

Uimhir Thagarta Uathúil: SD-C195-196

Údar: Ne Graver

Stádas: Submitted

Submission: Rathcoole and Woodlands-Annex Habitat

Comhairliúchán:

Draft South Dublin County Development Plan 2022 - 2028

Natura Impact Report

Caibidil: Environmental Reports » Natura Impact
Report

South Dublin County Council recognises the presence of **three** annex habitats within Core Strategy Policy 10 Rathcoole Specific Local Objective 1 (CS10 SLO1) which includes Rathcoole Woodlands:

- Extensive 91EO Annex 1 Priority Alluvial Woodland (Rathcoole Woodland)
- Springs with an Affinity to Annex 1 Priority 7220 Petrifying Springs
- Extensive 6510 Annex 1 Lowland Hay Meadow

These annex habitats are required to be protected by law under the Habitats Directive.

It is clearly evident from the Councils own presentation of habitat maps, see H14 Major Housing Developments Update that:

(a) **Woodland is the majority** of the CS10 SLO1 site, and the majority of Woodland is 91EO Annex 1 Priority Alluvial Woodland or Rathcoole Woodland and its extent is beyond SDCC owned land

(b) Grassland /Woodland mosaic, or transitional woodland is the second largest component which no doubt being contiguous with the 91EO Annex 1 Priority Alluvial Woodland will in time become annex habitat,

(c) Grassland is a small portion of the site of which 1 ha is annex lowland hay meadow

The area within CS10 Rathcoole SLO1 is a biodiversity gem, unique within South Dublin if not nationally and a key candidate for **nomination as a green infrastructure core**. Please see the following Below:

#SaveRathcooleWoodlands #BiodiveristyCrisis #ClimateCrisis #Politics #Rewilding #Woodlands #HabitatsDirective
#EnvironmentalLiabilitesDirective

@Francis Timmons @CllrPeterKavanagh @Paul Gogarty @AnTaisce

@FriendsOfTheIrishEnvironment @IEN.Fans @IrishWildlifeTrust @SaveIrelandsTrees

Submission

I consider that Rathcoole Woodlands and the area of CS10 SLO1 with its rich and unique biodiversity a valuable amenity for the people of Rathcoole. I am asking the Council to:

1. preserve the entire area of CS10 SLO1 and designate it a High Amenity Area with overarching policies and objectives for protection and preservation (see 4 and 5 below).
2. At the very least, Amend CS10 Rathcoole SLO 1 as outlined in red bold below:

*To investigate the potential for alternative land uses for the lands currently zoned RES-N (To provide for new residential communities in accordance with approved area plans) and OS (To preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities) as identified by the SLO on the CDP land use zoning map, having regard to protecting existing **annex habitats of Alluvial Woodland, Lowland Hay Meadow, Petrifying Springs and biodiversity rich non-annex habitats of orchid rich and species rich grasslands, and heritage hedgerows, Biodiversity and the Rathcoole Woodlands, GI7 Objective 3 and 4, the need for social and affordable housing, community infrastructure and access. Following this assessment, and where alternative land use arrangements are identified in line with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, to bring forward proposals for re-zoning including the establishment of a new land use zoning High Amenity-Camac Valley/Rathcoole Woodlands, 'HA – RW' if deemed appropriate within the lifetime of this plan***

1. 3 Should it prove that none or only a small area can be developed in CS10 SLO 1 that a new zoning objective is established; Zoning Objective High Amenity-Camac Valley/Rathcoole Woodlands and environs, 'HA –CV/ RW' for the undeveloped area. And the following is put in place to protect and preserve Rathcoole Woodland and for present and future generations as part of the new zoning objective:
 1. its designation as a Nature Reserve
 2. obtaining a Special Amenity Area Order
 3. and if appropriate to nominate it as a candidate Special Area of Conservation by bringing it to the attention of NPWS
 4. or as a Natural Heritage Area

4 proposes the setting of a Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage (NCBH) policy for Rathcoole Woodlands and its environs: to protect and enhance the outstanding natural character and amenity of Rathcoole Woodlands and its environs, including its landscape, visual, recreational, ecological, educational and historical heritage value, as a key element of the County's Green Infrastructure network.

5 To designate Rathcoole Woodlands and its environs as a space for Nature and Biodiversity under the Green Infrastructure and Parks and Open Space

6 To incorporate all of Rathcoole Woodlands and its environs as is (CS10 SLO1 area), into the Green Infrastructure Strategy as a pivotal GI Core with Rathcoole Park along the Camac Valley GI Corridor linking to Slade Valley and Crooksling Glen pNHA, Lugg Woods and the Rural Fringe Corridor.

7 To extend the public owned lands containing Rathcoole Woodlands, either by direct purchase or land swap to incorporate the Woodland in adjacent land, the historical 170 year old double hedged passage to the west, and transitional zone from Woodland to managed park land to the east.

8 To incorporate all of Rathcoole Woodlands as is, into the **Green Infrastructure Strategy** as part of a wider nature/walking trail from Saggart to Lugg Woods and a significant core area

9 To incorporate all of Rathcoole Woodlands as is, with minimal management into Rathcoole Park

10 To recognise of **Rathcoole Woodland** as being the first Native Woodland resulting from re-wilded agriculture land. One of a kind.

I would like the above included in the next County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Neville Graver

[Redacted: Personal Information]

You Did It Once.

You Can Do It Again.

Put Rathcoole Woodland firmly in the Plan.

Make a Submission Today

Draft County Development Plan Consultation

Closing Date: Wednesday 15th 11.59pm

Save Rathcoole Woodlands

Save 3 Annex Habitats

Save an Entire Ecosystem and Ecological Unit

Documents Attached: Níl