



South Dublin County Council  
Development Plan  
2016 – 2022

## Appendix 2:

### Proposed Variation No.5 Appropriate Assessment (SEA) Screening Report

## **South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022**

### **Variation No. 5**

#### **Statement in support of Screening for Appropriate Assessment**

Document Stage	Document Version	Prepared by
Draft	1	RMinogue MCIEEM Reviewed Pat Doherty MCIEEM
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This report is prepared for South Dublin County Council and we accept no responsibility to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk.

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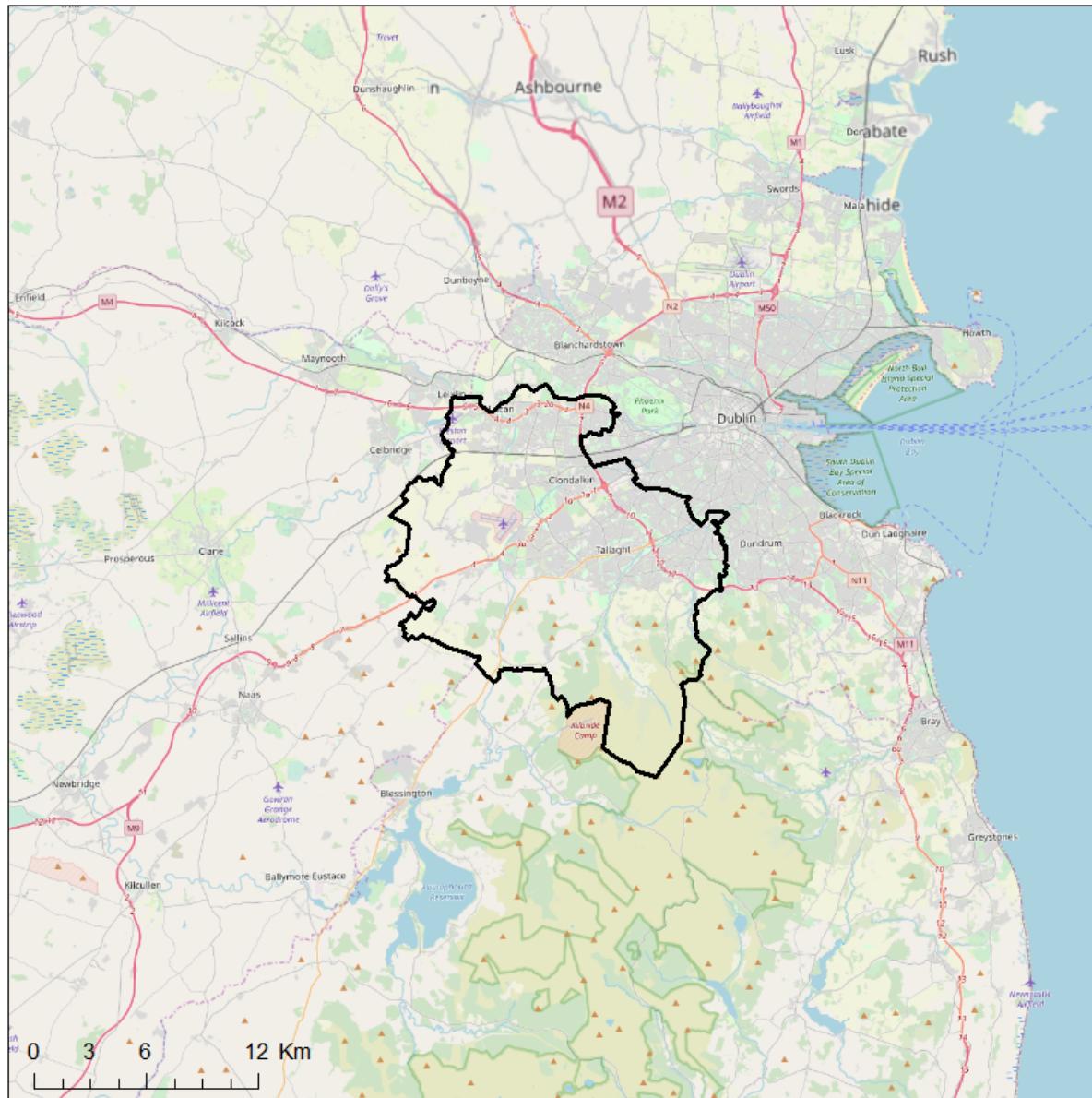
## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

South Dublin County Council intends to initiate the procedures for making a Variation to the County Development Plan under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). This variation will be Variation No. 5 to the South Dublin County Development 2016 – 2022. Doherty Environmental Consultants Ltd. have been appointed by South Dublin County Council to prepare a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment for the proposed Variation. The lands covered by the Variation encompass all of South Dublin County Council and are shown in Figure 1.1. below.

The function of this Screening Exercise is to identify the potential for the proposed Variation No. 5 to result in likely significant effects to European Sites and to provide information so that the South Dublin County Council can determine whether a Natura Impact Report and Appropriate Assessment is required for the Variation.

### **1.1 HABITATS DIRECTIVE ASSESSMENT (HDA)**

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of the potential effects of a land use plan or project on one or more Natura 2000 (N2K) Sites. It is noted that a Habitats Directive Assessment is commonly referred to as an “Appropriate Assessment” (Dodd *et al*, 2007). However “Appropriate Assessment” forms only one stage of the HDA process (all stages making up the assessment process are outlined in detail below). The EU Habitats Directive provides the legislative framework for the protection of habitats and species throughout Europe through the establishment of a network of designated conservation areas known as the N2K network. The N2K network includes sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), under the EU Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the EU Birds Directive. Under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011, as amended) SACs and SPAs are referred to as European Sites. SACs are designated in areas that support habitats listed on Annex I and/or species listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive. SPAs are designated in areas that support: 1% or more of the all-Ireland population of bird species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive; 1% or more of the population of a migratory species; and more than 20,000 waterfowl.



SDCC CDP  
Variation No. 5

Figure 1.1

## Plan Area

Plan Area



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Articles 6(1) & (2) of the Habitats Directive set out provisions for the conservation management of European Sites. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of this Directive set out a series of procedural steps to test whether or not a plan or project is likely to affect a European Site. Article 6(3) also establishes the requirement for a HDA:

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

Therefore, the objective of this Screening is to identify whether or not land use measures supported by the proposed Variation will have the potential to adversely affect the Conservation Objectives of European Sites. Such a conclusion will be arrived at by assessing the implications of future land use activities that will be supported by the proposed Variation on each European Site occurring within its zone of influence.

The HDA is underpinned by the precautionary principle. Therefore, if the risk of negative impacts to the conservation objectives of a European Site cannot be ruled out it is assumed that the potential for a likely significant effect will exist.

The Screening was undertaken with reference to the following guidance documents on Habitats Directive Assessments:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (2009). DEHLG.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats directive 92/43/EEC. European commission (2000). (To be referred to as MN 2000).
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2001).

## **1.2 STAGES OF THE HABITATS DIRECTIVE ASSESSMENT**

The European Commission (2001) Guidance has outlined a staged process for the completion of a HDA.

Stage 1 – Screening: This stage defines the proposed plan, establishes whether the proposed plan is necessary for the conservation management of the European Site and assesses the likelihood of the plan to have a significant effect, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, upon a European Site.

Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment: If a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect an Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken. In this stage the impact of the plan or project to the Conservation Objectives of the European Site is assessed. The outcome of this assessment will establish whether the plan will have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the European Site.

Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternative Solutions: If it is concluded that, subsequent to the implementation of mitigation measures, a plan has an adverse impact upon the integrity of a European Site it must be objectively concluded that no alternative solutions exist before the plan can proceed.

Stage 4 – Where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain but imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist for the implementation of a plan or project an assessment of compensatory measures that will effectively offset the damage to the Natura site 2000 will be necessary.

The remainder of this document sets out the Methodology and Results of the Screening exercise. It is structured as follows:

Section 2: Habitats Directive Assessment Methodology;

Section 3: Summary Description of the proposed Variation No. 4;

Section 4: Identifies the European Sites within the zone of influence of the Variation;

Section 4: Identifies the Likely Significant Effects of the Variation to European Sites occurring within its zone of influence; and

Section 5: Provides a Screening conclusion.

## 2.0 SCREENING METHODOLOGY

The function of the Screening Assessment is to identify whether the proposed Variation will have a likely significant effect on European Sites. In this context “likely” means any effect that may be reasonably predicted and “significant” means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that is potentially relevant to the Site’s conservation objectives<sup>1</sup>. Any effect, which would compromise the functioning and viability of a Site and interfere with achieving the conservation objectives of the Site would constitute a significant effect.

The nature of the likely interactions between the proposed Variation and the Conservation Objectives of European Sites will depend upon the potential for future land use activities supported by the proposed Variation to interact with European Sites and their associated qualifying features of interest; the sensitivity of European Site qualifying features to potential impacts associated with land use activities facilitated by the proposed Variation; the current conservation status of the European Site qualifying features; and the likely changes that will result from the implementation of the proposed Variation, in combination with other plans and projects.

The European Commission Guidelines (2001) outline the stages involved in undertaking a Screening assessment of a plan or project that has the potential to have likely significant effects on European Sites. The methodology adopted for the Screening of the proposed Variation is informed by these guidelines and was undertaken in the following stages:

1. A brief description of the proposed Variation is provided and determine whether it is necessary for the conservation management of European Sites;

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<sup>1</sup> See English Nature’s Habitat Regulations Guidance Note No. 3, 1999.

<sup>2</sup> The zones of advertising control are shown on Figure 3.1 below.

<sup>3</sup> Section 5 of this Screening Report assesses the potential for land use activities to arise following the implementation of the proposed Variation and in the event

2. Identification of European Sites occurring within the zone of influence of the proposed Variation;
3. Identification of elements of the proposed Variation with potential to give rise to likely significant effects to European Sites; and
4. Identification of other plans or projects that, in combination with the proposed Variation, have the potential to affect European Sites.

### **3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED VARIATION**

South Dublin County Council (SDCC) has prepared a Variation to the County Development Plan under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The proposed variation provides for the following:

The Proposed Variation seeks to integrate an SDCC Outdoor Advertising Strategy (2019) into the County Development Plan and amend the existing Land Use Tables and signage policy to facilitate its implementation.

The SDCC Outdoor Advertising Strategy (2019) outlines the Council's policy on advertising structures and the strategy that has been developed for commercial advertising in the public domain. This strategy forms the basis of a practical policy to be applied to all proposals for outdoor advertising and should be read in conjunction with the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016- 2022 and any superseding Development Plan. The strategy is based on an analysis of how sensitive different parts of the County are to advertisement structures and identifies constraints and opportunities for the location of these structures. It also sets out what types of structures are acceptable as outdoor advertising elements.

Proposed Variation No.5 to the Development Plan facilitates the implementation of the SDCC Outdoor Advertising Strategy (2019) by amending the prohibitive approach adopted in the Land Use Zoning Tables and Signage policies towards outdoor advertising structures in Chapter 11 of the Development Plan. The following section provides an extract from the SDCC Outdoor Advertising Strategy (2019) particularly as it relates to landuse zonings:

#### ***1.0 Introduction***

*With advances in technology, increasing demand for customer communication, as well as enhanced service delivery, South Dublin County Council (SDCC) are seeking to respond to these challenges by developing an updated and modern policy position on outdoor advertising. SDCC will seek to provide, manage and guide outdoor advertising in SDCC's administrative area, with an overall aim of benefiting the County by establishing a new communication network to engage with SDCC's customers and to promote SDCC's services.*

*South Dublin is a unique County with a mixture of established suburban settlements, historical villages, emerging town centres and significant new development and regeneration areas. The urban centres in the County provide a diverse urban environment and a sense of place. To build on the existing and emerging physical assets and to generate an urban realm of the highest possible quality, the sense of place needs to be nurtured and enhanced through creative, intelligent and co-ordinated interventions. Significant, under utilised value exists in the public domain of the County which, if carefully harnessed, can provide the means to generate public realm improvements without compromise to the character of the individual urban centres. This opportunity can be facilitated through a managed programme of outdoor advertisement.*

*This document outlines the Council policy on advertising structures and the strategy that has been developed for commercial advertising in the public domain. This strategy forms the basis of a practical policy to be applied to all proposals for outdoor advertising and should be read in conjunction with the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016- 2022 and any superseding Development Plan. The strategy is based on an analysis of how sensitive different parts of the County are to advertisement structures and identifies constraints and opportunities for the location of these structures. It also sets out what types of structures are acceptable as outdoor advertising elements. While commercial viability is a key consideration, it has been balanced with the need to create a high quality public domain and to safeguard and enhance sensitive areas and sites. The strategy also provides for a co-ordinated bartering system, to rationalise the location and concentration of existing advertising structures.*

*Please note that this policy position predominantly relates to outdoor advertising and proposals that relate to signs erected on the exterior of buildings, within windows, as stand alone structures or attached to public utilities that advertise goods or services associated with that premises are generally addressed under Section 11 of the Development Plan.*

## **2.0 Outdoor Advertising Structures**

*This section includes an assessment as to those locations where outdoor advertising may or may not be acceptable in principle. It is the policy of the planning authority to strictly control all advertising signs in relation to their location, design, materials, function and operation. In*

*order to manage an effective programme of outdoor advertising, SDCC has developed a policy based on geographical zones<sup>2</sup>.*

*These zones cover all parts of the County, including areas of architectural sensitivity, residential/commercial areas and areas of high amenity. Based on these zones, a range of controls and policies have been developed for each zone ranging from the prohibition of outdoor advertising in the most sensitive areas to more general controls in less sensitive areas where certain types of advertising will be considered. Consideration will be also be given to the need for sensitive treatment and an appropriate transition at the interface between zones. These zones have been organised into categories, which can be classified as follows:*

**Zone 1:** *This zone consists of the areas that are the most sensitive and primarily relates to Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) which contain places, areas and groups of structures that exhibit unique, distinct character and qualities within the county. There is a strong presumption against large outdoor advertisements within these areas. Smaller advertisements may be considered, subject to sensitive design and siting.*

**Zone 2:** *This zone consists of urban centres that comprise retail, amenity and commercial uses. Outdoor advertisements may be permitted here subject to special development management measures. Within this zone, there are also large-scale tracts of commercial land-use which have a separate robust character and may have the potential to accommodate outdoor advertising.*

**Zone 3:** *This zone consists of the main transport corridors into, out of and within the county including the primary road network and Luas lines. There is an opportunity for the managed provision of outdoor advertising on these corridors in the public domain. Subject to compliance with the development management standards, as set out in Section 7, the development of outdoor advertising in this zone will be open for consideration.*

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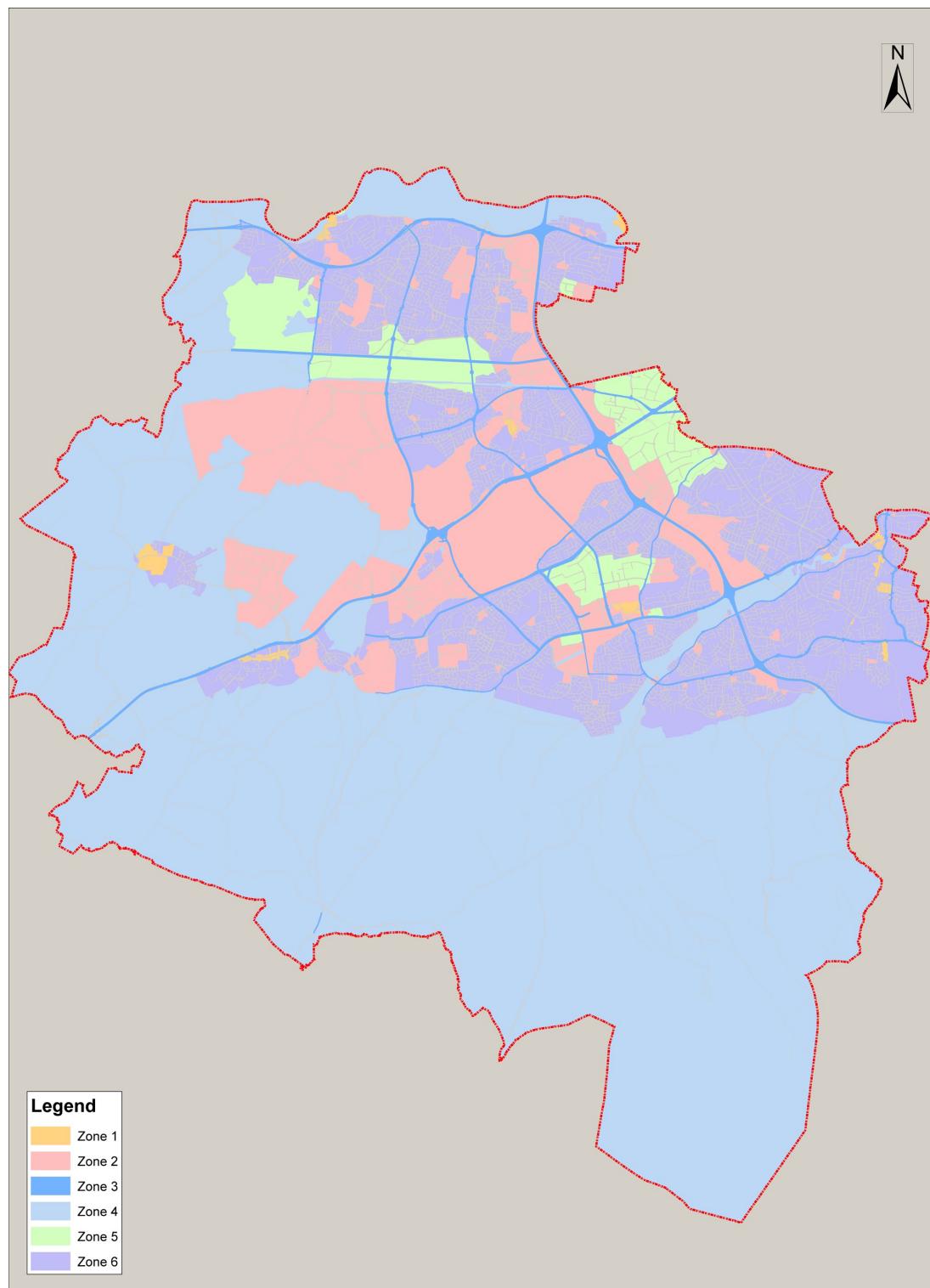
<sup>2</sup> **The zones of advertising control are shown on Figure 3.1 below.**

**Zone 4:** This zone consists of existing and potential high amenity areas including the Grand Canal corridor, the Liffey Valley, the Dodder Valley, the Dublin Mountains and upland rural areas. There is a strong presumption against outdoor advertising in this zone.

**Zone 5:** This zone consists of significant developing areas where advertising could form an integral part of newly created streetscapes. This zone relates to certain strategic developments, regeneration areas or new residential communities where advertising may form part of new streetscapes, having regard to the need to protect residential amenities. Subject to compliance with development management standards, the development of outdoor advertising in this zone will be open for consideration.

**Zone 6:** This zone consists of predominantly residential areas where outdoor advertisements would generally be visually inappropriate.

**Figure 3.1: Zones of Advertising Control**



### **3.0 Public Realm: A Co-ordinated Approach**

*The preferred location for outdoor advertising panels within South Dublin County is on the public realm contained within Zones 2, 3 and 5 as indicated in Figure 1 Zones of Advertisement Control. The provision of outdoor advertisements in the public realm will enable the Council to adopt a co-ordinated approach to the management of the advertising activity in the County and to encourage better quality signage in more appropriate locations.*

#### Changes to the South Dublin CDP 2016-2022

These changes, will form a variation to the existing South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022 (SDCCDP). This plan came into effect in June 2016 and established the framework for the development over a six year period for the County. The SDCDP was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment. Within the hierarchy of landuse plans, the proposed variation should be compliant with the policies, objectives of the SDCDP, as well as national and regional plans and guideline

#### **3.1 PROPOSED VARIATION & NATURA CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT**

Proposed Variation No. 5 seeks to establish the South Dublin County Council's vision and strategy as it relates to outdoor advertising within the planning framework of the South Dublin CDP.

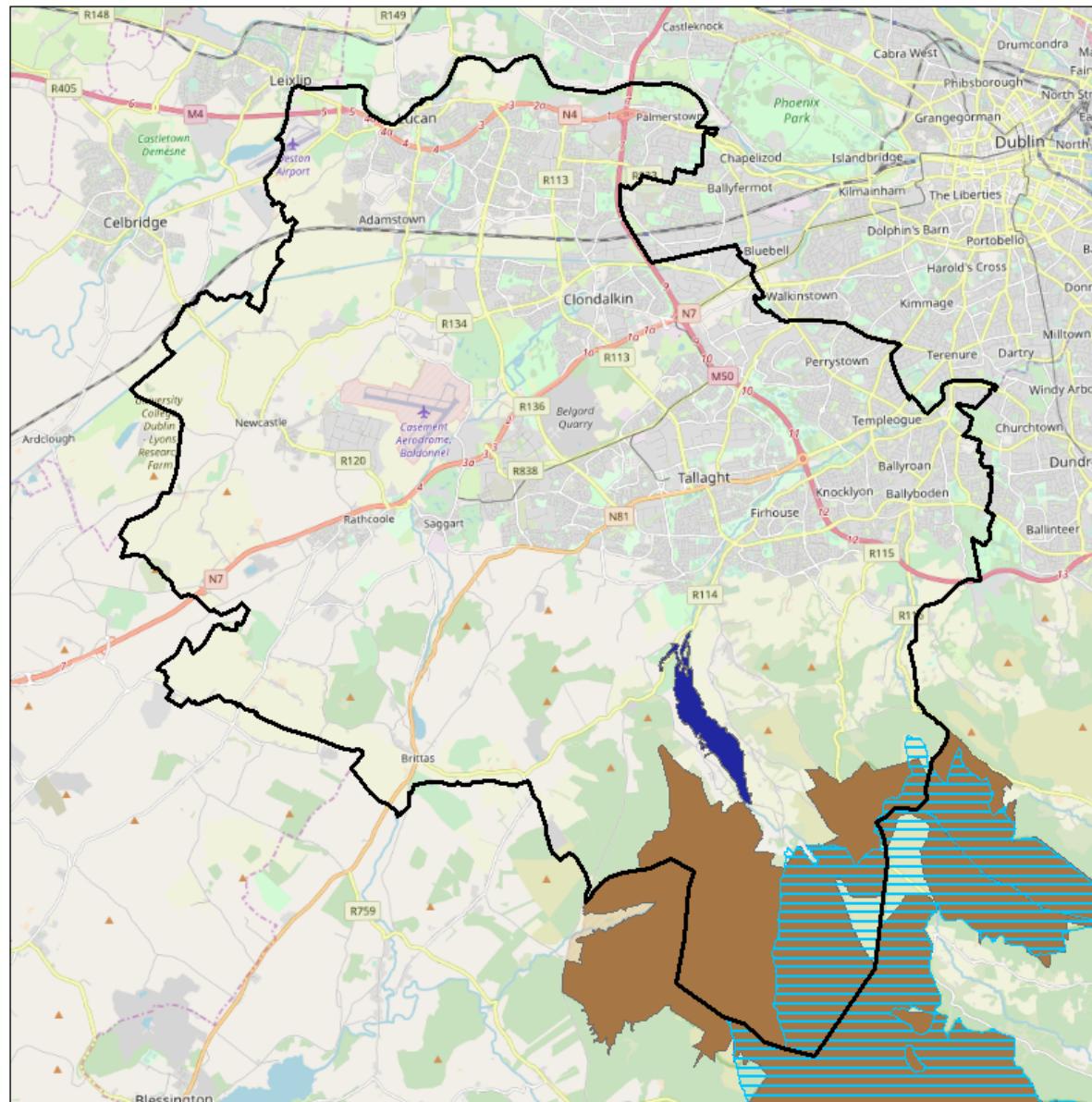
It is clear from outline and content of the proposed Variation, as outlined above, that it is not necessary for the management of any European Site for nature conservation purposes. Therefore, consideration is given to the Plan and whether it has the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites and their Conservation Objectives.

## **4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN THE ZONE OF INFLUENCE OF THE PROPOSED VARIATION**

In order to identify the European Sites that could be significantly affected by the implementation of the proposed Variation an initial long-list of sites occurring within a 15km radius of the Variation (to be referred to as the study area) has been compiled. The establishment of a 15km buffer area surrounding the LAP area is in line with the DAHLG recommended procedures for identifying European Sites. The buffer distance of 15km was also considered sufficient to ensure all potential impacts to European Sites arising from the implementation of the Plan were taken into account (see Section 4.1 below for more information). This is based on the absence of any impact pathways between the proposed Variation lands and other European Sites occurring at a distance greater than 15km from these lands.

### **4.1 EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN 15KM OF THE PLAN**

A total number of twenty-one European Sites, comprising fifteen SACs and six SPAs, were identified within a 15km radius of the area (see Figures 4.1 to 4.3). These European Sites along with their qualifying features of interest are presented in Table 4.1.



## SDCC CDP Variation No. 4

Figure 4.1

### European Sites within the Plan Area

Plan Area

Site Name

Wicklow Mountains SPA

SACs within Plan Area

Site Name

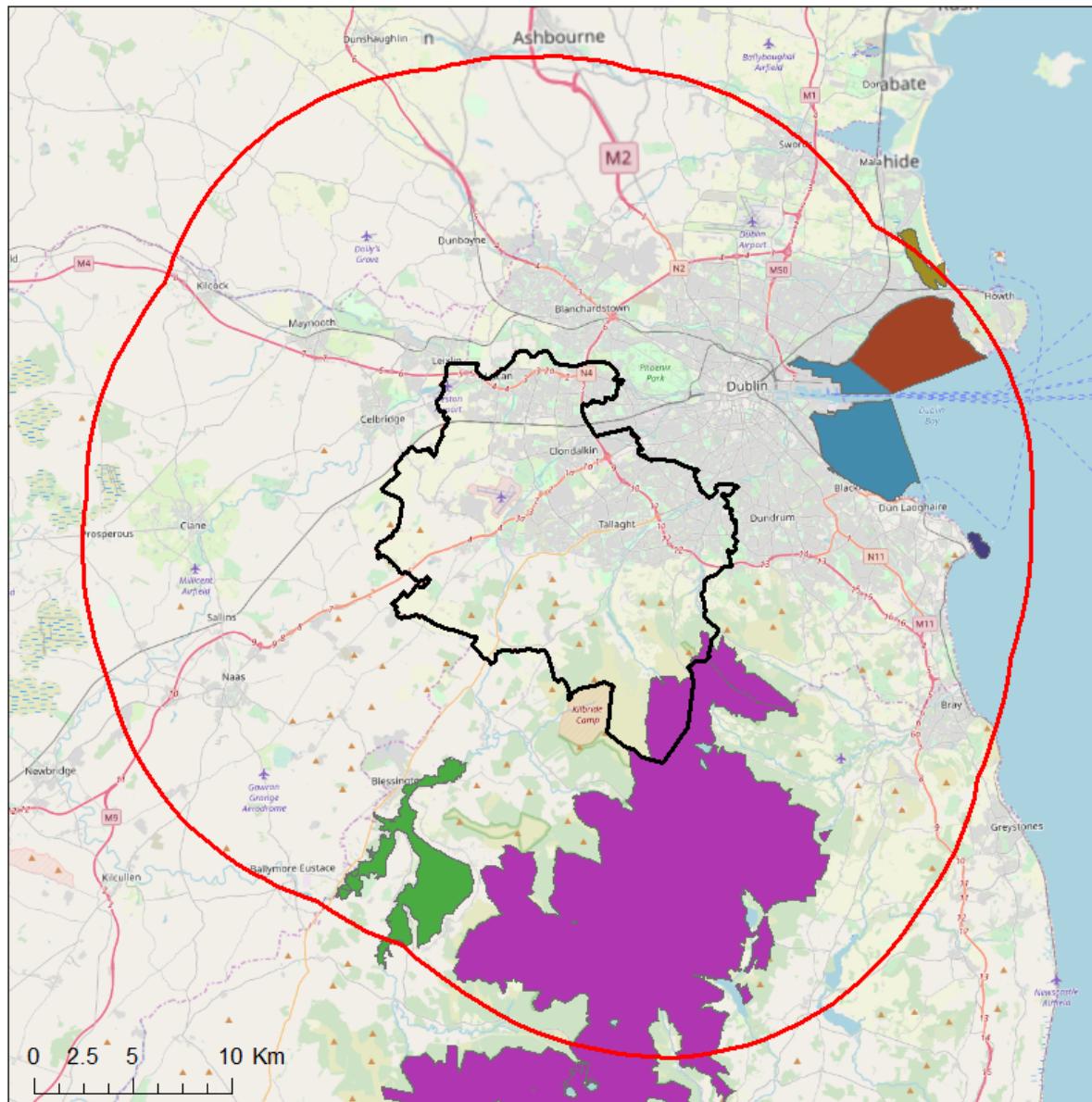
Glenasmole Valley SAC

Wicklow Mountains SAC

0 1 2 4 Km



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## SDCC CDP Variation No. 5

Figure 4.2

SACs within 15km of the Plan Area

- Plan Area
- 15km Buffer

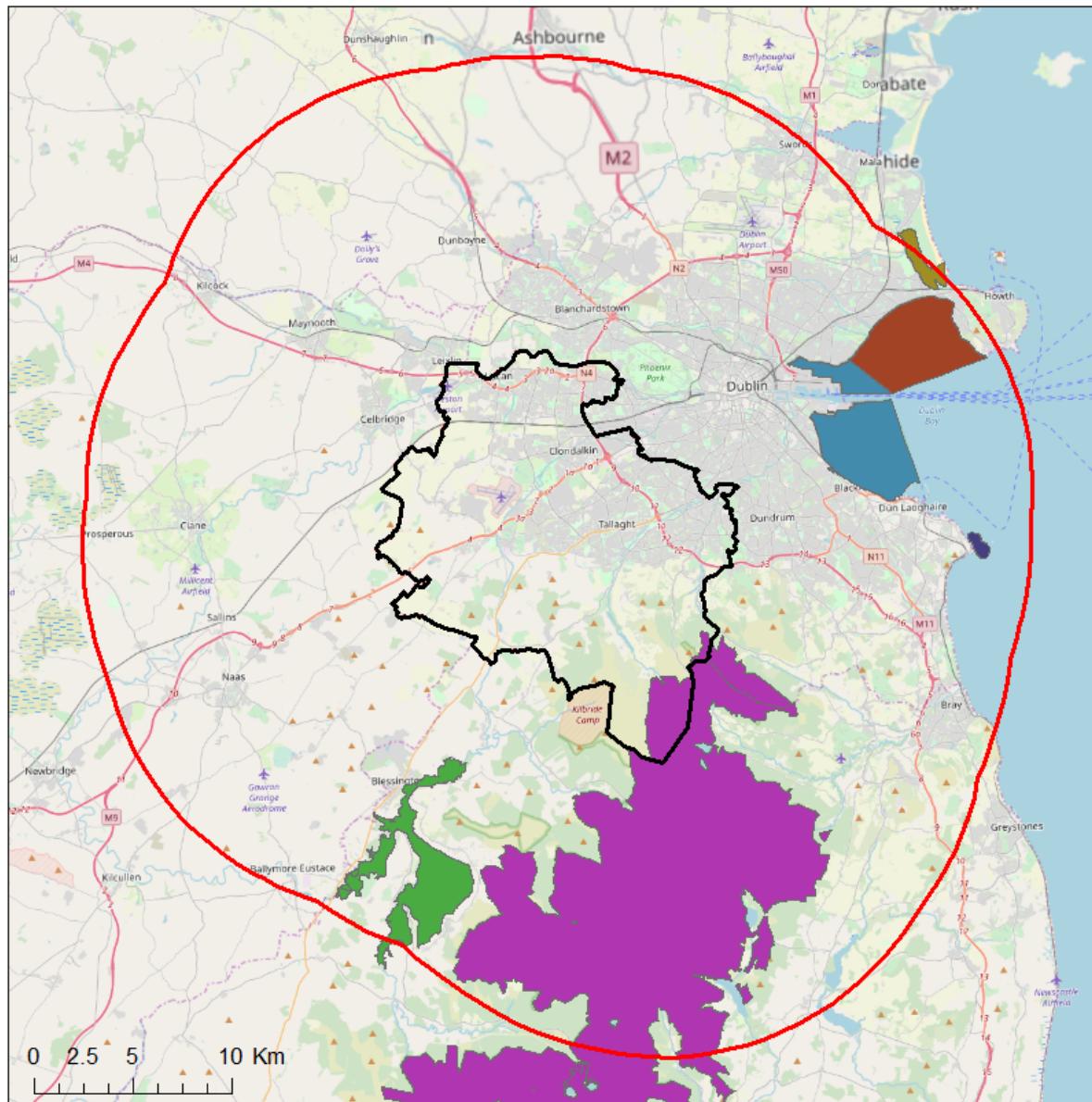
SPAs within 15km Buffer

### Site Name

- Baldoyle Bay
- Dalkey Islands
- North Bull Island
- Poulaphouca Reservoir
- S. Dublin Bay & R. Tolka Estuary
- Wicklow Mountains



Drawn By	PD
Date	02/10/2019
Data Source	OSM



## SDCC CDP Variation No. 5

Figure 4.3

### SPAs within 15km of the Plan Area

- Plan Area
- 15km Buffer

### SPAs within 15km Buffer

#### Site Name

- Bald Doyle Bay
- Dalkey Islands
- North Bull Island
- Poulaphouca Reservoir
- S. Dublin Bay & R. Tolka Estuary
- Wicklow Mountains



Drawn By	PD
Date	02/10/2019
Data Source	OSM

**Table 4.1: European Sites within 15km of the Proposed Variation Area**

<b>European Sites</b>	<b>Distance from Study Area</b>	<b>Qualifying Features of Interest/Special Conservation Interests</b>
South Dublin Bay SAC	4.5km to the east	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p>
North Dublin Bay SAC	8.5km to the northeast	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p>

		Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]
		Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]
		Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]
		Humid dune slacks [2190]
		<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1394]
South Dublin Bay & Tolka Estuary SPA	4.5km to the east	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> )
		Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> )
		Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> )
		Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> )
		Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> )
		Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> )

		Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> )
		Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> )
		Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> )
		Black-headed Gull ( <i>Croicocephalus ridibundus</i> )
		Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> )
		Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> )
		Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> )
North Bull Island SPA	8.5km to the north east	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> )
		Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> )
		Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> )
		Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> )

	Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> )
	Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> )
	Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> )
	Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> )
	Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> )
	Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> )
	Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> )
	Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> )
	Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> )
	Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> )
	Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> )

			Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> )
			Black-headed Gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> )
Knocksink SAC	Woods	5.4km to the southeast	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]
			Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]
Glenasmole SAC	Valley	Within South Dublin County boundary	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]
			Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410]
			Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]
Wicklow Mountain SAC	Mountain	Within South Dublin County boundary	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorellatalia uniflorae) [3110]
			Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]
			Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]

	European dry heaths [4030]
	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]
	Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]
	Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]
	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]
	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8110]
	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]
	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]
	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]
	<i>Lutra</i> (Otter) [1344]

Rye Water Valley SAC	0.008km to the west	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]
		Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]
		Vertigo mouliniana (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]
Wicklow Mountain SPA	Within South Dublin County Boundary	Merlin (Falco columbarius)
		Peregrine (Falco peregrinus)
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	11.9km to the southeast	Reefs [1170]
		Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1341]
Ballynafagh Bog SAC	14.6km to the west	Active raised bogs [7110]
		Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]
		Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7140]

Bray Head SAC	13.8km to the southeast	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]
		European dry heaths [4030]
Baldoyle Bay SAC	14.0 km to the northeast	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
		Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]
		Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330]
		Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410]
Howth Head SAC	13.6km to the northeast	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]
		European dry heaths [4030]
Red Bog, Kildare SAC	5.2km to the southwest	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]
Ballyman Glen SAC	8.6km to the east	Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220]
		Alkaline fens [7230]

Carriggower Bog SAC	13.0km to the southeast	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]
Glen Of The Downs SAC	13.4km to the southeast	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	5.1km to the southwest	Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043] Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183]
Dalkey Islands SPA	11.7km to the east	Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192] Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193] Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194]
Baldoyle Bay SPA	14.0km to the northeast	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046] Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048] Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141]

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Project Title: *SDCC CDP Variation No. 5*  
Document Title: *Screening for Appropriate Assessment*

Date: *Oct. 2019*  
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		Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A147]
		Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

## **4.2 EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN THE ZONE OF INFLUENCE OF THE PROPOSED VARIATION**

The next step of this Screening Exercise is to identify which, if any, of the European Sites identified in Section 4.1 above occur within the zone of influence of the proposed Variation. Three European Sites (Glenasmole Valley SAC, Wicklow Mountains SAC and Wicklow Mountains SPA) are located within the boundary of South Dublin County. In the event that elements of the proposed Variation are identified as having the potential to result in land use activities that could result in negative environmental effects<sup>3</sup> then these three European Sites will be located within the zone of influence of the Variation by virtue of their location within the Plan Area.

All other sites are located outside the Plan Area. Where elements of the proposed Variation are identified as having the potential to result in land use activities and where these activities could result in negative ecological effects, then these European Sites will be located within the zone of influence of the Variation where a pathway connects the European Site to the Plan Area. Table 4.2 lists the eighteen European Sites occurring within a 15km radius of the plan area and identifies whether or not these European Sites are located within the zone of influence of the plan.

A source-pathway-receptor model has been used to establish which of these European Sites could occur within the zone of influence of the proposed Variation. Under such a model the proposed Variation, as described in Section 3 above, represents the source.

The receptors represent European Sites and their associated qualifying features of interest.

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<sup>3</sup> **Section 5 of this Screening Report assesses the potential for land use activities to arise following the implementation of the proposed Variation and in the event that such activities do arise whether they will have the potential to result in negative impacts to European Sites.**

European Sites and their associated qualifying features are identified as occurring in the zone of influence of the project where pathways establish a link between the Variation lands and European Sites or where the project site is likely to play an important role in supporting populations of mobile species that are listed as special conservation interests/qualifying species for surrounding European Sites. Pathways are restricted to hydrological, noise, lighting and disturbance pathways.

A hydrological pathway is established where a European Site is located downstream of the Plan Area, or upstream of the Plan Area where qualifying feature of interest of the European Site includes freshwater dependent mobile qualifying species.

A noise disturbance pathway is established where the European Sites is located within 500m of the boundary of the plan area. European Sites at a greater distance than 500m will not be sensitive to noise emissions that could be generated by any land use activities that may arise as a result of the proposed variation.

A light disturbance pathway is established where the European Sites is located within 250m of the boundary of the plan area. European Sites at a greater distance than 250m will not be sensitive to light emissions that could be generated by any land use activities that may arise as a result of the proposed variation.

A general disturbance (i.e. resulting from human-related activities) pathway is established where the European Sites is located within 500m of the boundary of the plan area. European Sites at a greater distance than 500m will not be sensitive to human-related activities that may arise as a result of the proposed variation.

**Table 4.2: Identification of European Sites outside the Plan Area that Occur Within the Zone of Influence of the Plan Area & Proposed Variation**

European Sites	Hydrological Pathway	Noise Pathway	Light Pathway	Human-related Disturbance Pathway	Does the European Site occur within the zone of influence of the Plan?
South Dublin Bay SAC	The Plan area is located upstream of this SAC but there is no functional hydrological impact pathway connecting the Plan area to this SAC. Modelling of the Liffey Estuary and Dublin Bay has shown that the waters from the Liffey draining into Dublin Bay are deflected east and north towards Dollymount and Howth. The presence of the South Great Wall in Dublin Bay provides a barrier to the movement of waters towards the south (Dowly & Bedri, 2007; Bedri et al., 2012; Camp, Dresser & McKee, 2012). As such there is no effective hydrological pathway between the project site and this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 4.5km to the east of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 4.5km to the east of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 4.5km to the east of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.

North Dublin Bay SAC	<p>The Plan area is located upstream of this SAC. Waters generated in the SAC drain to the Liffey catchment, which in turn drains to Dublin Bay where this SAC is located. However published research (see Dowly &amp; Bedri, 2007; Bedri et al., 2012; Camp, Dresser &amp; McKee, 2012; O'Higgins and Wilson, 2005; Wilson and Jackson, 2011) has shown that the water quality of the Liffey Estuary does not influence the water quality of Dublin Bay and does not influence the status of this SAC. In light of this published research no function hydrological impact pathway connects the plan area to this SAC.</p>	<p>No. This SAC is located 4.5km to the east of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.</p>	<p>No. This SAC is located 4.5km to the east of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.</p>	<p>No. This SAC is located 4.5km to the east of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.</p>	<p>No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.</p>
South Dublin Bay & Tolka Estuary SPA	<p>The Plan area is located upstream of this SPA. Waters generated in the SPA drain to the Liffey catchment, which in turn drains to Dublin Bay where this SPA is located. However published research (see</p>	<p>No. This SPA is located 4.5km to the east of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.</p>	<p>No. This SPA is located 4.5km to the east of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.</p>	<p>No. This SPA is located 4.5km to the east of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.</p>	<p>No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.</p>

	Dowly & Bedri, 2007; Bedri et al., 2012; Camp, Dresser & McKee, 2012; O'Higgins and Wilson, 2005; Wilson and Jackson, 2011) has shown that the water quality of the Liffey Estuary does not influence the water quality of Dublin Bay and does not influence the status of this SPA. In light of this published research no function hydrological impact pathway connects the plan area to this SPA.				
North Bull Island SPA	The Plan area is located upstream of this SPA. Waters generated in the SPA drain to the Liffey catchment, which in turn drains to Dublin Bay where this SPA is located. However published research (see Dowly & Bedri, 2007; Bedri et al., 2012; Camp, Dresser & McKee, 2012; O'Higgins and Wilson, 2005; Wilson and Jackson, 2011) has shown that the water quality of the Liffey Estuary does not influence the water	No. This SPA is located 4.5km to the east of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 4.5km to the east of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 4.5km to the east of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.

	quality of Dublin Bay and does not influence the status of this SPA. In light of this published research no function hydrological impact pathway connects the plan area to this SPA.				
Knocksink Woods SAC	There are no hydrological pathways connecting the Plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 5.4km to the south of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 5.4km to the south of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 5.4km to the south of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.
Rye Water Valley SAC	This SAC is located upstream of the plan area and does not support any mobile qualifying species that could be influenced by land use activities within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 0.08km to the west of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 0.08km to the west of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 0.08km to the west of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.
Baldoyle Bay SAC	There are no hydrological pathways connecting the Plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 14km to the north of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 14km to the north of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 14 km to the north of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.
Baldoyle Bay	There are no	No. This SPA is located 14km	No. This SPA is located 14km to	No. This SPA is located 14	No. This European Site is

SPA	hydrological pathways connecting the Plan area to this SPA.	to the north of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	the north of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.	km to the north of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.
Howth Head SAC	There are no hydrological pathways connecting the Plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 13.6km to the north of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 13.6km to the north of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 13.6 km to the north of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.
Ballynafagh Bog SAC	There are no hydrological pathways connecting the Plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 14.5km to the north of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 14.5km to the north of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 14.5km to the north of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.
Red Bog, Kildare SAC	There are no hydrological pathways connecting the Plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 5.2km to the south of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 5.2km to the south of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 5.2km to the south of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.
Ballyman Glen SAC	There are no hydrological pathways connecting the Plan area	No. This SAC is located 8.6km to the west of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within	No. This SAC is located 8.6km to the west of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the	No. This SAC is located 8.6km to the west of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any	No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any

	to this SAC.	the plan area.	plan area.	human-related activity generated within the plan area.	impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.
Bray Head SAC	There are no hydrological pathways connecting the Plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 5.2km to the north of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 5.2km to the north of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 5.2km to the north of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.
Carrigower Bog SAC	There are no hydrological pathways connecting the Plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 13km to the southeast of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 13km to the southeast of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 13km to the southeast of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.
Glen Of The Downs SAC	There are no hydrological pathways connecting the Plan area to this SAC.	No. This SAC is located 13.4km to the southeast of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 13.4km to the southeast of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SAC is located 13.4km to the southeast of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	There are no hydrological pathways connecting the Plan area to this SPA.	No. This SPA is located 5.1km to the southwest of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 5.1km to the southwest of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 5.1 km to the southwest of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan	No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.

				area.	
Dalkey Islands SPA	There are no hydrological pathways connecting the Plan area to this SPA.	No. This SPA is located 11.7km to the east of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any noise generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 11.7km to the east of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any light generated within the plan area.	No. This SPA is located 11.7km to the east of the plan area and is outside the zone of influence of any human-related activity generated within the plan area.	No. This European Site is located outside the zone of influence of the project due to the absence of any impact pathways between the plan area and this Site.

In summary Table 4.1 above has not identified any European Sites occurring within the wider 15km area surrounding the plan area as occurring within the zone of influence of the proposed Variation. As such the only European Sites identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the proposed variation are those occurring within the plan area, namely Glenasmole Valley SAC, Wicklow Mountains SAC and Wicklow Mountains SPA.

The next step of this Screening is to examine the proposed Variation and assess its potential to result in land use activities and if so to assess the potential for these activities to result in negative impacts to the three European Sites occurring within the zone of influence of the plan area.

## **5.0 ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN THAT COULD GIVE RISE TO LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS**

The main purpose of the Variation No 5 is to amend the Landuse Zoning Tables to make advertisements in some zones open to consideration and also to append the Advertising Strategy to the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022 (SDCCDP). The advertising strategy aims to reflect technological advances and the contribution or enhancement where appropriate of advertising in the public realm.

In terms of the land use effects of the provision of advertising in zones open for consideration, as outlined in Section 3 and Figure 3.1 above, these will be small in scale and involve works associated with the installation of advertising stands and signage. The impact of installation works associated with the provision of advertising will be small in scale and have a negligible potential to result in negative ecological impacts to the locations in which they are to be provided. This assessment is based on the footprint likely to be required for the provision of advertising stands and signage (which will be restricted to the upright posts associated with stands and signage and also the location of areas open for consideration, which in general do not overlap with area supporting sensitive ecological receptors).

Furthermore it is noted that the lands within the plan area that are designated as European Sites (i.e. Glenasmole Valley SAC and Wicklow Mountains SAC and SPA) are located within Zone 4 of the Advertising Strategy where a strong presumption against outdoor advertising will be implemented during the lifetime of the SDCCDP.

Thus given the negligible ecological impacts likely to arise as a result of the installation of outdoor advertising along with the location of the European Sites within the plan area in Zone 4 where there will be a strong presumption against outdoor advertising it is concluded that the proposed Variation will not have the potential to result in land use activities or effects that will have the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites occurring within the zone of influence of the plan area.

## **6.0 IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS WITH OTHER PLANS & PROJECTS**

As part of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3) assessment process consideration must be given to the potential for the Variation to combine with other plans or projects to result in cumulative negative effects to European Sites. Consideration has been given for this Plans potential to combine with a number of other plans relevant to the wider surrounding area. These plans include:

- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)
- Climate Change Action Plan for South Dublin 2019-2024
- The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area, 2016-2034
- Water Services Strategic Plan
- Neighbouring County Development Plans
- River Basin District Management Plans
- CFRAMS Study
- Greater Dublin Drainage
- The Greater Dublin Transport Strategy 2016-2034
- South Dublin Heritage Plan 2014-2019.

Given that the proposed Variation, as identified in Section 5 above will not result in land use effects, or will not result in land use activities that have the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites, there will be no potential for the adoption of the Advertising Strategy and the provision of outdoor advertising to combine with the above listed plans and projects, or any other plans or projects to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.

## 6.1 SCREENING MATRIX

A Screening Matrix, in line with European Commission (2001) guidelines is provided below in Table 6.1.

**Table 6.1: Screening Matrix for the proposed Variation.**

Brief description of the project or plan	The project and associated activities are described in Section 3 above.
Brief description of the European Sites	The European Sites occurring in the wider surrounding area are identified and briefly described in Section 4.1 and 4.2 above.
Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the European Sites.	The land use implications of the proposed Variation have been assessed in Section 5 of this Screening Report and it has been found that the provision of outdoor advertising in accordance with the proposed Advertising Strategy will not have the potential, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European Sites site by virtue of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• size and scale;</li><li>• land-take;</li><li>• distance from the Natura 2000 site or key features of the site;</li><li>• resource requirements (water abstraction etc.);</li></ul>	The proposed Variation to the SDCCDP will not result in land use effects that have the potential, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to result in likely significant effects to European Sites. In light of this conclusions there will be no potential for the proposed Variation to result in direct, indirect or secondary effects to European Sites.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emissions (disposal to land, water or air);</li> <li>• excavation requirements;</li> <li>• transportation requirements;</li> <li>• duration of construction, operation, decommissioning, etc.;</li> </ul>	
<p>Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduction of habitat area;</li> <li>• disturbance to key species;</li> <li>• habitat or species fragmentation;</li> <li>• reduction in species density;</li> <li>• changes in key indicators of conservation value</li> <li>• (water quality etc.);</li> <li>• climate change.</li> </ul>	<p>The proposed Variation will not result in land use effects that have the potential to result in the:</p> <p>Reduction in the extent of qualifying habitats of European Sites in the wider surrounding area;</p> <p>Disturb qualifying species of European Sites in the wider surrounding area, or disturb the species that underpin the status of qualifying habitats of European Sites in the wider surrounding area;</p> <p>Fragmentation of qualifying habitats or species populations;</p> <p>Changes in key indicators of conservation value such as water quality or the attributes that underpin the conservation status of qualifying feature of interest of European Sites in the wider surrounding area;</p> <p>Emission of greenhouse gases that could contribute towards climate changes.</p>
<p>Describe any likely impacts on the European Sites site as a whole in terms of:</p> <p>interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site;</p> <p>interference with key relationships that define the function of the site</p>	<p>As the proposed Variation, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, will not have the potential to interact with any European Sites or their qualifying features of interest, it will not have the potential to interfere with key relationships that define the structure and function of European Sites.</p>
<p>Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss;</li> <li>• fragmentation;</li> <li>• disruption;</li> <li>• disturbance;</li> <li>• change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc.).</li> </ul>	<p>As the proposed Variation, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, will not have the potential to interact with any European Sites or their qualifying features of interest it will not have the potential to result in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss of qualifying habitats or habitats upon which qualifying species rely;</li> <li>• fragmentation qualifying habitats or</li> </ul>

	<p>habitats upon which qualifying species rely;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• disruption qualifying habitats or habitats upon which qualifying species rely;</li><li>• disturbance qualifying habitats, habitats upon which qualifying species rel or qualifying species;</li><li>• change to key elements of European Sites (e.g. water quality etc.).</li></ul>
<p>Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known.</p>	<p>The project will not have the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.</p>

## 7.0 SCREENING CONCLUSION

The Screening of the proposed Variation, as set out in Section 3 and assessed in Section 5 and 6 above, shows that the land use elements of the proposed Variation will not result in land use effects that will have the potential, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.

In light of the findings of this report it is the considered view of the authors of this Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment that it can be concluded by South Dublin County Council that the proposed Variation no. 4 to the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022 is not likely, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Sites in view of their Conservation Objectives and on the basis of best scientific evidence and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion.

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