

Appendix 6.1

Protected Sites for Nature Conservation in the Vicinity of the Proposed Development

The Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European sites in the vicinity of the Proposed development site (see Figure 6.2)

Site Name	Distance	Designation – QIs or SCIs
SAC's		
North Dublin Bay SAC [000206]	Located c.6.76km east of Proposed Development	<p><u>Annex I Habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]; • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]; • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]; • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]; • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]; • 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]; and • Humid dune slacks [2190]. <p><u>Annex II Species:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> [1395]. <p>Source: Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. Version 1. (NPWS 2013) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2020)</p>
Baldoyle Bay SAC [000199]	Located c.7.4km northeast of Proposed Development	<p><u>Annex I Habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]; • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]; • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]; and • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]. <p>Source: Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SAC 000199. Version 1. (NPWS 2012) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2018)</p>
Malahide Estuary SAC [000205]	Located c.7.46km northeast of Proposed Development	<p><u>Annex I Habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140];

- *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310];
- *Spartina* swards (*Spartinion maritimae*) [1320];**
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330];
- Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410];
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]; and
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)* [2130].

Source: Conservation Objectives: Malahide Estuary SAC 000205. Version 1. (NPWS 2013) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2020)

South Dublin Bay SAC [000210] Located c.7.9km southeast of Proposed Development

Annex I Habitats:

- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140];
- Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210];
- *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]; and
- Embryonic shifting dunes [2110].

Source: Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1. (NPWS 2013) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2020)

Howth Head SAC [000202] Located c.10.9km east of the Proposed Development

Annex I Habitats:

- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]; and
- European dry heaths [4030].

Source: Conservation Objectives: Howth Head SAC 000202. Version 1. (NPWS 2016) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2018)

Rogerstown Estuary SAC [000208] Located c.11.2km northeast of the Proposed Development

Annex I Habitats:

- Estuaries [1130];
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140];
- *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310];
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330];

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]; • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]; and • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)* [2130]. <p>Source: Conservation Objectives: Rogerstown Estuary SAC 000208. Version 1. (NPWS, 2013) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2019)</p>
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [003000]	Located c.11.7km east of the Proposed Development	<p><u>Annex I Habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reefs [1170]. <p><u>Annex II Species:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> [1351]. <p>Source: Conservation Objectives: Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000. Version 1. (NPWS 2013) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2019)</p>
Ireland's Eye SAC [002193]	Located c.12.2km east of the Proposed Development	<p><u>Annex I Habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]; and • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]. <p>Source: Conservation Objectives: Ireland's Eye SAC 002193. Version 1. (NPWS 2017) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2020)</p>
Lambay Island SAC [000204]	Located c.17.4km northeast of the Proposed Development	<p><u>Annex I Habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reefs [1170] • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] <p><u>Annex II Species:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> [1364] • Harbour seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i> [1365] <p>Source: Conservation objectives for Lambay Island SAC [000204]. Version 1.0. (NPWS 2013) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2019)</p>
SPA's		
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [004024]	Located c.5km south-east of the Proposed Development	<p><u>Special Conservation Interests:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046]; • Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A130]; • Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A137]; • Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A140];

- Knot *Calidris canutus* [A143];
- Sanderling *Calidris alba* [A144];
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina* [A149];
- Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* [A157];
- Redshank *Tringa totanus* [A162];
- Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [A179];
- Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* [A192];
- Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* [A193];
- Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* [A194]; and
- Wetlands and Waterbirds [A999].

Source: Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024. Version 1. (NPWS 2015) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2020)

North Bull Island SPA [004006]

Located c. 6.75km south-east of the Proposed Development

Special Conservation Interests:

- Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* [A046];
- Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* [A048];
- Teal *Anas crecca* [A052];
- Pintail *Anas acuta* [A054];
- Shoveler *Anas clypeata* [A056];
- Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* [A130];
- Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* [A140];
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* [A141];
- Knot *Calidris canutus* [A143];
- Sanderling *Calidris alba* [A144];
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina* [A149];
- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* [A156];
- Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* [A157];
- Curlew *Numenius arquata* [A160];
- Redshank *Tringa tetanus* [A162];
- Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* [A169];
- Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [A179]; and
- Wetlands and Waterbirds [A199].

Source: Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006. Version 1. (NPWS 2015) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2020)

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Malahide Estuary SPA [004025]	Located c. 7.47km north-east of the Proposed Development	<p>Special Conservation Interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> [A005];• Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046];• Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A048];• Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> [A054];• Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> [A067];• Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> [A069];• Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A130];• Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A140];• Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A141];• Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A143];• Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149];• Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A156];• Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157];• Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A162]; and,• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]. <p>Sources: Conservation Objectives: Malahide Estuary SPA 004025. Version 1. (NPWS 2013) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2020)</p>
Baldoyle Bay SPA [004016]	Located c. 7.5km east of the Proposed Development	<p>Special Conservation Interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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];• Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157]; and• Wetlands and Waterbirds [A999]. <p>Sources: Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016. Version 1. (NPWS 2013) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2020)</p>
Rogerstown Estuary SPA [004015]	Located c. 11.58km north-east of the Proposed Development	<p>Special Conservation Interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i> [A043];• Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046];• Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A048];• Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A056];

- Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* [A130];
 - Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* [A137];
 - Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* [A141];
 - Knot *Calidris canutus* [A143];
 - Dunlin *Calidris alpina* [A149];
 - Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* [A156];
 - Redshank *Tringa totanus* [A162]; and,
 - Wetland and Waterbirds [A999].
- Source: Conservation Objectives: Rogerstown Estuary SPA 004015. Version 1. (NPWS, 2013) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2020)

Ireland's Eye SPA [004117]	Located c.11.98km east of the Proposed Development	<p>Special Conservation <u>Interests</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A017]; • Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> [A184]; • Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [A188]; • Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> [A199]; and • Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i> [A200]. <p>Source: Conservation objectives for Ireland's Eye SPA [004117]. Generic Version 8.0. (NPWS 2021) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2020)</p>
Howth Head Coast SPA [004113]	Located c. 13.25km east of the Proposed Development	<p>Special Conservation <u>Interests</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [A188]. <p>Source: Conservation objectives for Howth Head Coast SPA [004113]. Generic Version 8.0. (NPWS 2021) and Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form (NPWS 2020)</p>

** 1320 *Spartina* swards (*Spartinion maritima*) habitat is included within the conservation objectives document for Malahide Estuary SAC, but not within the Statutory Instruments document. This is likely because *Spartina* is an invasive alien species in Ireland.

Appendix A2: Nationally designated sites in the vicinity of the proposed development site

National Site Name [Code] ¹	Distance	Designation
Santry Demesne pNHA [000178]	Located c.180m north of Proposed Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of legally protected plant species, hairy St. John's-

¹ Only pNHAs considered to have potential source-pathway-receptor links or where risk of potential impact exists are listed in Appendix A. pNHAs shown on Figure 5.2 and not listed in Appendix A.2 are considered to fall outside the zone of influence of the proposed development due to the distance between the proposed development site and the pNHA and lack of source-pathway-receptor links, mainly hydrological.

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		wort <i>Hypericum hirsutum</i> , and woodland habitat.
North Dublin Bay pNHA [000206]	Located c. 5.4km southeast of Proposed Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Listed under similar conservation objectives as its SAC and SPA designations. See Appendix A.1 under North Dublin Bay SAC, North Bull Island SPA and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA
South Dublin Bay pNHA [00210]	Located c.8.2km northeast of Proposed Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Listed under similar conservation objectives as its SAC and SPA designations. See Appendix A under South Dublin Bay SAC and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA
Howth Head pNHA [000202]	Located c.12km east of Proposed Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Listed under similar conservation objectives as its SAC and SPA designations. See Appendix A.1 under Howth Head SAC and Howth Head Coast SPA
Baldoyle Bay pNHA [000199]	Located c.8.6km northeast of the Proposed Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Listed under similar conservation objectives as its SAC and SPA designations. See Appendix A.1 under Baldoyle Bay SAC and Baldoyle Bay SPA

Appendix 6.2

Desk Top Study returned from NBDC online database

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Species returned from the NBDC online database as occurring within 10km of the Proposed Development

Common Name / Scientific Name	Legal Status	Red List Status	Source
Plants			
Bearded Pawwort <i>Barbilophozia barbata</i>	n / a	Critically endangered	NBDC online database record
Dittander <i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	n / a	Vulnerable	NBDC online database record
Irish Whitebeam <i>Sorbus hibernica</i>	n / a	Vulnerable	NBDC online database record
Meadow Crane's-bill <i>Geranium pratense</i>	n / a	Vulnerable	NBDC online database record
Megapolitan Feather-moss <i>Rhynchostegium megapolitanum</i>	n / a	Near threatened	NPWS Consultation 2021
Water-violet <i>Hottonia palustris</i>	n / a	Critically endangered	NBDC online database record
Wild clary <i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	n / a	Least concern	NPWS Consultation 2021
Blunt-fruited Pottia <i>Tortula modica</i>	n / a	Vulnerable	NBDC online database record
Lance-leaved Pottia <i>Tortula lanceola</i>	n / a	Critically endangered	NBDC online database record
Shady Beard-moss <i>Didymodon umbrosus</i>	n / a	Vulnerable	NBDC online database record
Tall Aloe-moss <i>Aloina ambigua</i>	n / a	Endangered	NBDC online database record
Twisting Thread-moss <i>Bryum torquescens</i>	n / a	Vulnerable	NBDC online database record
Curved Hard-grass <i>Parapholis incurva</i>	n / a	Endangered	NBDC online database record
Prickly Poppy <i>Papaver argemone</i>	n / a	Vulnerable	NBDC online database record

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Common Name / Scientific Name	Legal Status	Red List Status	Source
Prostrate Broom <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> subsp. <i>maritimus</i>	n / a	Vulnerable	NBDC online database record
Shady Beard Moss <i>Didymodon umbrosus</i>	n / a	Vulnerable	NPWS Consultation 2021
Wild Clary <i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	n / a	Vulnerable	NBDC online database record
Glass-wort Feather-moss <i>Scleropodium tourettii</i>	n / a	Endangered	NBDC online database record
Many-seasoned Thread-moss <i>Bryum intermedium</i>	n / a	Endangered	NBDC online database record, Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 - 2020
Mammals			
Brown Long-eared Bat <i>Plecotus auritus</i>	HD IV, WA	Least concern	NBDC online database record
Daubenton's Bat <i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	HD IV, WA	Least concern	NBDC online database record
Eurasian Badger <i>Meles meles</i>	WA	Least concern	NBDC online database record, Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 - 2020
European Hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	WA	Least concern	NBDC online database record
European Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	HD II, HD IV, WA	Least concern	NBDC online database record, Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 - 2020
Lesser Noctule <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	HD IV, WA	Least concern	NBDC online database record, Dublin City Biodiversity

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Common Name / Scientific Name	Legal Status	Red List Status	Source
			Action Plan 2015 - 2020
Nathusius's Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	HD IV, WA	Least concern	NBDC online database record
Natterer's Bat <i>Myotis nattereri</i>	HD IV, WA	Least concern	NBDC online database record, Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 - 2020
Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato</i>	HD IV, WA	Least concern	NBDC online database record, Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 - 2020
Soprano Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	HD IV, WA	Least concern	NBDC online database record, Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 - 2020
Whiskered Bat <i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	HD IV, WA	Least concern	NBDC online database record, Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 - 2020
Birds			
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	WA	Red	NBDC online database record
Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	WA	Amber	NBDC online database record
Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	WA	Amber	NBDC online database record, Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 - 2020
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record

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Common Name / Scientific Name	Legal Status	Red List Status	Source
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	BD I, WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Coal Tit <i>Periparus ater</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Common Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Common Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Common Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Common Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	SCI, BD II(I) BD III(II), WA	Amber	NBDC online database record
Common Linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	WA	Amber	NBDC online database record
Common Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Common Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	WA	Amber	NBDC online database record
Common Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	SCI, BD II(II) BD III(III), WA	Red	NBDC online database record
Common Wood Pigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	BD II(I) BD III(I), WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Eurasian Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record

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Common Name / Scientific Name	Legal Status	Red List Status	Source
Eurasian Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Eurasian Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Eurasian Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
European Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
European Greenfinch <i>Carduelis chloris</i>	WA	Amber	NBDC online database record
European Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	WA	Amber	NBDC online database record
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	SCI, WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	WA	Red	NBDC online database record
Hedge Accentor <i>Prunella modularis</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	WA	Amber	NBDC online database record
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	WA	Amber	NBDC online database record
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online

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Common Name / Scientific Name	Legal Status	Red List Status	Source
			database record
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	SCI, BD II(I) BD III(I), WA	Amber	NBDC online database record
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	WA	Amber	NBDC online database record
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	SCI, BD I, WA	Green	NBDC online database record, Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 - 2020
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	WA	Red	NBDC online database record
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	SCI, BD II(I) BD III(II), WA	Amber	NBDC online database record
White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	SCI, BD I, WA	Amber	NBDC online database record
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	WA	Green	NBDC online database record
Reptiles			
Common Lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	WA	n / a	NBDC online database record, Dublin City Biodiversity

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Common Name / Scientific Name	Legal Status	Red List Status	Source
			Action Plan 2015 - 2020
Amphibians			
Common Frog <i>Rana temporaria</i>	HD II	Least concern	NBDC online database record, Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 - 2020
Fish			
European Eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	OSPAR, Fisheries Acts	Critically endangered	NBDC online database record
Brown Trout <i>Salmo trutta</i>	Protected under Fisheries Acts and fishing bylaws	Least Concern	IFI Consultation (2020)
Three spined stickleback <i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>	Protected under Fisheries Acts	Least concern	IFI Consultation (2020)
Invertebrates			
Buffish Mining Bee <i>Andrena nigroaenea</i>	n / a	Vulnerable	NBDC online database record
Leaf Miner Beetle <i>Bagous alismatis</i>	n / a	Critically endangered	NBDC online database record
Moss Carder-bee <i>Bombus muscorum</i>	n / a	Near threatened	NBDC online database record
Red-tailed Carder bee <i>Bombus ruderarius</i>	n / a	Vulnerable	NBDC online database record

Appendix 6.3

Examples of Valuing Important Ecological Features

International Importance:

- 'European Site' including Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Site of Community Importance (SCI), Special Protection Area (SPA) or proposed Special Area of Conservation.
- Proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA).
- Site that fulfils the criteria for designation as a 'European Site' (see Annex III of the Habitats Directive, as amended).
- Features essential to maintaining the coherence of the Natura 2000 Network.²
- Site containing 'best examples' of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive.
- Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the national level)³ of the following:
 - Species of bird, listed in Annex I and/or referred to in Article 4(2) of the Birds Directive; and/or
 - Species of animal and plants listed in Annex II and/or IV of the Habitats Directive.
- Ramsar Site (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially Waterfowl Habitat 1971).
- World Heritage Site (Convention for the Protection of World Cultural & Natural Heritage, 1972).
- Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO Man & The Biosphere Programme).
- Site hosting significant species populations under the Bonn Convention (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979).
- Site hosting significant populations under the Berne Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979).
- Biogenetic Reserve under the Council of Europe.
- European Diploma Site under the Council of Europe.
- Salmonid water designated pursuant to the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations, 1988, (S.I. No. 1988).⁴

National Importance:

- Site designated or proposed as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA).
- Statutory Nature Reserve.
- Refuge for Fauna and Flora protected under the Wildlife Acts.
- National Park.
- Undesignated site fulfilling the criteria for designation as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA); Statutory Nature Reserve; Refuge for Fauna and Flora protected under the Wildlife Act; and/or a National Park.
- Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the national level)⁵ of the following:
 - Species protected under the Wildlife Acts; and/or
 - Species listed on the relevant Red Data list.

² See Articles 3 and 10 of the Habitats Directive

³ It is suggested that, in general, 1% of the national population of such species qualifies as an internationally important population. However, a smaller population may qualify as internationally important where the population forms a critical part of a wider population or the species is at a critical phase of its life cycle.

⁴ Note that such waters are designated based on these waters' capabilities of supporting salmon (*Salmo salar*), trout (*Salmo trutta*), char (*Salvelinus* spp) and whitefish (*Coregonus* spp.)

⁵ It is suggested that, in general, 1% of the national population of such species qualifies as a nationally important population. However, a smaller population may qualify as nationally important where the population forms a critical part of a wider population or the species is at a critical phase of its life cycle.

REPORT

- Site containing 'viable areas'⁶ of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive

County Importance:

- Area of Special Amenity.⁷
- Area subject to a Tree Preservation Order.
- Area of High Amenity, or equivalent, designated under the County Development Plan.
- Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the County level)⁸ of the following:
 - Species of bird, listed in Annex I and/or referred to in Article 4(2) of the Birds Directive;
 - Species of animal and plants listed in Annex II and/or IV of the Habitats Directive;
 - Species protected under the Wildlife Acts; and/or
 - Species listed on the relevant Red Data list.

Site containing area or areas of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive that do not fulfil the criteria for valuation as of International or National importance.

Local Importance (higher value):

- Locally important populations of priority species or habitats or natural heritage features identified in the Local BAP, if this has been prepared;
- Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the Local level)⁹ of the following:
 - Species of bird, listed in Annex I and/or referred to in Article 4(2) of the Birds Directive;
 - Species of animal and plants listed in Annex II and/or IV of the Habitats Directive;
 - Species protected under the Wildlife Acts; and/or
 - Species listed on the relevant Red Data list.
- Sites containing semi-natural habitat types with high biodiversity in a local context and a high degree of naturalness, or populations of species that are uncommon in the locality;
- Sites or features containing common or lower value habitats, including naturalised species that are nevertheless essential in maintaining links and ecological corridors between features of higher ecological value.

Local Importance (lower value):

- Sites containing small areas of semi-natural habitat that are of some local importance for wildlife;
- Sites or features containing non-native species that are of some importance in maintaining habitat links.

⁶ A 'viable area' is defined as an area of a habitat that, given the particular characteristics of that habitat, was of a sufficient size and shape, such that its integrity (in terms of species composition, and ecological processes and function) would be maintained in the face of stochastic change (for example, as a result of climatic variation).

⁷ It should be noted that whilst areas such as Areas of Special Amenity, areas subject to a Tree Preservation Order and Areas of High Amenity are often designated on the basis of their ecological value, they may also be designated for other reasons, such as their amenity or recreational value. Therefore, it should not be automatically assumed that such sites are of County importance from an ecological perspective.

⁸ It is suggested that, in general, 1% of the County population of such species qualifies as a County important population. However, a smaller population may qualify as County important where the population forms a critical part of a wider population or the species is at a critical phase of its life cycle.

⁹ It is suggested that, in general, 1% of the local population of such species qualifies as a locally important population. However, a smaller population may qualify as locally important where the population forms a critical part of a wider population or the species is at a critical phase of its life cycle.