-confirmed. This species is of high conservation value as it is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. A well-known population of Irish Hare is resident on the island.

The main land uses of this site are amenity activities and nature conservation. The North Bull Island is one of the main recreational beaches in Co. Dublin and is used throughout the year. Two separate Statutory Nature Reserves cover much of the island east of the Bull Wall and the surrounding intertidal flats. North Bull Island is also a Wildfowl Sanctuary, a Ramsar Convention site, a Biogenetic Reserve, a Biosphere Reserve and a Special Area Amenity Order site. Much of the SPA is also a candidate Special Area of Conservation. The site is used regularly for educational purposes and there is a manned interpretative centre on the island. The North Bull Island SPA is an excellent example of an estuarine complex and is one of the top sites in Ireland for wintering waterfowl. It is of international importance on account of both the total number of waterfowl and the individual populations of Lightbellied Brent Goose, Black-tailed Godwit and Bar-tailed Godwit that use it. Also of significance is the regular presence of several species that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, notably Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit, but also Ruff and Short-eared Owl.

NORTH DUBLIN BAY cSAC

SITE CODE : 000206

This site covers the inner part of north Dublin Bay, the seaward boundary extending from the Bull Wall lighthouse across to the Martello Tower at Howth Head.

The North Bull Island is the focal point of this site. The island is a sandy spit which formed after the building of the South Wall and Bull Wall in the 18th and 19th centuries. It now extends for about 5 km in length and is up to 1 km wide in places. A well-developed and dynamic dune system stretches along the seaward side of the island. Various types of dunes occur, from fixed dune grassland to pioneer communities on foredunes. Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) is dominant on the outer dune ridges, with Lyme Grass (*Leymus arenarius*) and Sea Couchgrass (*Elymus farctus*) on the foredunes. Behind the first dune ridge, plant diversity increases with the appearance of such species as Wild Pansy (*Viola tricolor*), Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Rest Harrow (*Ononis repens*), Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) and Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*). In these grassy areas and slacks, the scarce Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) occurs.

About 1 km from the tip of the island, a large dune slack with a rich flora occurs, usually referred to as the 'Alder Marsh' because of the presence of Alder trees (*Alnus* spp). The water table is very near the surface and is only slightly brackish. Saltmarsh Rush (*Juncus maritimus*) is the dominant species, with Meadow Sweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Devil's-bit (*Succisa pratensis*) being frequent. The orchid flora is notable and includes Marsh Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*), Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*), Autumn Lady's-tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*) and Marsh orchids (*Dactylorhiza* spp.)

Saltmarsh extends along the length of the landward side of the island. The edge of the marsh is marked by an eroding edge which varies from 20 cm to 60 cm high. The marsh can be zoned into different levels according to the vegetation types present. On the lower marsh, Glasswort (*Salicornia europaea*), Saltmarsh Grass (*Puccinellia maritima*), Annual Sea-blite (*Suaeda maritima*) and Greater Sea-spurrey (*Spergularia media*) are the main species. Higher up in the middle marsh Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*), Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*) and Sea Pink (*Armeria maritima*) appear. Above the mark of the normal high tide, species such as Scurvy Grass (*Cochlearia officinalis*) and Sea Milkwort (*Glaux maritima*) are found, while on the extreme upper marsh, Sea Rushes (*Juncus maritimus* and *J. gerardii*) are dominant. Towards the tip of the island, the saltmarsh grades naturally into fixed dune vegetation.

The island shelters two intertidal lagoons which are divided by a solid causeway. The sediments of the lagoons are mainly sands with a small and varying mixture of silt and clay. The north lagoon has an area known as the "*Salicornia* flat", which is dominated by *Salicornia dolichostachya*, a pioneer Glasswort species, and covers about 25 ha. Tassel Weed (*Ruppia maritima*) occurs in this area, along with some Eelgrass (*Zostera angustifolia*). Eelgrass (*Z. noltii*) also occurs in Sutton Creek. Cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*) occurs in places but its growth is controlled by management. Green algal mats (*Enteromorpha* spp., *Ulva lactuca*) cover large areas of the flats during summer. These sediments have a rich macrofauna, with high densities of Lugworms (*Arenicola marina*) in parts of the north lagoon. Mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) occur in places, along with bivalves such as *Cerastoderma edule*, *Macoma balthica* and *Scrobicularia plana*. The small gastropod *Hydrobia ulvae* occurs in high densities in places, while the crustaceans *Corophium volutator* and *Carcinus maenas* are common. The sediments on the seaward side of North Bull Island are mostly sands. The site extends below the low spring tide mark to include an area of the sublittoral zone.

Three Rare plant species legally protected under the Flora Protection Order 1987 have been recorded on the North Bull Island. These are Lesser Centaury (*Centaurium pulchellum*), Hemp Nettle (*Galeopsis angustifolia*) and Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*). Two further species listed as threatened in the Red Data Book, Wild Sage (*Salvia verbenaca*) and Spring Vetch (*Vicia lathyroides*), have also been recorded. A rare liverwort, *Petalophyllum ralfsii*, was first recorded from the North Bull Island in 1874 and has recently been confirmed as being still present there. This species is of high conservation value as it is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The North Bull is the only known extant site for the species in Ireland away from the western seaboard.

North Dublin Bay is of international importance for waterfowl. During the 1994/95 to 1996/97 period the following species occurred in internationally important numbers (figures are average maxima): Brent Geese 2,333; Knot 4,423; Bar-tailed Godwit 1,586. A further 14 species occurred in nationally important concentrations - Shelduck 1505; Wigeon 1,166; Teal 1,512; Pintail 334; Shoveler 239; Oystercatcher 2,190; Ringed Plover 346; Grey Plover 816; Sanderling 357; Dunlin 6,238; Black-tailed Godwit 156; Curlew 1,193; Turnstone 197 and Redshank 1,175. Some of these species frequent South Dublin Bay and the River Tolka Estuary for feeding and/or roosting purposes (mostly Brent Goose, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Sanderling, Dunlin).

The tip of the North Bull Island is a traditional nesting site for Little Tern. A high total of 88 pairs nested in 1987. However, nesting attempts have not been successful since the early 1990s. Ringed Plover, Shelduck, Mallard, Skylark, Meadow Pipit and Stonechat also nest. A well-known population of Irish Hare is resident on the island

The invertebrates of the North Bull Island have been studied and the island has been shown to contain at least seven species of regional or national importance in Ireland (Orders Diptera, Hymenoptera, Hemiptera).

The main landuses of this site are amenity activities and nature conservation. The North Bull Island is the main recreational beach in Co Dublin and is used throughout the year. Much of the land surface of the island is taken up by two golf courses. Two separate Statutory Nature Reserves cover much of the island east of the Bull Wall and the surrounding intertidal flats. The site is used regularly for educational purposes. North Bull Island has been designated a Special Protection Area under the E.U. Birds Directive and it is also a statutory Wildfowl Sanctuary, a Ramsar Convention site, a Biogenetic Reserve, a Biosphere Reserve and a Special Area Amenity Order site.

This site is an excellent example of a coastal site with all the main habitats represented. The holds good examples of ten habitats that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive;

one of these is listed with priority status. Several of the wintering bird species have populations of international importance, while some of the invertebrates are of national importance. The site contains a numbers of rare and scarce plants including some which are legally protected. Its proximity to the capital city makes North Dublin Bay an excellent site for educational studies and research.

SOUTH DUBLIN BAY cSAC

SITE CODE : 000210

This site lies south of the River Liffey and extends from the South Wall to the west pier at Dun Laoghaire. It is an intertidal site with extensive areas of sand and mudflats, a habitat listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The sediments are predominantly sands but grade to sandy muds near the shore at Merrion gates. The main channel which drains the area is Cockle Lake. There is a bed of Eelgrass (*Zostera noltii*) below Merrion Gates which is the largest stand on the east coast. Green algae (*Enteromorpha* spp. and *Ulva lactuca*) are distributed throughout the area at a low density. Furoid algae occur on the rocky shore in the Maretimo to Dún Laoghaire area. Species include *Fucus spiralis*, *F. vesiculosus*, *F. serratus*, *Ascophyllum nodosum* and *Pelvetia canaliculata*. Several small, sandy beaches with incipient dune formation occur in the northern and western sectors of the site, notably at Poolbeg, Irishtown and Merrion/Boooterstown. The formation at Boooterstown is very recent. Driftline vegetation occurs in association with the embryonic and incipient fore dunes. Typically drift lines occur in a band approximately 5 m wide, though at Boooterstown this zone is wider in places. The habitat occurs just above the High Water Mark and below the area of embryonic dune. Species present are Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*), Frosted Orache (*Atriplex laciniata*), Spear-leaved Orache (*A. prostrata*), Prickly Saltwort (*Salsola kali*) and Fat Hen (*Chenopodium album*). Also occurring is Sea Sandwort (*Honkenya peploides*), Sea Beet (*Beta vulgaris*) and Annual Sea-blithe (*Suaeda maritima*). A small area of pioneer salt marsh now occurs in the lee of an embryonic sand dune just north of Boooterstown Station. This early stage of salt marsh development is here characterized by the presence of pioneer stands of Glasswort (*Salicornia* spp.) occurring below an area of drift line vegetation. As this is of very recent origin, it covers a small area but ample areas of substrate and shelter are available for the further development of this habitat. Lugworm (*Arenicola marina*) and Cockles (*Cerastoderma edule*) and other annelids and bivalves are frequent throughout the site. The small gastropod *Hydrobia ulvae* occurs on the muddy sands off Merrion Gates. South Dublin Bay is an important site for waterfowl. Although birds regularly commute between the south bay and the north bay, recent studies have shown that certain populations which occur in the south bay spend most of their time there. The principal species are Oystercatcher (1215), Ringed Plover (120), Sanderling (344) and Dunlin (2628), Redshank (356) (average winter peaks 1996/97 and 1997/98). Up to 100 Turnstones are usual in the south bay during winter. Brent Geese regularly occur in numbers of international importance (average peak 299). Bar-tailed Godwit (565), a species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, also occur. Large numbers of gulls roost in South Dublin Bay, e.g. 4,500 Black-headed Gulls in February 1990; 500 Common Gulls in February 1991. It is also an important tern roost in the autumn, regularly holding 2000-3000 terns including Roseate Terns, a species listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. South Dublin Bay is largely protected as a Special Protection Area. At low tide the inner parts of the south bay are used for amenity purposes. Baitdigging is a regular activity on the sandy flats. At high tide some areas have windsurfing and jet-skiing. This site is a fine example of a coastal system with extensive sand and mudflats, a habitat listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. South Dublin Bay is also an internationally important bird site.

RYE WATER VALLEY/CARTON cSAC**SITE CODE : 001398**

This site is located between Leixlip and Maynooth. It extends along the Rye Water, a tributary of the River Liffey. The woods at Carton Demesne are the site of a rare Myxomycete fungus, *Diderma deplanatum*. Within the woods, Blackcap, Woodcock and Longeared Owl have been recorded. Little Grebe, Coot, Moorhen, Tufted Duck, Teal and Kingfisher, the latter a species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, occur on and about the lake. The mineral spring found at the site is of a type considered to be rare in Europe and is a habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The Rye Water is a spawning ground for Trout and Salmon, and the rare, Whiteclawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) has been recorded at Leixlip. The latter two species are listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive. The semi-aquatic snails *Vertigo angustior* and *V. moulinsiana* occur in marsh vegetation near Louisa Bridge; both are rare in Ireland and Europe and are listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive. The scarce Dragonfly, *Orthetrum coerulescens*, has been recorded at Louisa Bridge. The main importance of the site lies in the presence of several rare and threatened plant and animal species, and of a rare habitat, thermal, mineral, petrifying spring. The woods found on Carton Estate and their birdlife are of additional interest.

APPENDIX 2: CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Conservation Objectives for Rogerstown Estuary SAC [000208]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

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

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

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

- ♦ *Estuaries* [1130]
- ♦ *Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide* [1140]
- ♦ *Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand* [1310]
- ♦ *Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima)* [1330]
- ♦ *Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)* [1410]
- ♦ *Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")* [2120]
- ♦ ** Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")* [2130]

Citation:

NPWS (2011) *Conservation objectives for Rogerstown Estuary SAC [000208]. Generic Version 2.0. Department of the Environment Heritage & Local Government.*

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/en/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning

Conservation Objectives for Rogerstown Estuary SPA [004015]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

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

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

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

- ♦ *Anser anser* [wintering]
- ♦ *Branta bernicla hrota* [wintering]
- ♦ *Tadorna tadorna* [wintering]
- ♦ *Anas clypeata* [wintering]
- ♦ *Haematopus ostralegus* [wintering]
- ♦ *Charadrius hiaticula* [wintering]
- ♦ *Pluvialis squatarola* [wintering]
- ♦ *Calidris canutus* [wintering]
- ♦ *Calidris alpina* [wintering]
- ♦ *Limosa limosa* [wintering]
- ♦ *Tringa totanus* [wintering]

Citation:

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Rogerstown Estuary SPA [004015]. Generic Version 2.0. Department of the Environment Heritage & Local Government.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/en/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning

Conservation Objectives for Malahide Estuary SAC [000205]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

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

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

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

- ♦ *Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide* [1140]
- ♦ *Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand* [1310]
- ♦ *Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)* [1320]
- ♦ *Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)* [1330]
- ♦ *Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)* [1410]
- ♦ *Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")* [2120]
- ♦ ** Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")* [2130]

Citation:

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Malahide Estuary SAC [000205]. Generic Version 2.0. Department of the Environment Heritage & Local Government.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/en/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning

Conservation Objectives for Malahide Estuary SPA [004025]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

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

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

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

- ♦ *Podiceps cristatus* [wintering]
- ♦ *Branta bernicla hrota* [wintering]
- ♦ *Tadorna tadorna* [wintering]
- ♦ *Anas acuta* [wintering]
- ♦ *Bucephala clangula* [wintering]
- ♦ *Mergus serrator* [wintering]
- ♦ *Haematopus ostralegus* [wintering]
- ♦ *Pluvialis apricaria* [wintering]
- ♦ *Pluvialis squatarola* [wintering]
- ♦ *Calidris canutus* [wintering]
- ♦ *Calidris alpina* [wintering]
- ♦ *Limosa limosa* [wintering]
- ♦ *Limosa lapponica* [wintering]
- ♦ *Tringa totanus* [wintering]

Citation:

NPWS (2011) *Conservation objectives for Malahide Estuary SPA [004025]. Generic Version 2.0.* Department of the Environment Heritage & Local Government.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/en/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning

Conservation Objectives for Baldoye Bay SAC [000199]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

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

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

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

- *Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide* [1140]
- *Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand* [1310]
- *Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)* [1330]
- *Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)* [1410]

Citation:

NPWS (2011) *Conservation objectives for Baldoye Bay SAC [000199]. Generic Version 2.0. Department of the Environment Heritage & Local Government.*

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/en/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning

Conservation Objectives for Baldoye Bay SPA [004016]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

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

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

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

- ♦ *Branta bernicla hrota* [wintering]
- ♦ *Tadorna tadorna* [wintering]
- ♦ *Charadrius hiaticula* [wintering]
- ♦ *Pluvialis apricaria* [wintering]
- ♦ *Pluvialis squatarola* [wintering]
- ♦ *Limosa lapponica* [wintering]

Citation:

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Baldoye Bay SPA [004016]. Generic Version 2.0. Department of the Environment Heritage & Local Government.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/en/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning

Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

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

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

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

- ♦ *Branta bernicla hrota* [wintering]
- ♦ *Haematopus ostralegus* [wintering]
- ♦ *Charadrius hiaticula* [wintering]
- ♦ *Pluvialis squatarola* [wintering]
- ♦ *Calidris canutus* [wintering]
- ♦ *Calidris alba* [wintering]
- ♦ *Calidris alpina* [wintering]
- ♦ *Limosa lapponica* [wintering]
- ♦ *Tringa totanus* [wintering]
- ♦ *Larus ridibundus* [wintering]
- ♦ *Sterna dougallii* [passage]
- ♦ *Sterna hirundo* [breeding]
- ♦ *Sterna hirundo* [passage]
- ♦ *Sterna paradisaea* [passage]

Citation:

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024]. Generic Version 2.0. Department of the Environment Heritage & Local Government.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/en/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning

Conservation Objectives for North Dublin Bay SAC [000206]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

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

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

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

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

- ♦ *Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide* [1140]
- ♦ *Annual vegetation of drift lines* [1210]
- ♦ *Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand* [1310]
- ♦ *Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima)* [1330]
- ♦ *Petalophyllum ralfsii* [1395]
- ♦ *Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)* [1410]
- ♦ *Embryonic shifting dunes* [2110]
- ♦ *Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")* [2120]
- ♦ ** Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")* [2130]
- ♦ *Humid dune slacks* [2190]

Citation:

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for North Dublin Bay SAC [000206]. Generic Version 2.0. Department of the Environment Heritage & Local Government.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/en/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning

HABITATS DIRECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Assessment of Proposed Amendments to the DRAFT CHERRYHOUND LOCAL AREA PLAN

1. PREAMBLE

Parts 2 and 3 of this report list the recommended Proposed Amendments to the Cherryhound Local Area Plan following the period of public display. Part 4 provides an assessment of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Cherryhound Local Area Plan in accordance with article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

2. RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN:

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION:

Remove reference to Motorway Services at Gateway Area from the Draft LAP.

A new objectives to be added to Section 4.3.7 'Movement Objectives' to read:
"The delivery of offices and hotel in the Gateway Area shall only be permitted where the commensurate level of public transport is being provided to serve such uses."

Under Section 4.2.4 'General Employment Areas' of the Draft Local Area Plan replace the text *"including high intensity usage. High intensity employment generally has a high employee to floor area ratio of c. 1 employee per 20 sq m and usually generates peak hours trips. High intensity uses will be encouraged to be located centrally in proximity to public transport, retail and other supporting services and open spaces"* with the following: *"The LAP lands are zoned for GE-General Employment purposes. GE land uses will generally be in the order of between 1 employee per 50 sq m and 1 employee per 100 sq m"*

Under Section 4.2.3 'The Nodes' replace *"The overall net floor area is not permitted to exceed 1000 sq m. No individual unit is permitted to exceed 150 sq m nfa (net floor area)"* with the following: *"The overall net floor area is not permitted to exceed 1000 sq m. One sole individual unit shall be permitted up to 300 sq m net floor area. No other individual unit is permitted to exceed 150 sq m net floor area."*

Insert into Section 2.1 of the Draft LAP documents *"Spatial Planning and National Roads 2012"* and *"the National Transport Authority's Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy"*.

Remove reference to Appendix 6 in the Draft LAP document.

DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AREAS:

Insert text into Section 5.1 'Development Framework Area' after *"A Development Framework must be prepared before development is permitted in any Framework Area"* to read:

"The purpose of the Development Frameworks is to guide the context parameters for development. The co-operation of relevant landowners will be sought in the making of each Development Framework. A Development Framework is not a statutory plan. A Development Framework may be prepared even if no immediate planning application is envisaged, enabling landowners to have Frameworks in place long before applications are sought. The Development Frameworks can also be progressed at pre-planning application stage".

PHASING:

Under Section 6.1, paragraph 3, of the Draft Local Area Plan replace: *"Phase 1 includes all land to the south and east of the M2/N3 Link Road, the Gateway Area in addition to the land areas identified for nodal land uses"* with *"Phase 1 includes all land to the south and east of the M2/N3 Link Road and the Gateway Area"*

Amend Section 8.2.1 of the Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment to align the SEA Phasing with the Draft Local Area Plan Phasing.

OPEN SPACE:

Omit from Section 4.5.1 of the Draft Local Area Plan *"i.e.(a) not more than 25% of the employment lands are to be developed until such time as 25% of the open space has been provided to the written satisfaction of the Planning Authority and (b) not more than 50% of the employment lands are to be developed until such time as 50% of the open space has been provided to the written satisfaction of the Planning Authority."*

Replace the above text with: *"The overall quantum, location and delivery timeframe of open space will be determined through the Development Framework Area process."*

AIRPORT ZONES:

No change

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Insert a new objective under Section 4.4.1 'Public Infrastructure Objectives' as follows:

PL 3 *"Support the provision of 110kV electrical sub-stations at suitable sites throughout the LAP lands where required."*

DESIGN:

No change

MAPS:

Insert a Local Objective to cul-de-sac Michelstown Road immediately north of northern most dwelling.

Replace Figure 3.2 in the SuDS Strategy with Map 8 of the LAP.

Replace *"Pedestrian/Cycle Links"* with *"Indicative Pedestrian/Cycle Links"* on the legend attached to Map 8.

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

Insert a bullet point in Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment, Section 1.2.1 (2): *"incorporate environmental considerations in particular those relating to mammals and any mitigation measures proposed."*

Insert new Section 5.1.9 of the Draft Local Area Plan to read: *"The preparation of the Development Framework Areas will consider the possible presence of bats, yellow hammer bird and badger."*

Insert *"in a sustainable manner"* at the end of Bullet Point 4, Section 4.1, of the Draft Local Area Plan.

Change Section 8.2.2 of the Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment. Biodiversity, paragraph 2 to read: *"Ecological features such as the remaining tree groupings and important hedgerow copses shall be incorporated in the green space without impacting upon these habitats".*

3. MANAGERS RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS:

Under Section 3.5 'Gas' replace the text: *"Provision is made for a high-pressure gas main in the design of the Link Road to service the subject area"*

which in turn will necessitate a link to the existing main” with: “The distribution network, which is immediately adjacent to the LAP lands, is available for connection.”

Under Section 4.4 ‘Public Infrastructure Strategy’ revise the text “*Provision is made in the Tyrrelstown/Cherryhound Link Road for suitable ducting/wayleaves to accommodate power services in addition to provision for a high pressure gas main and broadband*” as follows: “*Provision is made in the Tyrrelstown/Cherryhound Link Road for suitable ducting/wayleaves to accommodate power services in addition to provision for broadband.*”

Show gas pipeline distribution network on Map 4 and Map 8

Transcribe the list of guidance documents from the Draft Local Area Plan to the Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment, Section 1, Introduction.

Under Section 6.1 ‘Phasing’, Paragraph 4, replace the text: “*Having regard to the nature, scale of the specific use proposed, unique locational requirements and significant employment demands, certain developments may be permitted in Phase 2 in tandem with the development of Phase 1*” with the text: “*Having regard to the nature, scale of the specific use proposed, unique locational/site requirements or significant employment potential, certain developments may be permitted in Phase 2 in tandem with the development of Phase 1*”.

4. HABITATS DIRECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The Draft Cherryhound Local Area Plan was accompanied by an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Planning and Development Acts 2000-2011. The Screening Report determined that an Appropriate Assessment was not required.

In considering the nature and extent of the proposed amendments, it is determined that the proposed Local Area Plan will not give rise to significant effects on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site. In this regard, the original Appropriate Assessment Screening Report remains valid.