

# NATURA IMPACT REPORT

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IN SUPPORT OF THE  
**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

FOR  
**PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS**  
TO THE

**DRAFT**  
**LEITRIM COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**  
**2023-2029**

**for: Leitrim County Council**

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County Leitrim



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# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the “Habitats Directive”) and the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

This report is part of the overall and ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Draft Plan. It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, when Leitrim County Council finalises the AA at adoption of the Plan. All Plan and AA related documentation will be considered by the planning authority in advance of the adoption of the Plan and a final AA Determination will be undertaken by the planning authority at adoption. An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared following adoption, which will detail the AA process undertaken for the Plan.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>1</sup>. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Some of these submissions resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan.

## 1.2 Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the “favourable conservation status” of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as European sites and Natura 2000.

AA is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse or negative effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European Site. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe’s most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

## 1.3 Approach

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and grey literature<sup>2</sup> was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives (including spatial data collected for the most recent Article 17 conservation status reporting cycle, 2019).

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<sup>1</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

a) no alternative solution available,  
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and  
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>2</sup> Various documents where publishing, in journals for example, is not the primary activity of the producing body. Examples include: conference presentations; regulatory data; unpublished trial data; government publications; and dissertations/theses.

In addition to being informed by these reports, the Natura impact Report was also informed by the Council's new Draft County Development Plan 2023-2029 and accompanying the SEA Environmental Report.

All of these data sources are likely to be useful for AAs that must be undertaken for lower-tier plans/projects under the Plan.

The ecological desktop study completed for the AA of the Draft Plan and Proposed Material Alterations comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European Sites within 15 km of the Plan boundary with identification of potential pathway links for specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15 km from the Plan boundary;
- Review of the NPWS site synopsis and conservation objectives for European Sites with identification of potential pathways from the Plan area; and
- Examination of available information on protected species.

There are four main stages in the AA process are as follows:

#### **Stage One: Screening**

The process that identifies the likely impacts upon a European Site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

#### **Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment**

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European Site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts. If adequate mitigation is proposed to ensure no significant adverse impacts on the integrity of European Sites, then the process may end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage Three.

#### **Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**

The process that examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the European Site.

#### **Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain**

An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any effects on European sites by identifying possible effects early in the plan-making process and avoiding such effects. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse effects on the site(s) remain. If potential effects on European sites remain, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan/project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect(s).

The assessment of potential effects on European Sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor<sup>3</sup> model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

In the interest of this report, receptors are considered as the ecological features that are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European Site. A source is any identifiable element of the Plan provision that is known to interact with ecological processes. The

<sup>3</sup> Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works; Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European Sites.

pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the Plan and Proposed Material Alterations.

Furthermore, the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is proposed is also taken into account.

The AA exercise is being undertaken taking into account legislation including the aforementioned legislation and guidance including the following:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009;
- "Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018;
- "Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission Environment DG, 2021; and
- "Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission, 2000.

## Section 2 Description of the Draft Plan and associated Proposed Material Alterations

The Draft Plan provides for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Leitrim over the period 2023-2029. It consists of a number of volumes with Volume 1 providing a written statement and maps over 13 chapters as follow:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Core Strategy
- Chapter 3: Housing
- Chapter 4: Economic Development, including Retail
- Chapter 5: Tourism
- Chapter 6: Urban Settlements
- Chapter 7: Sustainable Communities
- Chapter 8: Transportation
- Chapter 9: Infrastructure and Energy
- Chapter 10: Rural Development
- Chapter 11: Heritage
- Chapter 12: Climate Action and Renewable Energy
- Chapter 13: Development Management Standards

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>4</sup>.

Appendix I of the Written Statement contains a Statement prepared in accordance with Section 28 (1A) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) demonstrating how the Planning Authority in preparing the Development Plan has implemented the policies and objectives set out in Ministerial Guidelines issued under Section 28 of the Act.

Volume II contains Settlement Plans for towns and villages. Volume III comprises the Book of Maps for both Volume I (Written Statement) and for Volume II (Settlement Plans). Volume IV contains the proposed Record of Protected Structures. The Plan also includes a range of supporting documents and strategies, including this AA Natura Impact Report.

The vision for Leitrim proposed for the County Development Plan 2023-2029 is:

“County Leitrim to be a vibrant, creative, economically strong, socially inclusive, progressive and distinctive county, providing a quality experience for all who live in, work in, invest in and visit our county, fostering the development and wellbeing of our communities, offering excellent opportunities for employment across a diverse range of sectors, embracing the challenges which climate change presents in a responsible and practical manner while protecting, conserving and enhancing the best of the natural and built environment”.

In order to achieve this Overall Vision, the County Development Plan contains a number of strategic aims which are set out in this section. These aims are then expanded upon in the individual chapters which follow:

1. To guide the future development of Leitrim in line with the principles and objectives provided in the NPF and in the RSES for our region including the population projections set out therein;
2. To promote and facilitate the development of the county in accordance with the provisions of the Core Strategy, including directing appropriate levels of residential development in line with the Settlement hierarchy;
3. To ensure that towns and villages grow at a sustainable and appropriate level whilst pursuing a compact growth policy and seeking to better integrate transport and land use planning at a level practicable to Co. Leitrim;

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<sup>4</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

a) no alternative solution available,  
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and  
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

4. To develop Carrick on Shannon (Key Town) as a settlement of regional scale for accelerated population growth through the delivery of significant compact growth and developing identified derelict and under utilised sites, with an initial focus within the town core. Carrick on Shannon is also identified as a key driver of economic development in the county.
5. To deliver at least 30% of all new homes that are targeted in Carrick on Shannon, Ballinamore and Manorhamilton within the existing built-up footprints on infill and/or brownfield sites with a reduced target of 20% for the remaining lower tier settlements in the Settlement Hierarchy.
6. To pursue balanced growth elsewhere within the county at an appropriate scale based upon the varied growth potential of different places to include individual houses in rural areas. The Core Strategy targets housing and employment growth in settlements that have the capacity to absorb such growth in a sustainable manner with the commensurate provision of the required supporting social infrastructure and community facilities.
7. To support a rural housing policy for the open countryside which will seek to balance the need to sustain rural communities with the need to protect Leitrim's natural heritage, environment and landscape qualities. The rural housing policy will differentiate between the pressure for one off housing in the areas surrounding large towns (Carrick on Shannon and the impact of Sligo extending into Co. Leitrim) where an economic and social tie to an area must be established from the remainder of the countryside.
8. To support the appropriate and sustainable development of rural areas by encouraging growth and arresting decline in areas that have experienced low population growth or decline in recent decades and by managing the growth of areas that are under strong urban influence to avoid over-development, while sustaining vibrant rural communities.
9. To promote Carrick on Shannon as the main retail centre in the County with the provision of retail in other centres commensurate with their roles.
10. To support the vitality and viability of existing town and village centres and facilitate a competitive and healthy environment for the retailing sector by ensuring that future growth in retail floorspace responds to the identified retail hierarchy, the sequential approach, and the needs of the projected population of the settlement areas.
11. To create the appropriate conditions necessary to foster a healthy and vibrant retail environment in the county.
12. Include objectives to support proposals for regeneration, rejuvenation of vacant and derelict sites, town and village centre renewal and public realm enhancement.
13. To support, in principle, development that addresses climate change in terms of adaptation and mitigation measures including increasing flood resilience, the promotion of sustainable transport options and the development of renewable energy technologies where possible to achieve a successful transition to a low carbon economy.

Underpinning the strategic aims above in relation to population growth, housing requirements and the future spatial development of our county are the following complementary strategic aims which are integral in delivering the vision for the county during the period 2023-2029:

1. To build on the regional-level linkages between County Leitrim and other parts of the Northern and Western Region (with particular emphasis on the Sligo Regional Growth Centre) and adjoining regions such as the Eastern and Midlands Region and Fermanagh & Omagh District Council in Northern Ireland and by supporting the implementation of regional spatial and economic strategies, collaborating on support for critical enabling infrastructure, such as inter-regional road linkages, and co-operating on areas of mutual planning interest;
2. To target Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Irish Indigenous industries to appropriate zoned locations and build on the economic strengths and tourism opportunities of County Leitrim in a balanced and sustainable manner focusing on the considerable opportunities within our county;
3. To facilitate the provision of and improvements to community, social and recreational infrastructure and ensure universal access to all to such facilities throughout the county for all its residents;
4. To facilitate job creation within the county to ensure that the county grows in a sustainable manner;
5. To provide for sustainable transport infrastructure and connectivity including walking and cycling infrastructure and initiatives and optimize the return of investment on infrastructure while preserving the natural and built heritage;
6. To achieve a sustainable, integrated and low carbon transport system for the county and to protect, improve and extend water services and other enabling infrastructure in line with national, regional and local population and economic growth for the county;



#### Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

7. To protect, conserve and enhance the built, natural and cultural environment through promoting awareness, utilizing relevant heritage legislation and promoting good quality urban and rural design;
8. To support the development of key infrastructure such as telecommunications, electricity and sources of renewable energy to enable and facilitate economic development.
9. To ensure co-ordination between land use zoning and infrastructure availability through the implementation of the 'Tiered Approach to Land Use Zoning' as required under the NPF.

The Proposed Material Alterations are outlined in detail in the accompanying Proposed Material Alteration document. The Material Alterations propose a number of text and map-based changes to the Draft Plan.

## Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

### 3.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any potential significant effects to European Sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. An important element of the AA process is the identification of the “conservation objectives”, “Qualifying Interests” (QIs) and/ or “Special Conservation Interests” (SCIs) of European Sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each European Site has been designated and afforded protection. SCIs are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that the threats to the ecological / environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs are considered as part of the assessment.

The following NPWS Generic Conservation Objectives have been considered in the screening:

- For SACs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected; and
- For SPAs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat<sup>5</sup> or species<sup>6</sup> at that site have also been considered.

Furthermore, the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is proposed is also taken into account.

### 3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km buffer zone to be considered. Although sites beyond this buffer zone would be considered if relevant, a review of all sites within this zone has allowed a conclusion to be made that, in the absence of significant hydrological links, the characteristics of the Proposed Material Alterations will not impose effects beyond the 15 km buffer. The assessment process also considers hydrogeological processes and possible effects to ground water with respect to ground water sensitive habitats and species.

Details of European Sites that occur within 15 km of the County are provided in Table 3.1 and mapped on Figure 3.1. Details of European Sites that occur outside the 15 km buffer zone of the County, but which are downstream are also provided in Table 3.1, and mapped on Figure 3.2. Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) have been considered by both the AA screening assessment (provided under this section) and Stage 2 AA (provided under Section 4). Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the most up to date National Parks and Wildlife Service Conservation Objective documents;

- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Melvin SAC [IE0000428] Version 8.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC [IE0000584] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC [IE0000623] Ver. 8.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC [IE0000625] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Arroo Mountain SAC [IE0001403] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Glenade Lough SAC [IE0001919] Version 8.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Gill SAC [IE0001976] Version 8.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Boleybrack Mountain SAC [IE0002032] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Donegal Bay SPA [IE0004151] Version 1.

<sup>5</sup> Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

<sup>6</sup> The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

## Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA [IE0004187] Version 8.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Clooneen Bog SAC [IE0002348] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Lough Forbes Complex SAC [IE0001818] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Ballykenney-Fisherstown Bog SPA [IE0004101] Version 8.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC [IE0000007] Version 8.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC [IE0002303] Version 8.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Oughter SPA [IE0004049] Version 8.
- DAERA (2015) Conservation Objectives for West Fermanagh Scarplands SAC UK0030300 Version 2.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Streedagh Point Dunes SAC [IE0001680] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Corratirrim SAC [IE0000979] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Unshin River SAC [IE0001898] Version 8.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC [IE0000627] Ver. 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Cummeen Strand SPA [IE0004035] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Drumcliff Bay SPA [IE0004013] Version 1.
- DAERA (2017) Conservation Objectives for Cuilcagh Mountain SAC UK0016603 Version 2.1
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Brown Bog SAC [IE0002346] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC [IE0002164] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Arrow SAC [IE0001673] Version 8.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Union Wood SAC [IE0000638] Version 8.
- DAERA (2017) Conservation Objectives for Pettigoe Plateau SAC UK0016607 Version 2.1.
- DAERA (2017) Conservation Objectives for Pettigoe Plateau SPA UK9020051 Version 3.
- DAERA (2015) Conservation Objectives for Largaliny SAC UK0030045 Version 2.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA [IE0004234] Version 8.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Durnesh Lough SAC [IE0000138] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Durnesh Lough SPA [IE0004145] Version 8.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Ballysadare Bay SAC [IE0000622] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Ballysadare Bay SPA [IE0004129] Version 1.
- DAERA (2015) Conservation Objectives for Monawilkin SAC UK0016619 Version 2.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Arrow SPA [IE0004050] Version 8.
- DAERA (2015) Conservation Objectives for Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River SAC (UK0030116) Version 2.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Ballintra SAC [IE0000115] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Bricklieve Mountains & Keishcorran SAC [IE0001656] Version 8.
- DAERA (2015) Conservation Objectives for Moninea Bog SAC UK0030212 Version 2.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for St. John's Point SAC [IE0000191] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC [IE0001626] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Tamur Bog SAC [IE0001992] Version 1.
- DAERA (2015) Conservation Objectives for Upper Lough Erne SAC UK0016614 Version 2.
- DAERA (2015) Conservation Objectives for Upper Lough Erne SPA (UK9020071) Version 3.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC [IE0000133] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Inishmurray SPA [IE0004068] Version 8.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Mount Jessop Bog SAC [IE0002202] Version 8.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Lough Ree SAC [IE0000440] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Ree SPA [IE0004064] Version 8.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for River Shannon Callows SAC [IE0000216] Version 8.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Middle Shannon Callows SPA [IE0004096] Version 8.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC [IE0002241] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA [IE0004058] Version 8.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Lower River Shannon SAC [IE0002165] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA [IE0004077] Ver. 1.

The assessment considers available conservation objectives. Since conservation objectives focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each site, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential effects of the Proposed Material Alterations against the QIs/SCIs of each site. The conservation objectives for each site were consulted throughout the assessment process.

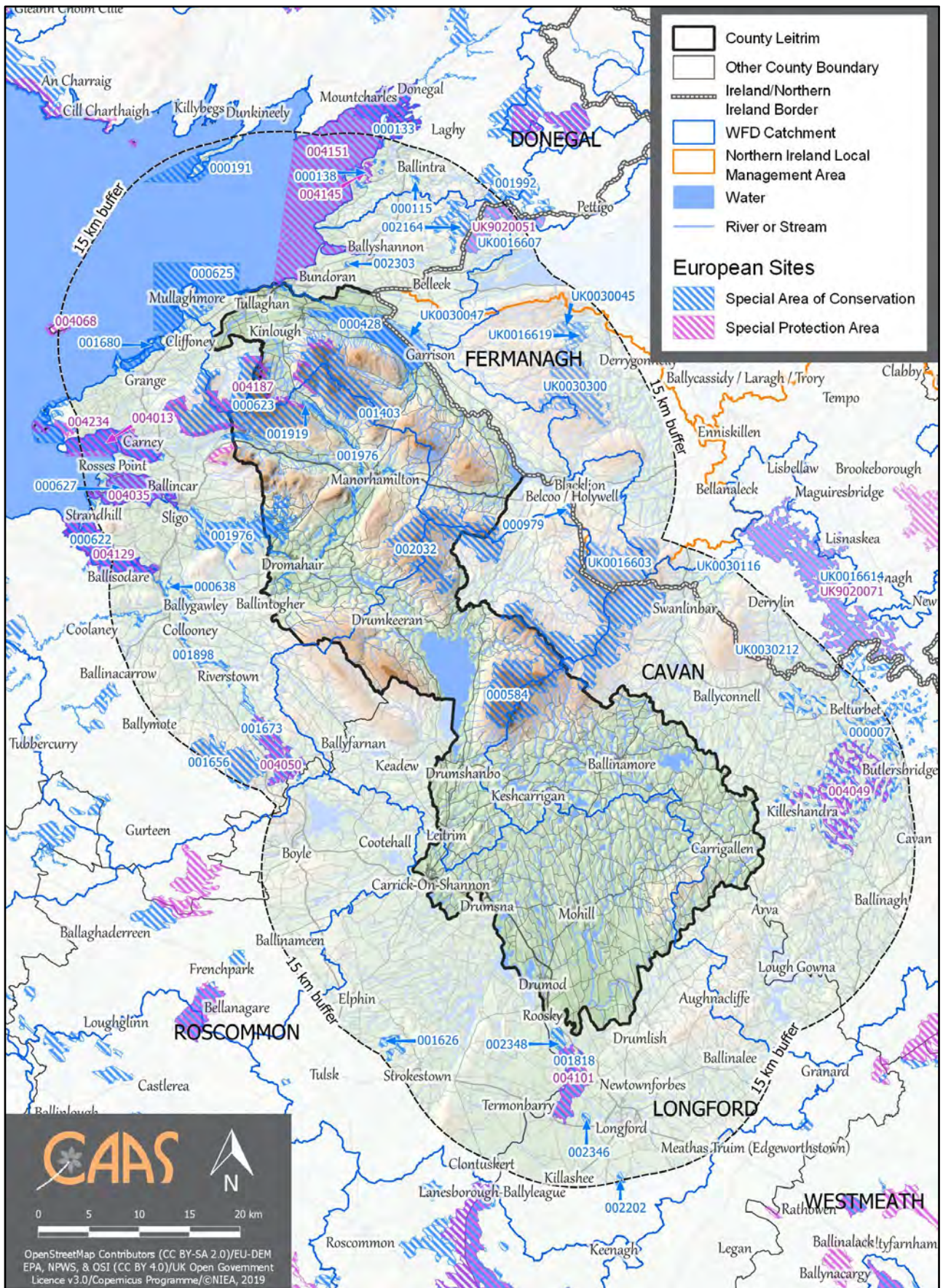


Figure 3.1 European Sites within 15 km buffer zone of County Leitrim

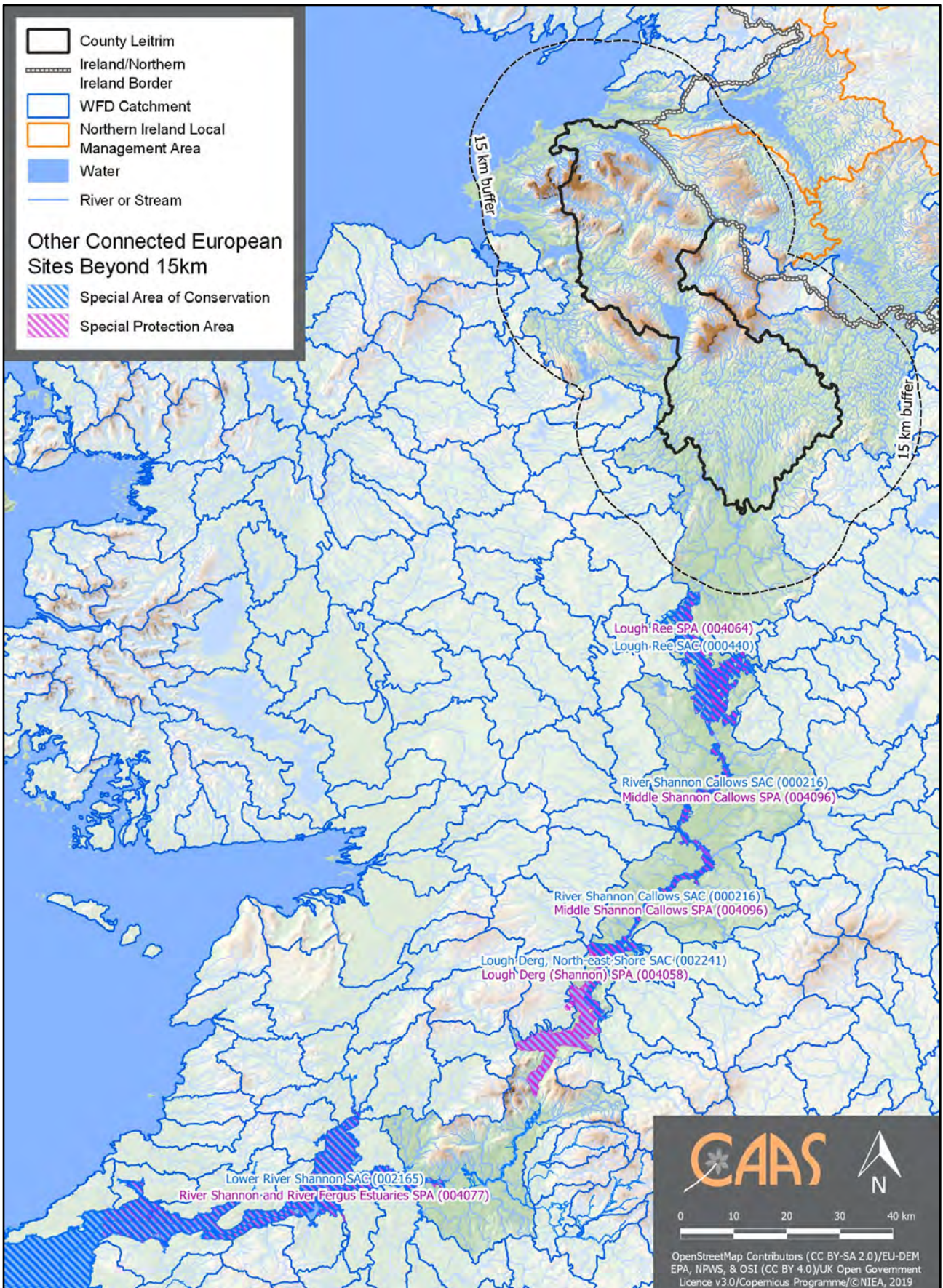


Figure 3.2 European Sites hydrologically linked to County Leitrim

## 3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

### 3.3.1 Is the Plan Necessary to the Management of European Sites?

The overarching objective of the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to coordinate and plan the future development of Leitrim. Therefore, the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites.

### 3.3.2 Elements of the Draft Plan with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

The Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, provides a framework for the sustainable development of the Leitrim area. Plan elements that could potentially the integrity of European Sites include:

- Provisions (such as those relating to: housing, economic development, tourism, urban settlements, sustainable communities, transportation, infrastructure and energy, rural development, heritage and climate action and renewable energy) that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation; and
- Increasing visitors to sensitive areas during the operational phase of, for example, recreational developments.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>7</sup>.

The potential for Proposed Material Alterations to result in effects on designated European sites is examined on Table 3.1.

### 3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 examines whether there is potential for effects on European Sites considering information provided above. Furthermore, the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is proposed is also taken into account.

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<sup>7</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:  
a) no alternative solution available,  
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and  
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

**Table 3.1 AA Screening Analysis of Proposed Material Alterations**

Ref	AA Screening Consideration
1	This alteration would further contribute towards provisions related to this sector/topic that are already contained within the Draft Plan. Considering the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; and/or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b> Refer also to Section 5.
2	A future plan, strategy, etc. would not result in different environmental outcomes or effects. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b> Was such an assessment to be followed by recommendations, such as varying the Plan, such recommendations would have to be subject to SEA and AA screening and other requirements as appropriate.
3	The update to terminology/language/wording/numbering/mapping would not change the effects arising from the Plan. Where the change relates to mapping, the implications of the change may have been considered under other related Alterations. As such, this alteration would not be considered as being likely to result in significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
4	This alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for, summarises and/or provides clarification to Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have additional significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
5	This alteration adds more detail but would not have the potential to result in effects on any European site. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
6	This alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and/or with the wider planning and policy framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
7	Removal of this provision would remove the potential for effects on any European site; however, removal of the provision would not be likely to result in any effect on any European site. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
8	These alterations relate to supporting documents but would not change Plan provisions. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
9	Considering the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. However, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As this alteration could be considered mitigation, in relation to the Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites under the Plan, further to that already included in the Draft Plan (see Section 5), with the objective of protecting the integrity of European Sites brought to Stage 2 under the ongoing AA being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan, <b>it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA.</b>
10	As this alteration could potentially impact upon the protection of a European site(s), <b>Stage 2 AA is required.</b> Effects from this alteration are considered further under Section 4 of this report.

No.	AA Screening Consideration Ref. – see above	No.	AA Screening Consideration Ref. – see above
MA 1	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 77	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 2	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 78	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 3	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 79	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 4	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 80	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 5	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 81	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 6	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 82	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 7	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 83	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 8	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 84	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 9	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 85	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 10	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 86	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 11	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 87	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 12	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 88	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 13	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 89	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 14	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 90	10
MA 15	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 91	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 16	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 92	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 17	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 93	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 18	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 94	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 19	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 95	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 20	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 96	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 21	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 97	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 22	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 98	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 23	10	MA 99	9
MA 24	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 100	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 25	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 101	9
MA 26	10	MA 102	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 27	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 103	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 28	10	MA 104	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required





Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

<b>No.</b>	<b>AA Screening Consideration Ref. – see above</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>AA Screening Consideration Ref. – see above</b>
MA 70	9	MA 146	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 71	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 147	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 72	9	MA 148	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 73	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 149	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 74	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 150	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 75	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	MA 151	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
MA 76	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required		

### 3.4 Other Plans and Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely affect European Sites. Appendix II outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, to cause in-combination effects to European Sites. These plans / programmes / strategies were considered throughout the assessment.

The Draft Plan sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, recreation, environmental protection and environmental management, which have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant. The Plan must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions and will, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the years 2018-2040. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSEs for the Northern and Western Region 2020-2032 sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the County Development Plan.

As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Draft County Development Plan is consistent with and conforms with national and regional Policy Objectives, plans and programmes, including the NPF and the RSEs for the Northern and Western Region. The County Development Plan may, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions, such as Local Area Plans that will be subject to their own lower-tier environmental assessments.

In order to be realised, projects included in the County Development Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, Policy Objectives, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

All projects within the Draft Plan area, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, and receiving environment will be considered in combination with any and all lower tier projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan. Given the uncertainties that exist with regard to the scale and location of developments facilitated by the Draft Plan, it is recognised that the identification of in-combination effects is limited and that the assessment of in-combination effects will need to be undertaken in a more comprehensive manner at the project-level.

Additional information on the relationship with other plans and programmes is provided at Appendix II.

### 3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. As part of that AA, it was identified that the Plan may, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 24 (no.) European sites. Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites include:

- Provisions (such as those relating to: housing, economic development, tourism, urban settlements, sustainable communities, transportation, infrastructure and energy, rural development, heritage and climate action and renewable energy) that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation; and
- Increasing visitors to sensitive areas during the operational phase of, for example, recreational developments.

Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone

or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>8</sup>. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Some of these submissions resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan.

Taking into the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site as a result of all Proposed Material Alterations, apart from<sup>9</sup>:

- MA 23
- MA 26
- MA 28
- MA 29
- MA 30
- MA 32
- MA 36
- MA 52
- MA 90
- MA 114
- MA 138

Furthermore, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As certain Proposed Material Alterations<sup>10</sup> could be considered to be mitigation in relation to Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites, further to the mitigation already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA.

It is therefore advised that pursuant to Section 12 (7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that Stage 2 AA is required for the above Proposed Material Alterations.

An AA Screening Determination accompanies the Proposed Material Alterations document.

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<sup>8</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>9</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

<sup>10</sup> MA 65, MA 67, MA 69, MA 70, MA 72, MA 99 and MA 101.

## Section 4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

### 4.1 Introduction

Taking into the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site as a result of all Proposed Material Alterations, apart from<sup>11</sup>:

- MA 23
- MA 26
- MA 28
- MA 29
- MA 30
- MA 32
- MA 36
- MA 52
- MA 90
- MA 114
- MA 138

The Stage 2 AA assesses potential adverse impacts on the integrity of the 24 (no.) European Sites, brought forward from screening under the overall AA for the Plan, that may be mitigated by these Proposed Material Alterations.

Furthermore, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As certain Proposed Material Alterations<sup>12</sup> could be considered to be mitigation in relation to Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites, further to the mitigation already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA.

### 4.2 Characterisation of European Sites Potentially Affected

The overall AA Screening for the Draft Plan identified 24 (no.) European Sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Plan. Appendix I characterises each of the qualifying features of the (no.) European Sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites' vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website<sup>13</sup>.

### 4.3 Identifying, Characterising and Mitigating Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts<sup>14</sup>:

**Direct and Indirect Impacts** - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a Plan/Project.

**Magnitude** - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.

**Extent** - The area over that the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.

**Duration** - The time that the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.

- Temporary: Up to 1 Year;
- Short Term: The effects would take 1-7 years to be mitigated;
- Medium Term: The effects would take 7-15 years to be mitigated;
- Long Term: The effects would take 15-60 years to be mitigated; and
- Permanent: The effects would take 60+ years to be mitigated.

**Likelihood** – The probability of the effect occurring taking into account all available information.

<sup>11</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

<sup>12</sup> MA 65, MA 67, MA 69, MA 70, MA 72, MA 99 and MA 101.

<sup>13</sup> Last accessed 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022 <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>

<sup>14</sup> These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2016) "Guidelines for ecological impact assessment"; Environmental Protection Agency (2002) "Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements"; and National Roads Authority (2009) "Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes".

- Certain/Near Certain: >95% chance of occurring as predicted;
- Probable: 50-95% chance as occurring as predicted;
- Unlikely: 5-50% chance as occurring as predicted; and
- Extremely Unlikely: <5% chance as occurring as predicted.

**Ecologically Significant Impact** - An impact (negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographic area.

**Integrity of a Site** - The coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

The Habitats Directive requires the focus of the assessment at this stage to be on the integrity of the site as indicated by its Conservation Objectives. It is an aim of NPWS to draw up conservation management plans for all areas designated for nature conservation. These plans will, among other things, set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest within a site.

Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) have been prepared for a number of European Sites. These detailed SSCO aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes that define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

*Favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when: 'population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.'*

*Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when: 'its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.'*

Generic Conservation Objective for SACs:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species that the SAC has been selected.

Generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:

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

#### 4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects

Assessment of potential effects on European Sites is conducted utilising a standard source-pathway model (see approach referred to under Sections 1.3 and 3). The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and climate change. Each of these potential changes are considered below and in Table 4.1 with reference to the QIs/SCIs of all of the European Sites brought forward from Stage 1 of the AA process (see Section 3).

If adopted as part of the Plan, various Proposed Material Alterations<sup>15</sup> could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects on the integrity of European sites.

MA 23, MA 26, MA 28, MA 29, MA 30, MA 32, MA 36, MA 52, MA 90, MA 114 and MA 138 further provide for development and activities that are already provided for by the Draft Plan, including those relating to tourism, recreation, walking/cycling infrastructure, bioenergy and unfinished housing. As the alterations could potentially impact upon the protection of European sites. Such developments and

<sup>15</sup> MA 65, MA 67, MA 69, MA 70, MA 72, MA 99 and MA 101.

activities, including the construction and operation of infrastructure and associated land use activities, could potentially impact upon various European sites under the various headings as detailed below.

#### 4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

The Plan provides for development across the County with specific settlements and areas identified to facilitate more intensive development in these areas.

As identified above County Leitrim has several European Sites within it; therefore, there is potential for effects to European Sites as a result of the Plan; however, several mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that its implementation will not result in the loss of any habitat necessary for the ecological integrity of any European Site, such as NH POL 1<sup>16</sup>, NH POL 2<sup>17</sup>, NH POL 3<sup>18</sup>, NH POL 4<sup>19</sup>, NH POL 5<sup>20</sup>, NH POL 6<sup>21</sup>, NH POL 7<sup>22</sup>, NH OBJ 1<sup>23</sup>, NH OBJ 2<sup>24</sup>, NH OBJ 3<sup>25</sup> and TWH OBJ 1<sup>26</sup>.

Invasive species can cause a reduction in habitat area or habitat quality for many native floral and faunal species within European sites. However, policies within the Plan such as; IS POL 1<sup>27</sup> address the risk and seek to control the spread of current populations and introduction of additional invasive species to the Plan area.

These provisions ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

#### 4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

As previously stated, the Plan provides for developments which have associated effects. These effects could result in the fragmentation of habitat and or species through light pollution, habitat loss and/or removal of stepping stone habitats, for example. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects in relation to fragmentation on the ecological integrity of any European Site.

The Plan recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European Sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. The Plan provides Policies and Objectives to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as riparian zones and hedgerows. These include NH POL 6<sup>28</sup>, NH OBJ 7<sup>29</sup>, NH OBJ 8<sup>30</sup>, NH OBJ 9<sup>31</sup>, TWH OBJ 1<sup>32</sup>, POLL OBJ 1<sup>33</sup> and LCA POL 4<sup>34</sup> (see full list of measures reproduced

<sup>16</sup> To protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.

<sup>17</sup> To implement Article 6(3) and where necessary Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, including to ensure that Appropriate Assessment is carried out in relation to works, plans and projects with the potential to impact European sites (SACs and SPAs), whether directly or indirectly or in combination with any other plan(s) or project(s). All assessments must be in compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, and the Planning and Development Act, as relevant.

<sup>18</sup> To protect designated Natural Heritage Area (NHA) sites, including proposed Natural Heritage Area sites (pNHA) and seek to develop linkages between designated sites and other non-designated sites of ecological importance, where feasible and as resources permit.

<sup>19</sup> To consult with relevant prescribed bodies, such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service (DoHLGH), and take account of any licensing requirements when undertaking, approving and authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species or habitats protected by law.

<sup>20</sup> To ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on plant, animal or bird species or habitats protected by law, subject to satisfactory mitigation measures.

<sup>21</sup> To protect and where possible enhance wildlife habitats and landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows and road verges, and to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (such as ponds, wetlands, trees) which are not within designated sites.

<sup>22</sup> To treat the uplands of North Leitrim located above the 160m contour, as an ecologically-sensitive entity, where these uplands are not already designated as such.

<sup>23</sup> To ensure that no project or programme giving rise to significant adverse, direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site(s), having regard to their qualifying interests and conservation objectives, arising from their size, scale, area or land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) - Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>24</sup> To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) during the lifetime of this plan. The list of current SACs is contained in Table 1 of this chapter.

<sup>25</sup> To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Protection Areas during the lifetime of this plan. There is current one SPA in Co. Leitrim which is contained in Table 2 of this chapter.

<sup>26</sup> To use Tree Preservation Orders to protect important trees, groups of trees or woodlands, as appropriate which may be at risk or have an amenity, biodiversity or historic value during the lifetime of this plan.

<sup>27</sup> To require relevant development proposals to address the presence or absence of invasive alien species on proposed development sites and (if necessary) require applicants to prepare and submit an Invasive Species Management Plan where such a species exists to comply with the provisions of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015.

<sup>28</sup> To protect and where possible enhance wildlife habitats and landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows and road verges, and to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (such as ponds, wetlands, trees) which are not within designated sites.

<sup>29</sup> To encourage appropriate management of landscape features, particularly through the development management process and using planning agreements with landowners and developers, where appropriate.

<sup>30</sup> To identify and map over the lifetime of the Plan habitats and green infrastructure / sites of local biodiversity value of county importance and to raise awareness and understanding of the county's natural heritage and biodiversity.

<sup>31</sup> To support the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

<sup>32</sup> To use Tree Preservation Orders to protect important trees, groups of trees or woodlands, as appropriate which may be at risk or have an amenity, biodiversity or historic value during the lifetime of this plan.

<sup>33</sup> To manage and restore semi-natural habitats and their native plants on Council land in as far as is practicable and affordable.

<sup>34</sup> To seek to ensure that local landscape features, including historic features and buildings, hedgerows, shelter belts and stone walls, are retained, protected and enhanced where appropriate, so as to preserve the local landscape and character of an area, whilst providing for future development.

at Section 5 of this report). Inappropriate lighting for wildlife and wildlife corridors will be minimised through the implementation of Policies, including PL POL 1<sup>35</sup>.

Further to these provisions there are Policy Objectives related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats, such as waterways, wetlands and peatlands. These provisions apply to all plans, programmes and/or projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan and will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation will not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

#### 4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

Disturbance effects are caused by any activity that has potential to alter the movement patterns/distribution of species. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. This is particularly relevant in relation to recreation/tourism, from the perspective that many of the recreation/tourism destinations or attractions in the area are in or adjacent to European Sites. Many European sites within Leitrim County have recreational related pressures such as water sports or hiking trails as known threats and pressures. In the context of these pressures, provisions such as ADV TOUR POL1<sup>36</sup>, ADV TOUR OBJ 2<sup>37</sup> and ADV TOUR OBJ 4<sup>38</sup> provide for the sustainable management of tourism with regard to protection and preservation of designated areas and important features, and thus, the cumulative impacts of recreation across sites within the Plan area.

The Draft Plan accounts for noise pollution effects through provisions such as NP POL 1<sup>39</sup> and NP OBJ 1<sup>40</sup>, affording protection to European sites by ensuring any projects that arise from the implementation of the Draft Plan avoid or minimise noise in compliance with the Environmental Noise Directive and associated National Regulations through the Leitrim County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023.

Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality due to anthropocentric sensitivities for species such as the hen harrier (which is known to occur within Leitrim County). Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the Draft Plan; identified above (further details see Section 5). Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the Draft Plan; identified above, further details see Section 5.

The measures referred to above are robust to ensure that any sensitive habitat features or species will be identified and only compliant applications will be granted.

#### 4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density

Species densities are reliant on species distributions, habitat condition, connectivity of ecological resources and availability of resources such as prey/food. The Draft Plan introduces potential sources for effects to affect these four determinant factors for species densities in the form of construction phase effects such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat encroachment, trampling etc. However, the Draft Plan contains provisions to enhance biodiversity, landscape and the environment within Leitrim through measures such as NH OBJ 9<sup>41</sup>, TWH POL 3<sup>42</sup>, PEAT POL 1<sup>43</sup>, WET POL 3<sup>44</sup>, FRM POL 9<sup>45</sup> and WQ OBJ 2<sup>46</sup>. Similarly, the Draft Plan recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. Further to these

<sup>35</sup> To control lighting in urban and rural areas and in particular in sensitive locations, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity, habitats and species of importance.

<sup>36</sup> To develop the water-based leisure sector in the region in a sustainable manner making the best use of existing and planned infrastructure and resources, in a manner that is sensitive to the natural and cultural heritage resources.

<sup>37</sup> To support the development of infrastructure and tourism enterprises which increase the tourism offering on waterways including boating, canoeing, angling, water sports, bird watching, and the provision of storage, shelters and other facilities to enhance the user experience subject to planning permission and only where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

<sup>38</sup> To prepare Habitat and Visitor Management Plans for the protection of areas which are particularly sensitive to visitors subject to the availability of funding. The first such plan will be developed for Sheemore.

<sup>39</sup> To support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.

<sup>40</sup> To implement the actions contained in the Leitrim Noise Plan 2018-2023 (or any replacement Plan) which seeks to address environmental noise from major roads in the county and which endeavours to maintain satisfactory noise environments where they exist.

<sup>41</sup> To support the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

<sup>42</sup> To support the Native Woodland and Neighbourhood schemes and other initiatives that aim to establish and enhance woodlands for recreational and wildlife benefits, in partnership with local communities.

<sup>43</sup> To conserve peatlands and protect peatland landscapes within the County.

<sup>44</sup> To ensure that all proposed land zonings take cognisance of appropriate riparian setback distances that support the attainment of high ecological status for water bodies, the conservation of biodiversity and good ecosystem health, and buffer zones from flood plains.

<sup>45</sup> To ensure that in assessing applications for developments, that consideration is had to the impact on the quality of surface waters having regard to targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 and any subsequent local or regional plans.

<sup>46</sup> To achieve our targets of attaining and maintaining a minimum of 'good status' in all water bodies in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and to co-operate with the implementation of the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, and subsequent replacement plans. This includes contributing towards the protection of blue dot catchments and drinking water resources whilst having cognisance of the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Documents No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

provisions there are objectives related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as NH OBJ 4<sup>47</sup> and NH POL 6<sup>48</sup>.

These policies apply to all plans, programmes and projects that may arise due to the implementation of the plan. Measures relating to light pollution, noise pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation are addressed above (further detailed in Section 5). In addition to this, the Draft Plan identifies policy objectives to protect and improve water quality interactions which can influence species densities. There are also a number of provisions relating to protective buffer zones, further assessment requirements as well as commitments to increasing water quality standards etc. These measures are detailed across the Draft Plan; however, Chapters 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Draft Plan are focused on issues including biodiversity, the environment and water quality. Further details in relation to the mitigation measures incorporated into the text of the Draft Plan see Section 5 below.

#### 4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

Water quality is the primary macro indicator of conservation value. The Plan contains many robust provisions to ensure the protection of both surface and ground water quality. Groundwater quantity is also a potential issue as some of the drinking water in the County comes from groundwater sources. Abstractions for drinking water could individually and/or cumulatively could impact upon ecology, including European Sites. Development within the vicinity of groundwater or surface water dependant European Sites will not be permitted where there is potential for a likely significant impact upon the groundwater or surface water supply to the European Sites. Provisions that specifically relate to the protection of the status of waters, including from sources such as septic tanks, storm water and agriculture, include WET POL 3<sup>49</sup>, WQ POL 6<sup>50</sup> and WQ POL 7<sup>51</sup>.

Similarly, emissions to air have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European sites; however, the Draft Plan contains provisions addressing this issue including AQ POL 1<sup>52</sup> and AQ POL 2<sup>53</sup>.

Increased development pressures could place additional loadings onto the existing waste water treatment plant facilities. Section 4 of the SEA identifies the currently loadings for Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTPs) in the County. It is the expressed view of Irish Water that capacity issues are not considered to exist in any wastewater treatment plant that would prohibit the realisation of the household or population levels provided for by the Plan.

Additionally, the policies provide broader scope to ensure the protection of the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions, such as WET POL 3<sup>54</sup>.

#### 4.3.1.6 Climate change

The Plan includes provisions that potentially conflict with climate mitigation and provisions that will help to contribute towards climate mitigation. NH OBJ 1 is "To ensure that no project or programme giving rise to significant adverse, direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site(s), having regard to their qualifying interests and conservation objectives, arising from their size, scale, area or land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)<sup>55</sup>". Greenhouse gas emissions arising from the Plan will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European Sites considered.

<sup>47</sup> To protect and conserve Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) that become designated and notified to the Local Authority during the lifetime of this plan. The list of current NHAs and proposed NHAs are contained in Table 3 and 4 of this chapter.

<sup>48</sup> To protect and where possible enhance wildlife habitats and landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows and road verges, and to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (such as ponds, wetlands, trees) which are not within designated sites.

<sup>49</sup> To ensure that all proposed land zonings take cognisance of appropriate riparian setback distances that support the attainment of high ecological status for water bodies, the conservation of biodiversity and good ecosystem health, and buffer zones from flood plains.

<sup>50</sup> To discourage the over-concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plants in any given area to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.

<sup>51</sup> To seek to protect water quality in areas of high groundwater vulnerability in the consideration of development proposals which rely on individual wastewater treatment systems and which would increase effluent loading from such systems within a concentrated area.

<sup>52</sup> To promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).

<sup>53</sup> To promote air quality improvements, where practicable, through a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, reduced use of fossil fuels and a resulting reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

<sup>54</sup> To ensure that all proposed land zonings take cognisance of appropriate riparian setback distances that support the attainment of high ecological status for water bodies, the conservation of biodiversity and good ecosystem health, and buffer zones from flood plains.

<sup>55</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.



#### **4.3.2 Additional Commentary on Settlement Plans**

The Plan includes Settlement Plans and associated land use zoning objectives. These Plans must comply with provisions for the protection and management of European Sites contained in the rest of the Written Statement (these measures are identified throughout the subsections under 4.3.1 above and in Section 5 of this Natura Impact Report and include LAND USE POL 3<sup>56</sup> from Chapter 6).

The Settlement Plans have been assessed as part of this Stage 2 AA and provide for no additional sources of effects outside those described under Section 4.3.1 above for which mitigation is already provided for by the main Written Statement of the Draft Plan (see 4.3.1 above and Section 5).

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<sup>56</sup> To protect the integrity of Special Areas of Conservation where such European Sites traverse through town and village settlements which includes lands identified for development within Dromahair, Kinlough, Manorhamilton and Rossinver development envelopes. These European Sites are protected from inappropriate development under the European Habitats Directive, transposing national legislation and various provisions under this Plan which protection takes primacy over other Development Plan provisions.

**Table 4.1 Characterisation of Potential Effects arising from the Plan**

Site Code	Site Name <sup>57</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>58, 59</sup>
000007	Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC	<p>The know threats to this site are: artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), invasive non-native species, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, forest planting on open ground (native trees), dispersed habitation, other point source pollution to surface water, flooding and rising precipitations, diffuse pollution to surface waters via storm overflows or urban run-off, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: forestry, invasive species, pollution, agriculture, built environment, flood risk, amenity and leisure activities, land take and direct land use management.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The Plan also provides for the appropriate management of identified flood risk zones and measures to mitigate against flood risk within the Plan area via provisions such as: FRM POL 1 and FRM POL 2.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>The development of the Plan area's-built environment with appropriate regard to ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan via provisions such as: FS OBJ 2, SWM POL 3, SWM OBJ 1, SWM OBJ 2, ENI POL 3 and RUR SET POL 11.</p> <p>The sustainable management of the forestry sector within the Plan area with particular regards to water quality and ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan through provisions such as: FOR POL 1, FOR POL 2, FOR POL 3 and FOR POL 5.</p> <p>Provision for the protection of surface water bodies and waterways in the Plan area are adequately provided for via measures such as: WET POL 1, WET POL 2 and WET POL 3.</p> <p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p> <p>The management of invasive species occurrence and risk is accounted for in the Plan via policy IS POL 1.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p>
000428	Lough Melvin SAC	<p>The know threats to this site are: grazing, fertilisation, invasive non-native species, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, forest and plantation management &amp; use.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: land use management, pollution, agriculture, land take and forestry.</p> <p>Proposed Amendment MA 115 and MA 139 seek to facilitate a phased work out of the Lough Melvin Forest Park unfinished housing development over the life of this Development Plan. The subject lands are adjacent to the Lough Melvin SAC. Development at this site could potentially impact upon this European site. Measures that have been integrated into the Draft Plan and Proposed Material Alterations would contribute towards mitigation of effects - see Section 5 of this report.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: WI POL 4, WI POL 5, WQ POL 2, WQ POL 4 and WQ POL 6.</p> <p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p> <p>The sustainable management of the forestry sector within the Plan area with particular regards to water quality and ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan through provisions such as: FOR POL 1, FOR POL 2, FOR POL 3 and FOR POL 5.</p>

<sup>57</sup> For qualifying features for each European Site (QIs and SCIs), please refer to Table 3.1

<sup>58</sup> Informed by, inter alia, The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland, Overview Volume 1 (NPWS, 2019)

<sup>59</sup> For further detail on mitigation measures integrated into the Plan refer to Section 5 below

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Site Code	Site Name <sup>57</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>58, 59</sup>
		<p>There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p>
000584	Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC	<p>The know threats to this site are: cultivation, fences, fencing, intensive sheep grazing, problematic native species, intensive horse grazing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), peat extraction, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, fire and fire suppression, erosion, off-road motorized driving, garbage and solid waste, taking from nest (e.g. falcons), forest replanting, trampling, overuse, non-intensive horse grazing, roads, motorways, silviculture, forestry.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: land use management, agriculture, succession, amenity and leisure activities, pollution, forestry, peat extraction, waste and built environment.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>Provision for the protection of surface water bodies and waterways in the Plan area are adequately provided for via measures such as: WET POL 1, WET POL 2 and WET POL 3.</p> <p>The protection of peatlands within the Plan area are specifically provided for through policies such as: PEAT POL 1 and PEAT POL 2.</p> <p>Provision for the protection of groundwater bodies in the Plan area are adequately provided for via provisions such as: WQ POL 1, WQ POL 6, WQ POL 7, WQ OBJ 4 and WQ OBJ 5.</p> <p>The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: WI POL 4, WI POL 5, WQ POL 2, WQ POL 4 and WQ POL 6.</p> <p>The development of the Plan area's built environment with appropriate regard to ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan via provisions such as: FS OBJ 2, SWM POL 3, SWM OBJ 1, SWM OBJ 2, ENI POL 3 and RUR SET POL 11.</p> <p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the plan which relate to extractive industries, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p> <p>The appropriate management and decommissioning of mines and extractive industries with regard to European sites and biodiversity is provided via policies such as: AGG RES POL 4, AGG RES POL 6 and AGG RES POL 7.</p> <p>Appropriate and regulated waste management is regarded within the Plan sufficiently via provisions such as: WM POL 1, WM POL 2, WM POL 3, WM POL 9 and WM OBJ 4.</p> <p>The sustainable management of the forestry sector within the Plan area with particular regards to water quality and ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan through provisions such as: FOR POL 1, FOR POL 2, FOR POL 3 and FOR POL 5.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p>
000623	Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC	<p>The know threats to this site are: mechanical removal of peat, collapse of terrain, landslide, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, erosion, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, invasive non-native species, intensive sheep grazing, off-road motorized driving.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: peat extraction, direct land use management, agriculture, invasive species, leisure and amenity activities.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>The protection of peatlands within the Plan area are specifically provided for through policies such as: PEAT POL 1 and PEAT POL 2.</p> <p>The management of invasive species occurrence and risk is accounted for in the Plan via policy IS POL 1.</p>

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Site Code	Site Name <sup>57</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>58, 59</sup>
		<p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p> <p>The appropriate management and decommissioning of mines and extractive industries with regard to European sites and biodiversity is provided via policies such as: AGG RES POL 4, AGG RES POL 6 and AGG RES POL 7.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p>
000625	Bunduff Lough and Machair/ Trawalua/ Mullaghmore SAC	<p>The know threats to this site are: infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, predator control, erosion, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, stock feeding, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, non-intensive sheep grazing, intensive cattle grazing, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, agricultural intensification, fertilisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use management, land take, leisure or amenity activities, agriculture, built environment and pollution.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: WI POL 4, WI POL 5, WQ POL 2, WQ POL 4 and WQ POL 6.</p> <p>The development of the Plan area's built environment with appropriate regard to ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan via provisions such as: FS OBJ 2, SWM POL 3, SWM OBJ 1, SWM OBJ 2, ENI POL 3 and RUR SET POL 11.</p> <p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p>
000627	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC	<p>The know threats to this site are: trampling, overuse, burning down, camping and caravans, port areas, golf course, wildlife watching, disposal of inert materials, off-road motorized driving, invasive non-native species, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, agricultural intensification, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, intensive fish farming, intensification, dispersed habitation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use management, fire, amenity and leisure activities, waste, invasive species, built environment and aquaculture.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>The management of invasive species occurrence and risk is accounted for in the Plan via policy IS POL 1.</p> <p>The development of the Plan area's built environment with appropriate regard to ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan via provisions such as: FS OBJ 2, SWM POL 3, SWM OBJ 1, SWM OBJ 2, ENI POL 3 and RUR SET POL 11.</p> <p>Appropriate and regulated waste management is regarded within the Plan sufficiently via provisions such as: WM POL 1, WM POL 2, WM POL 3, WM POL 9 and WM OBJ 4.</p> <p>Effects from provisions relating to fisheries and aquaculture are addressed under provisions such as RUR ECON POL 5 and RUR ECON OBJ 3.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p>
001403	Arroo Mountain SAC	<p>The know threats to this site are: paths, tracks, cycling tracks, sand and gravel quarries, forest and plantation management &amp; use, non-intensive sheep grazing, hand cutting of peat, burning down, collapse of terrain, landslide, invasive non-native species, erosion, mechanical removal of peat, off-road motorized driving.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name <sup>57</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>58, 59</sup>
		<p>These pressures relate to: amenity and leisure activities, extractive industry, forestry, agriculture, peat extraction, fire, direct land use management, invasive species and amenity and leisure activities.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>The protection of peatlands within the Plan area are specifically provided for through policies such as: PEAT POL 1 and PEAT POL 2.</p> <p>The management of invasive species occurrence and risk is accounted for in the Plan via policy IS POL 1.</p> <p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p> <p>The appropriate management and decommissioning of mines and extractive industries with regard to European sites and biodiversity is provided via policies such as: AGG RES POL 4, AGG RES POL 6 and AGG RES POL 7.</p> <p>The sustainable management of the forestry sector within the Plan area with particular regards to water quality and ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan through provisions such as: FOR POL 1, FOR POL 2, FOR POL 3 and FOR POL 5.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p>
001673	Lough Arrow SAC	<p>The know threats to this site are: infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, invasive non-native species, sport and leisure structures, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use management, invasive species, amenity or leisure activities, land take and built environment.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>The management of invasive species occurrence and risk is accounted for in the Plan via policy IS POL 1.</p> <p>The development of the Plan area's built environment with appropriate regard to ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan via provisions such as: FS OBJ 2, SWM POL 3, SWM OBJ 1, SWM OBJ 2, ENI POL 3 and RUR SET POL 11.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p>
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	<p>The know threats to this site are: non-intensive mowing, other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, wildlife watching, groundwater abstractions for public water supply, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, invasive non-native species, leisure fishing, abandonment or lack of mowing, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, hunting.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use management, amenity and leisure activities, water abstraction, invasive species, pollution, forestry and land take.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>Provision for the protection of groundwater bodies in the Plan area are adequately provided for via provisions such as: WQ POL 1, WQ POL 6, WQ POL 7, WQ OBJ 4 and WQ OBJ 5.</p> <p>The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: WI POL 4, WI POL 5, WQ POL 2, WQ POL 4 and WQ POL 6.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name <sup>57</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>58, 59</sup>
		<p>The management of invasive species occurrence and risk is accounted for in the Plan via policy IS POL 1.</p> <p>The sustainable management of the forestry sector within the Plan area with particular regards to water quality and ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan through provisions such as: FOR POL 1, FOR POL 2, FOR POL 3 and FOR POL 5.</p> <p>Effects from provisions relating to water abstractions are addressed under provisions such as WI POL 5.</p> <p>Effects from provisions relating to fisheries and aquaculture are addressed under provisions such as RUR ECON POL 5 and RUR ECON OBJ 3.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p>
001898	Unshin River SAC	<p>The know threats to this site are: invasive non-native species, forest and plantation management &amp; use, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, agricultural intensification, non-intensive sheep grazing.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: invasive species, forestry, direct land use management and agriculture.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The management of invasive species occurrence and risk is accounted for in the Plan via policy IS POL 1.</p> <p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p> <p>The sustainable management of the forestry sector within the Plan area with particular regards to water quality and ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan through provisions such as: FOR POL 1, FOR POL 2, FOR POL 3 and FOR POL 5.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p>
001919	Glenade Lough SAC	<p>The know threats to this site are: invasive non-native species, forestry clearance, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry).</p> <p>These pressures relate to: invasive species, forestry and pollution.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>Provision for the protection of groundwater bodies in the Plan area are adequately provided for via provisions such as: WQ POL 1, WQ POL 6, WQ POL 7, WQ OBJ 4 and WQ OBJ 5.</p> <p>The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: WI POL 4, WI POL 5, WQ POL 2, WQ POL 4 and WQ POL 6.</p> <p>The management of invasive species occurrence and risk is accounted for in the Plan via policy IS POL 1.</p> <p>The sustainable management of the forestry sector within the Plan area with particular regards to water quality and ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan through provisions such as: FOR POL 1, FOR POL 2, FOR POL 3 and FOR POL 5.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p>
001976	Lough Gill SAC	<p>The know threats to this site are: dispersed habitation, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, invasive non-native species, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, disposal of inert materials, continuous urbanisation, grazing in forests or woodland, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, modifying structures of inland water courses, motorized nautical sports, silviculture, forestry.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: built environment, direct land use management, invasive species, waste, land take, forestry and leisure and amenity activities.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p>

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Site Code	Site Name <sup>57</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>58, 59</sup>
		<p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>The management of invasive species occurrence and risk is accounted for in the Plan via policy IS POL 1.</p> <p>The development of the Plan area's built environment with appropriate regard to ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan via provisions such as: FS OBJ 2, SWM POL 3, SWM OBJ 1, SWM OBJ 2, ENI POL 3 and RUR SET POL 11.</p> <p>Appropriate and regulated waste management is regarded within the Plan sufficiently via provisions such as: WM POL 1, WM POL 2, WM POL 3, WM POL 9 and WM OBJ 4.</p> <p>The sustainable management of the forestry sector within the Plan area with particular regards to water quality and ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan through provisions such as: FOR POL 1, FOR POL 2, FOR POL 3 and FOR POL 5.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p>
002032	Boleybrack Mountain SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are: parasitism (fauna), forest and plantation management &amp; use, burning down, sand and gravel quarries, pipe lines, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing, silviculture, forestry, restructuring agricultural land holding, problematic native species, non-intensive cattle grazing, mechanical removal of peat, predator control, taking from nest (e.g. falcons), non-intensive sheep grazing, intensive sheep grazing, forest planting on open ground, surface water abstractions for public water supply, roads, paths and railroads, wind energy production.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use management, forestry, fire, extractive industry, built environment, pollution, amenity and leisure activities, agriculture, succession, peat extraction, land take, and water abstraction.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>The protection of peatlands within the Plan area are specifically provided for through policies such as: PEAT POL 1 and PEAT POL 2.</p> <p>The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: WI POL 4, WI POL 5, WQ POL 2, WQ POL 4 and WQ POL 6.</p> <p>The development of the Plan area's built environment with appropriate regard to ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan via provisions such as: FS OBJ 2, SWM POL 3, SWM OBJ 1, SWM OBJ 2, ENI POL 3 and RUR SET POL 11.</p> <p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p> <p>The appropriate management and decommissioning of mines and extractive industries with regard to European sites and biodiversity is provided via policies such as: AGG RES POL 4, AGG RES POL 6 and AGG RES POL 7.</p> <p>The sustainable management of the forestry sector within the Plan area with particular regards to water quality and ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan through provisions such as: FOR POL 1, FOR POL 2, FOR POL 3 and FOR POL 5.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p> <p>Effects from provisions relating to water abstractions are addressed under provisions such as WI POL 5.</p>
002303	Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are: biocenotic evolution, succession, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, agricultural intensification, fertilisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use management, land take, agriculture and pollution.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name <sup>57</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>58, 59</sup>
		<p>The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: WI POL 4, WI POL 5, WQ POL 2, WQ POL 4 and WQ POL 6.</p> <p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p>
002348	Clooneen Bog SAC	<p>The know threats to this site are: irrigation, mowing or cutting of grassland, non-intensive cattle grazing, mechanical removal of peat.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use management, agriculture and peat extraction.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The protection of peatlands within the Plan area are specifically provided for through policies such as: PEAT POL 1 and PEAT POL 2.</p> <p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p>
004013	Drumcliff Bay SPA	<p>The know threats to this site are: dispersed habitation, grazing, marine and freshwater aquaculture, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, fertilisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: built environment, direct land use management, aquaculture, amenity and leisure activities and pollution.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: WI POL 4, WI POL 5, WQ POL 2, WQ POL 4 and WQ POL 6.</p> <p>The development of the Plan area's built environment with appropriate regard to ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan via provisions such as: FS OBJ 2, SWM POL 3, SWM OBJ 1, SWM OBJ 2, ENI POL 3 and RUR SET POL 11.</p> <p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p> <p>Effects from provisions relating to fisheries and aquaculture are addressed under provisions such as RUR ECON POL 5 and RUR ECON OBJ 3.</p>
004035	Cummeen Strand SPA	<p>The know threats to this site are: fertilisation, pollution, industrial or commercial areas, marine and freshwater aquaculture, shipping lanes, urbanised areas, human habitation, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, leisure fishing, roads, motorways.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: pollution, agriculture, built environment, aquaculture, amenity or leisure activities.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>Provision for the protection of surface water bodies and waterways in the Plan area are adequately provided for via measures such as: WET POL 1, WET POL 2 and WET POL 3.</p> <p>Provision for the protection of groundwater bodies in the Plan area are adequately provided for via provisions such as: WQ POL 1, WQ POL 6, WQ POL 7, WQ OBJ 4 and WQ OBJ 5.</p> <p>The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: WI POL 4, WI POL 5, WQ POL 2, WQ POL 4 and WQ POL 6.</p>



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		<p>The development of the Plan area's built environment with appropriate regard to ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan via provisions such as: FS OBJ 2, SWM POL 3, SWM OBJ 1, SWM OBJ 2, ENI POL 3 and RUR SET POL</p> <p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p> <p>Effects from provisions relating to fisheries and aquaculture are addressed under provisions such as RUR ECON POL 5 and RUR ECON OBJ 3.</p>
004049	Lough Oughter SPA	<p>The know threats to this site are: nautical sports, hunting, leisure fishing, animal breeding, sylviculture, forestry, fertilisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: amenity and leisure activities, direct land use management, forestry, agriculture and pollution.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>Provision for the protection of groundwater bodies in the Plan area are adequately provided for via provisions such as: WQ POL 1, WQ POL 6, WQ POL 7, WQ OBJ 4 and WQ OBJ 5.</p> <p>The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: WI POL 4, WI POL 5, WQ POL 2, WQ POL 4 and WQ POL 6.</p> <p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p> <p>The sustainable management of the forestry sector within the Plan area with particular regards to water quality and ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan through provisions such as: FOR POL 1, FOR POL 2, FOR POL 3 and FOR POL 5.</p>
004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	<p>The know threats to this site are: grazing, sylviculture, forestry, leisure fishing, hunting, nautical sports.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use management, forestry, land take and leisure and amenity activities.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>The sustainable management of the forestry sector within the Plan area with particular regards to water quality and ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan through provisions such as: FOR POL 1, FOR POL 2, FOR POL 3 and FOR POL 5</p>
004151	Donegal Bay SPA	<p>The know threats to this site are: roads, motorways, nautical sports, grazing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, continuous urbanisation, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fertilisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: built environment, amenity and leisure activities, aquaculture, agriculture and pollution.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>Provision for the protection of groundwater bodies in the Plan area are adequately provided for via provisions such as: WQ POL 1, WQ POL 6, WQ POL 7, WQ OBJ 4 and WQ OBJ 5.</p> <p>The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: WI POL 4, WI POL 5, WQ POL 2, WQ POL 4 and WQ POL 6.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name <sup>57</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>58, 59</sup>
		<p>The development of the Plan area's built environment with appropriate regard to ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan via provisions such as: FS OBJ 2, SWM POL 3, SWM OBJ 1, SWM OBJ 2, ENI POL 3 and RUR SET POL 11.</p> <p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p> <p>Effects from provisions relating to fisheries and aquaculture are addressed under provisions such as RUR ECON POL 5 and RUR ECON OBJ 3.</p>
004187	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA	<p>The know threats to this site are: invasive non-native species, sand and gravel quarries, mechanical removal of peat, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, forest planting on open ground, sand and gravel extraction, camping and caravans, grazing, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, erosion, mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, continuous urbanisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: invasive species, extractive industries, peat extraction, amenity and leisure activities, forestry, direct land use management, agriculture.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>The protection of peatlands within the Plan area are specifically provided for through policies such as: PEAT POL 1 and PEAT POL 2.</p> <p>The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: WI POL 4, WI POL 5, WQ POL 2, WQ POL 4 and WQ POL 6.</p> <p>The management of invasive species occurrence and risk is accounted for in the Plan via policy IS POL 1.</p> <p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p> <p>The appropriate management and decommissioning of mines and extractive industries with regard to European sites and biodiversity is provided via policies such as: AGG RES POL 4, AGG RES POL 6 and AGG RES POL 7.</p> <p>The sustainable management of the forestry sector within the Plan area with particular regards to water quality and ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan through provisions such as: FOR POL 1, FOR POL 2, FOR POL 3 and FOR POL 5.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p>
UK00301 16	Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River SAC	<p>The know threats to this site are: forest and plantation management &amp; use, mining and quarrying, renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, pollution to surface waters (limnic &amp; terrestrial, marine &amp; brackish), invasive non-native species, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, changes in abiotic conditions.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: forestry, extractive industries, renewable abiotic energy, aquaculture, pollution, invasive species, direct land use management.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>Provision for the protection of surface water bodies and waterways in the Plan area are adequately provided for via measures such as: WET POL 1, WET POL 2 and WET POL 3.</p> <p>Provision for the protection of groundwater bodies in the Plan area are adequately provided for via provisions such as: WQ POL 1, WQ POL 6, WQ POL 7, WQ OBJ 4 and WQ OBJ 5.</p> <p>The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: WI POL 4, WI POL 5, WQ POL 2, WQ POL 4 and WQ POL 6.</p> <p>The management of invasive species occurrence and risk is accounted for in the Plan via policy IS POL 1.</p> <p>The appropriate management and decommissioning of mines and extractive industries with regard to European sites and biodiversity is provided via policies such as: AGG RES POL 4, AGG RES POL 6 and AGG RES POL 7.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name <sup>57</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>58, 59</sup>
		<p>The sustainable management of the forestry sector within the Plan area with particular regards to water quality and ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan through provisions such as: FOR POL 1, FOR POL 2, FOR POL 3 and FOR POL 5.</p> <p>Effects from provisions relating to fisheries and aquaculture are addressed under provisions such as RUR ECON POL 5 and RUR ECON OBJ 3.</p>
UK00166 14	Upper Lough Erne SAC	<p>The know threats to this site are: forest and plantation management &amp; use, grazing in forests/ woodland, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, sport and leisure structures, pollution to surface waters (limnic &amp; terrestrial, marine &amp; brackish), air pollution, air-borne pollutants, invasive non-native species, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: forestry, direct land use management, land take, amenity and leisure activities, pollution, invasive species and air pollution.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>Provision for the protection of groundwater bodies in the Plan area are adequately provided for via provisions such as: WQ POL 1, WQ POL 6, WQ POL 7, WQ OBJ 4 and WQ OBJ 5.</p> <p>The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: WI POL 4, WI POL 5, WQ POL 2, WQ POL 4 and WQ POL 6.</p> <p>The management of invasive species occurrence and risk is accounted for in the Plan via policy IS POL 1.</p> <p>The sustainable management of the forestry sector within the Plan area with particular regards to water quality and ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan through provisions such as: FOR POL 1, FOR POL 2, FOR POL 3 and FOR POL 5.</p> <p>The Plan provides for policies that ensure the preservation and maintenance of air quality standards throughout the Plan area through policies such as: AQ POL 1 and AQ POL 2.</p>
UK90200 71	Upper Lough Erne SPA	<p>The know threats to this site are: modification of cultivation practices, grazing, utility and service lines, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic &amp; terrestrial, marine &amp; brackish), changes in abiotic conditions.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use management, agriculture, built environment, amenity and leisure activities and pollution.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as: NH POL 1, NH POL 2, NH POL 3, NH POL 4, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 1, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH OBJ 4 and NH OBJ 5.</p> <p>The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through provisions such as: ADV TOUR OBJ 2, ADV TOUR OBJ 4, ADV TOUR POL 1 and TOUR INF OBJ 2.</p> <p>Provision for the protection of groundwater bodies in the Plan area are adequately provided for via provisions such as: WQ POL 1, WQ POL 6, WQ POL 7, WQ OBJ 4 and WQ OBJ 5.</p> <p>The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: WI POL 4, WI POL 5, WQ POL 2, WQ POL 4 and WQ POL 6.</p> <p>The development of the Plan area's built environment with appropriate regard to ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Plan via provisions such as: FS OBJ 2, SWM POL 3, SWM OBJ 1, SWM OBJ 2, ENI POL 3 and RUR SET POL 11.</p> <p>The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however provisions such as RUR ECON POL 2, RUR ECON OBJ 3, RUR ECON OBJ 4, AGR OBJ 1 and WQ POL 5 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural runoff into freshwater systems.</p>

## Section 5 Mitigation Measures

Table 5.1 outlines measures that have been incorporated into the Draft Plan in order to mitigate against potential effects to European Sites as identified above. The Draft Plan was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European Site from implementation of the Plan.

In addition to the Draft Plan measures identified on the table below, various Proposed Material Alterations<sup>60</sup> could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects on the integrity of European sites.

**Table 5.1 Mitigation Measures that will contribute towards the protection of European Sites**

Topic	Measures integrated into the Draft Plan, including: [text to be updated to take account of Proposed Material Alterations and any Further Modifications, in advance of Plan adoption]
Natural Heritage and Biodiversity	<p>TREE POL 1 To require the submission of landscape plans, where appropriate, to accompany planning applications for rural development proposals prepared by competent professionals and to promote the use of native trees for boundary treatment and shelter belts.</p> <p>TREE POL 2 To retain and protect significant stands of existing trees/hedgerows/woodlands, and seek increased planting of native trees, where appropriate, in new developments.</p> <p>TREE POL 3 To protect and preserve existing hedgerows in new developments and where their removal is necessary during seek their replacement with new hedgerows of native species indigenous to the area.</p> <p>TREE OBJ 1 To consider the use of Tree Preservation Orders for the preservation of any tree, trees or group of trees or woodland of special amenity or environmental value.</p> <p>NH POL 1 To protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.</p> <p>NH POL 2 To implement Article 6(3) and where necessary Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, including to ensure that Appropriate Assessment is carried out in relation to works, plans and projects with the potential to impact European sites (SACs and SPAs), whether directly or indirectly or in combination with any other plan(s) or project(s). All assessments must be in compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, and the Planning and Development Act, as relevant.</p> <p>NH POL 3 To protect designated Natural Heritage Area (NHA) sites, including proposed Natural Heritage Area sites (pNHA) and seek to develop linkages between designated sites and other non-designated sites of ecological importance, where feasible and as resources permit.</p> <p>NH POL 4 To consult with relevant prescribed bodies, such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service (DoHLGH), and take account of any licensing requirements when undertaking, approving and authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species or habitats protected by law.</p> <p>NH POL 5 To ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on plant, animal or bird species or habitats protected by law, subject to satisfactory mitigation measures.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <p>NH OBJ 1 To ensure that no project or programme giving rise to significant adverse, direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site(s), having regard to their qualifying interests and conservation objectives, arising from their size, scale, area or land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) <sup>61</sup>.</p> <p>NH OBJ 2 To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) during the lifetime of this plan. The list of current SACs is contained in Table 1 of this chapter.</p> <p>NH OBJ 3 To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Protection Areas during the lifetime of this plan. There is current one SPA in Co. Leitrim which is contained in Table 2 of this chapter.</p> <p>NH OBJ 4 To protect and conserve Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) that become designated and notified to the Local Authority during the lifetime of this plan. The list of current NHAs and proposed NHAs are contained in Table 3 and 4 of this chapter.</p> <p>NH OBJ 5 To protect the character, appearance and quality of the habitats and semi-natural features in County Leitrim such as woodlands, hedgerows, peatlands, wetlands and artificial waterways of historic or ecological importance.</p>

<sup>60</sup> MA 65, MA 67, MA 69, MA 70, MA 72, MA 99 and MA 101.

<sup>61</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

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Topic	Measures integrated into the Draft Plan, including: [text to be updated to take account of Proposed Material Alterations and any Further Modifications, in advance of Plan adoption]
	<p>NH OBJ 6 To promote, in partnership with the relevant agencies, the development and implementation of codes of best practice through initiatives such as the Local Floral Pride initiatives, Community Environmental Action and the Green Schools projects.</p> <p>NH POL 6 To protect and where possible enhance wildlife habitats and landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows and road verges, and to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (such as ponds, wetlands, trees) which are not within designated sites.</p> <p>NH POL 7 To treat the uplands of North Leitrim located above the 160m contour, as an ecologically-sensitive entity, where these uplands are not already designated as such.</p> <p>NH POL 8 To protect ecological networks linking protected and designated important sites within the County, in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>NH POL 9 To ensure that appropriate mitigation and/or compensation measures to conserve biodiversity, landscape character and green infrastructure networks are required in developments where habitats are at risk or lost as part of a development.</p> <p>NH OBJ 7 To encourage appropriate management of landscape features, particularly through the development management process and using planning agreements with landowners and developers, where appropriate.</p> <p>NH OBJ 8 To identify and map over the lifetime of the Plan habitats and green infrastructure / sites of local biodiversity value of county importance and to raise awareness and understanding of the county's natural heritage and biodiversity.</p> <p>NH POL 10 To ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity of the county.</p> <p>NH OBJ 9 To support the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.</p> <p>NH OBJ 10 To support the implementation of the actions contained in the Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025 when finalised, or any successor plan, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and subject to the availability of the necessary funding sources.</p> <p>TWH POL 1 To discourage the felling of healthy mature trees to facilitate development and to encourage the retention of healthy mature trees within developments to the maximum extent practicable.</p> <p>TWH POL 2 To require the planting of native broadleaved species, and species of local provenance, in new developments as appropriate. (See Table 5 in this regard).</p> <p>TWH POL 3 To support the Native Woodland and Neighbourwood schemes and other initiatives that aim to establish and enhance woodlands for recreational and wildlife benefits, in partnership with local communities.</p> <p>TWH POL 4 To protect and preserve existing hedgerows and minimise their removal. Where their removal is necessary, to seek their replacement with new hedgerow material native to the area (See Table 5 in this regard).</p> <p>TWH POL 5 To retain distinctive boundary treatment such as stone walls, when undertaking, authorising or approving development. Where the loss of the existing boundary is unavoidable as part of development, to ensure that the wall is re-built using local stone and local vernacular design.</p> <p>TWH OBJ 1 To use Tree Preservation Orders to protect important trees, groups of trees or woodlands, as appropriate which may be at risk or have an amenity, biodiversity or historic value during the lifetime of this plan.</p> <p>POLL OBJ 1 To manage and restore semi-natural habitats and their native plants on Council land in as far as is practicable and affordable.</p> <p>LCA POL 1 To conserve and enhance the high nature conservation value of the Landscape Character Areas in order to create/protect ecologically resilient and varied landscapes.</p> <p>LCA POL 2 To protect, enhance and contribute to the physical, visual and scenic character of County Leitrim and to preserve its unique landscape character.</p> <p>LCA POL 3 To ensure that landscape sensitivity and the preservation of the uniqueness of a landscape character area (where appropriate) is an important consideration in determining the appropriateness of development uses and proposals in areas of landscape sensitivity, (scenery, nature conservation or archaeology) in conjunction with the siting, design and materials proposed.</p> <p>LCA POL 4 To seek to ensure that local landscape features, including historic features and buildings, hedgerows, shelter belts and stone walls, are retained, protected and enhanced where appropriate, so as to preserve the local landscape and character of an area, whilst providing for future development</p> <p>LCA POL 5 To require landscape and visual impact assessments prepared by suitably qualified professionals be submitted with planning applications for development which may have significant impact on landscape character areas of medium or high sensitivity.</p> <p>LCA OBJ 1 To protect and enhance the quality, character, and distinctiveness of the physical, visual and scenic character of landscapes of the County in accordance with national policy and guidelines and the recommendations of the Leitrim Landscape Character Assessment (2020) in Appendix *.</p> <p>LCA OBJ 2 To ensure that the management of development will have regard to the value of the landscape, its character, importance, sensitivity and capacity to absorb change as outlined in Appendix * Leitrim Landscape Character Assessment (2020) and its recommendations.</p>
Peatlands, wetlands and surface water courses	<p>PEAT POL 1 To conserve peatlands and protect peatland landscapes within the County.</p> <p>PEAT POL 2 To seek hydrological reports for significant developments within and close to peatlands, to assess potential impacts on the integrity of the peatland ecosystems.</p> <p>WET POL 1 To have regard to the County Leitrim Wetlands Survey 2019 and subsequent wetland surveys that may be published during the lifetime of this Plan in assessing individual development management proposals. This will include the protection of surveyed wetland sites that have been rated of A (International), B (National) and C+ (County) importance.</p> <p>WET POL 2 To implement the relevant parts of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2011 and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations 2011 which require planning permission to be applied for where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1</p>

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Topic	Measures integrated into the Draft Plan, including: [text to be updated to take account of Proposed Material Alterations and any Further Modifications, in advance of Plan adoption]
	<p>hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such planning applications may also require the undertaking of an Appropriate Assessment where considered necessary.</p> <p>WET POL 3 To ensure that all proposed land zonings take cognisance of appropriate riparian setback distances that support the attainment of high ecological status for water bodies, the conservation of biodiversity and good ecosystem health, and buffer zones from flood plains.</p>
Water services, groundwater and water quality	<p>WI POL 3 To support Irish Water in the promotion of effective management of trade discharges to sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing sewer networks and minimise detrimental impacts on wastewater treatment works.</p> <p>WI POL 4 To ensure that all new developments connect to the public wastewater infrastructure, where available, and to encourage existing developments that are in close proximity to a public sewer to connect to that sewer subject to obtaining a connection agreement with Irish Water.</p> <p>WI POL 5 To ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure, in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment. Water abstractions should ensure appropriate levels of environmental management and protection, including ensuring compliance with the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive.</p> <p>WQ POL 1 To protect existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the county and to manage development in a manner consistent with the protection of these resources.</p> <p>WQ POL 2 To support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the current and future cycles of River Basin Management Plans. In this regard, the Council supports mitigation and protection measures for all protected areas, including Drinking Water Protected Areas.</p> <p>WQ POL 3 In conjunction with Irish Water, to have regard to the EPA 2019 publication "Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies 2018" (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.</p> <p>WQ POL 4 To ensure that the delivery and phasing of water services are subject to the required appraisal, planning and environmental assessment processes and avoid impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>WQ POL 5 To encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and to comply with the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>WQ POL 6 To discourage the over-concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plants in any given area to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>WQ POL 7 To seek to protect water quality in areas of high groundwater vulnerability in the consideration of development proposals which rely on individual wastewater treatment systems and which would increase effluent loading from such systems within a concentrated area.</p> <p>WQ POL 8 To provide guidance and advice regarding the protection of water supply to private wells with the overall responsibility remaining with the householder.</p> <p>WQ POL 9 To permit new development only in instances where it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of Irish Water that there is sufficient capacity (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal of waste water to cater for the anticipated loading arising from the proposed development.</p> <p>WQ POL 10 To assess proposals for development in terms of their impact on human health to include, inter alia, the potential impact on existing adjacent developments, on existing land uses and / or the surrounding landscape. Where proposed developments would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, mitigation measures shall be introduced in order to eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> <p>WQ POL 11 Where brownfield redevelopment is proposed, adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work.</p> <p>WWT POL 1 To ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with the EPA Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Population Equivalent ≤ 10) (March 2021), as may be amended.</p> <p>WWT POL 2 To promote the discontinuation of use of septic tanks / individual wastewater treatment systems and the connection of houses to piped foul sewers in all cases where this is feasible (subject to connection agreements with Irish Water) and require that all new developments utilise and connect to the piped wastewater infrastructure where available.</p>
Tourism	<p>ADV TOUR POL1 To develop the water-based leisure sector in the region in a sustainable manner making the best use of existing and planned infrastructure and resources, in a manner that is sensitive to the natural and cultural heritage resources.</p> <p>ADV TOUR OBJ 2 To support the development of infrastructure and tourism enterprises which increase the tourism offering on waterways including boating, canoeing, angling, water sports, bird watching, and the provision of storage, shelters and other facilities to enhance the user experience subject to planning permission and only where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>ADV TOUR OBJ 4 To prepare Habitat and Visitor Management Plans for the protection of areas which are particularly sensitive to visitors subject to the availability of funding. The first such plan will be developed for Sheemore.</p>
Built environment	<p>HF POL 1 To co-operate with the Health Service Executive and other statutory and voluntary agencies and the private sector in facilitating the provision of appropriate health care facilities and well being services, covering the full spectrum of such care subject to proper planning considerations and the principles of sustainable development.</p>

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

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	<p>FS OBJ 2 To facilitate the development of a new fire station on a site identified in the Manorhamilton land use zoning objectives map subject to the undertaking of the necessary environmental assessments as part of the planning consent process.</p> <p>SWM POL 1 To implement Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in developments to encourage a more sustainable approach to storm water management.</p> <p>SWM POL 2 To resist the discharge of additional surface water to combined sewers and promote Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and solutions to maximise the capacity of towns with combined drainage systems, where practicable.</p> <p>SWM POL 3 To require that new developments are adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure which meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, associated River Basin Management Plans and CFRAM Management Plans.</p> <p>SWM POL 4 To limit the rate of surface water run off to pre development levels for all green-field developments.</p> <p>SWM POL 5 In the case of one-off rural dwellings, surface water shall be disposed of, in its entirety within the curtilage of the development site by way of suitably sized soak holes.</p> <p>SWM OBJ 1 To require the use of SuDS to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques where appropriate, for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.</p> <p>SWM OBJ 2 To encourage the use of Green Roof technology particularly on apartment, commercial, leisure and educational buildings.</p> <p>ENI POL 3 To require comprehensive studies to be undertaken for all technical and environmental considerations, to inform the assessment of proposed transmission routes brought forward for planning consent.</p> <p>RUR SET POL 11 To reflect the extent of the established settlement within Graigs and promote a sequential approach to development to ensure compact growth and avoid ribbon development consistent with the guidance in Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2005).</p> <p>RUR SET POL 7 To have regard to the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities, April 2005, and any replacement guidance which require that new houses in rural areas be sited and designed to integrate with their physical surroundings and be generally compatible with: The protection of water quality in the arrangements made for onsite wastewater disposal facilities, The provision of a safe means of access in relation to road and public safety, and, The conservation of sensitive areas such as natural habitats, protected landscapes, the environs of protected structures and other aspects of our heritage.</p>
Invasive species	<p>IS POL 1 To require relevant development proposals to address the presence or absence of invasive alien species on proposed development sites and (if necessary) require applicants to prepare and submit an Invasive Species Management Plan where such a species exists to comply with the provisions of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015.</p>
Agriculture	<p>RUR ECON POL 2 To facilitate the continuation of agriculture, and the broadening of the rural economy, while conserving the landscape, environment and natural diversity of the countryside</p> <p>RUR ECON POL 5 The Council will provide for the sustainable development of fisheries, where this is in compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives and other ecological protection objectives. Where new infrastructure is being provided, it should be positioned at already modified locations where feasible and sedimentation and siltation issues should be considered, with floating infrastructure used where feasible. Fishery related developments may necessitate the preparation of a Visitor/Habitat Management Plan that includes requirements in relation to sustainable fishing practices that would not affect the ecological site integrity and invasive species.</p> <p>RUR ECON OBJ 3 To develop and support sustainable and economically efficient rural economies enhancing sectors such as agricultural and food, forestry, fishing and aquaculture, energy and extractive industries, the bio-economy, renewable energy, tourism, outdoor recreation and creative arts sector and facilitating diversification into alternative on-farm and off-farm activities, while protecting the natural landscape and built heritage.</p> <p>RUR ECON OBJ 4 To identify and protect rural resources, such as locally and regionally important aquifers and water sources, from development which would prejudice their sustainable future usage.</p> <p>AGR OBJ 1 To facilitate the development of agriculture while ensuring that natural waters, wildlife habitats and conservation areas are protected from pollution.</p> <p>WQ POL 5 To encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and to comply with the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan.</p>
Water abstraction	<p>WI POL 5 To ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure, in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment. Water abstractions should ensure appropriate levels of environmental management and protection, including ensuring compliance with the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive.</p>
Flood Risk Management	<p>FRM POL 1 To adopt a comprehensive risk-based planning approach to flood management to prevent or minimise future flood risk. In accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, the avoidance of development in areas where flood risk has been identified shall be the primary response.</p> <p>FRM POL 2 To ensure that a flood risk assessment is carried out for any development proposal, in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG/OPW 2009) and Circular PL2/2014. This assessment shall be appropriate to the scale and nature of risk to the potential development.</p>
Forestry	<p>FOR POL 1 To encourage the development of sustainable forestry to a scale and in a manner which maximises its contribution to the economic and social wellbeing of the County and which is compatible with the protection of the environment including the avoidance of likely significant effects on European Sites (SACs and SPAs).</p> <p>FOR POL 2 To encourage sustainable forestry development, which is planted, managed and harvested in accordance with the Forest Service Guidelines for Landscape, Forest Harvesting and Environmental, Archaeology, Biodiversity and Water Quality.</p>

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

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	FOR POL 3 To ensure forestry development is of appropriate scale and character whilst ensuring that the development does not have a negative visual impact on the countryside or cause pollution or degradation to wildlife habitats, natural waters or areas of ecological importance.
Fisheries	RUR ECON POL 5 The Council will provide for the sustainable development of fisheries, where this is in compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives and other ecological protection objectives. Where new infrastructure is being provided, it should be positioned at already modified locations where feasible and sedimentation and siltation issues should be considered, with floating infrastructure used where feasible. Fishery related developments may necessitate the preparation of a Visitor/Habitat Management Plan that includes requirements in relation to sustainable fishing practices that would not affect the ecological site integrity and invasive species.
Light, air & noise pollution	<p>AQ POL 1 To promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/5/0/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 201) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p>AQ POL 2 To promote air quality improvements, where practicable, through a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, reduced use of fossil fuels and a resulting reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.</p> <p>NP POL 1 To support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>NP POL 2 To require individual development proposals to be assessed against the Noise Assessment Criteria contained in Section ** of Chapter 12, Development Management Standards.</p> <p>NP POL 3 To have regard to acoustical planning in the planning process to ensure that future developments include provisions to protect the population from the effects of environmental noise in the interests of residential amenity and public health.</p> <p>PL POL 1 To control lighting in urban and rural areas and in particular in sensitive locations, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity, habitats and species of importance.</p>
Geology	<p>AGI POL 1 To recognise the need to identify sites of geological interest in the County and to protect these sites in the interest of protecting our geological heritage.</p> <p>AGI POL 2 To protect County Geological Sites from inappropriate development, as outlined in Appendix ** of this Plan.</p>
Extractive Industry	<p>AGG RES POL 1 To facilitate adequate supplies of aggregate resources to meet the future growth needs of the County and the wider region while addressing key environmental, traffic and social impacts and details of rehabilitation.</p> <p>AGG RES POL 2 To facilitate the further development of the extractive industry by permitting the continuation and extension of existing quarries and the development of new quarries, where such development does not adversely impact on human health, the receiving environment including the visual quality of the landscape, existing infrastructure, adjoining land uses and the amenity value of neighbouring lands and of adjoining residential development.</p> <p>AGG RES POL 3 To facilitate the exploitation of the County's natural resources and to exercise appropriate control over the types of development, including rural housing, taking place in areas containing proven deposits, whilst also ensuring that such developments are carried out in a manner which would not unduly impinge on the visual amenity or environmental quality in the area.</p> <p>AGG RES POL 4 To ensure that projects associated with the extractive industry carry out screening for Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive and comply with all relevant Environmental Legislation as required.</p> <p>AGG RES POL 6 To ensure that all existing workings are rehabilitated to suitable land uses and that all future extraction activities allow for the rehabilitation of pits and proper land use management. The biodiversity value of the site should be considered in the first instance when preparing restoration plans. Where land filling is proposed, inert material is the preferred method. Each planning application shall be considered on a case by case basis and where relevant will be dealt with under the relevant regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>AGG RES POL 7 To ensure that development for aggregates / mineral extraction, processing and associated processes does not significantly impact in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Special Areas of Conservation and / or Special Protection Areas,</li> <li>b) Natural Heritage Areas and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas,</li> <li>c) Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna,</li> <li>d) Areas of significant archaeological potential,</li> <li>e) In the vicinity of a recorded National Monument, and,</li> <li>f) Sensitive Landscapes</li> </ol>
SEVESO	<p>SEV POL 1 To comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents.</p> <p>SEV POL 2 To have regard to the advice of the Health &amp; Safety Authority when considering proposals for new SEVESO sites.</p>
Climate	<p>CA POL 1 To support the implementation of the European, national, regional and local objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation detailed in the EU Green Deal, Programme for Government 2020, Climate Action Plan 2019, National Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2018, Climate Adaptation Strategy, any Regional Decarbonisation Plan, relevant sectoral adaptation plans prepared to comply with the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, the Leitrim Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, or any replacement plans or strategies.</p> <p>CA POL 2 To support the transition of the County towards a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 by providing for consolidated development forms which facilitate the reduction of energy demand and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and which supports sustainable travel patterns in line with the Core Strategy.</p> <p>CA POL 3 To co-operate with and support the role of the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).</p> <p>CA POL 4 To provide for a reduction in energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions by providing for consolidated development forms in settlements in Co. Leitrim.</p>



Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

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	<p>CA POL 5 To promote and encourage positive community and / co-operative led climate action initiatives and projects that seek to reduce emissions, improve energy efficiency, enhance green infrastructure and encourage awareness on climate change issues.</p> <p>CA POL 6 To encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.</p> <p>CA OBJ 1 To work in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and relevant stakeholders to deliver and support a number of Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) throughout the county.</p> <p>CA OBJ 2 To develop a Decarbonisation Zone in Carrick on Shannon in accordance with Action 165 of the Climate Action Plan 2019. (see also CS OBJ 10 for further detail in this regard).</p> <p>CA OBJ 3 To review the outcomes of the forthcoming update to the Development Plan Guidelines when finalised and to consider reasonable steps to align with the approach to climate change advocated in the guidelines over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>CA OBJ 4 To support the development of both climate mitigation and climate adaptation initiatives and seek funding for the implementation of these initiatives from available sources including the Climate Action Fund administered by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).</p>
Renewable Energy	<p>RE POL 1 To encourage and facilitate the production of energy from renewable sources, such as from wind, solar, bioenergy, hydroelectricity, and geothermal, subject to compliance with proper planning and environmental considerations.</p> <p>RE POL 2 To promote and support developments and actions that assist in achieving the national targets for energy from renewable resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy production.</p> <p>RE POL 3 To ensure environmental assessments for new energy developments should address reasonable alternatives for location. Where existing infrastructural assets such as sub-stations, powerlines and roads already exist within proposed development areas, then such assets should be considered for sustainable use by the proposed development where the assets have capacity to absorb the new development.</p>
Green / Blue Infrastructure	<p>BG POL 1 To continue to support the develop an integrated and connected network of sustainable greenways, blueways and green routes within Co. Leitrim and into adjoining counties.</p> <p>BG POL 2 To support the implementation of the strategy for Greenway Development in Ireland - "Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways" in relation to the development and extension of greenways throughout the county.</p> <p>BG POL 3 To progress the expansion of the National Cycle Network</p> <p>BG POL 4 To protect established Greenways and Blueways within the County against inappropriate new vehicular accesses and increased traffic movements.</p> <p>BG POL 5 To engage in the Compulsory Purchase Order process, when required, to facilitate the timely delivery of the Greenway and Blueway programme within the County.</p> <p>BG OBJ 1 To facilitate and lead in the delivery and completion of the Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway Greenway along / adjoining the former Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) between Collooney, Co. Sligo and Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh in co-operation with Sligo and Cavan County Councils and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council subject to obtaining the necessary planning consent and only where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EU Directives.</p> <p>BG OBJ 2 To seek to advance the design and obtaining necessary planning consent to construct a Greenway along / adjoining the former Cavan &amp; Leitrim Rail line between Dromod and Belturbet, Co. Cavan in co-operation with Cavan County Council. The required planning consent will require the demonstration that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EU Directives.</p> <p>BG OBJ 3 To develop, in conjunction with the Local Rail to Trail Group and local communities, demonstration stretches along / adjoining the former Cavan &amp; Leitrim Rail line subject to undertaking the necessary environmental assessment, obtaining the necessary planning consents and obtaining the legal agreement of affected landowners.</p> <p>BG OBJ 4 To deliver a Blueway linking Carrick-on-Shannon to Leitrim Village and onwards to Battlebridge subject to obtaining the necessary planning consent and only where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EU Directives.</p> <p>BG OBJ 3 To complete the Blueway from Kilclare to Ballinamore subject to obtaining the necessary planning consent and only where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EU Directives.</p> <p>BG OBJ 4 To promote Leitrim as an unsurpassed walking destination and support the further development of walking trails in the county, augmenting the visitor experience through the provision of enabling infrastructure and visitor interpretation along trails, including storyboards, artworks and other media, to create a greater sense of place, connecting and immersing visitors in our local heritage and stories.</p> <p>BG OBJ 5 To support the provision of services for visitors using walking and cycling trails which are appropriate to the location and activity, including bike rental and service points, picnic benches at scenic locations, public toilets, and other ancillary services in remote areas.</p> <p>BG OBJ 6 To promote the principles of 'Leave no Trace' in all trail information panels, promotional materials and events and use all statutory procedures to deter negative environmental impact resulting from use of our trails and outdoor recreation amenities.</p> <p>BG OBJ 7 To encourage access to forestry and woodlands, including private forestry, in co-operation with key stakeholders for walking routes, bridle paths, mountain biking, nature walks, orienteering, hiking, recreational areas and other similar facilities and to retain existing public rights of ways through forest lands.</p>

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Topic	Measures integrated into the Draft Plan, including: [text to be updated to take account of Proposed Material Alterations and any Further Modifications, in advance of Plan adoption]
	<p>BG OBJ 8 To maximize both pedestrian and cycle connectivity to the network of existing greenways and blueways within the county.</p> <p>BG OBJ 9 To work with the Active Travel Initiative of the National Transport Authority and other stakeholders such as Fáilte Ireland and Waterways to develop a co-ordinated approach to the selection, delivery and servicing of future greenways, blueways and trails throughout the County.</p>
Waste Management	<p>WM POL 1 To support the implementation of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021(as amended) or any replacement plan with particular emphasis on encouraging reuse, recycling and disposal of residual waste.</p> <p>WM POL 2 To encourage and support waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste.</p> <p>WM POL 3 To facilitate the transition from a waste management economy to a green circular economy to increase the value recovery and recirculation of resources.</p> <p>WM POL 5 To promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p>WM POL 8 To encourage the recycling of construction and demolition waste and the reuse of aggregate and other materials in future construction projects.</p> <p>WM POL 9 To facilitate high quality sustainable waste recovery and disposal infrastructure / technology including composting (anaerobic digester) plants for managing organic solid waste, at appropriate locations, within the County subject to the protection of the amenities of the surrounding environment including European Sites, and in keeping with the EU waste hierarchy.</p>

## Section 6 Conclusion

Taking into the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site as a result of all Proposed Material Alterations, apart from<sup>62</sup>:

- MA 23
- MA 26
- MA 28
- MA 29
- MA 30
- MA 32
- MA 36
- MA 52
- MA 90
- MA 114
- MA 138

Furthermore, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As certain Proposed Material Alterations<sup>63</sup> could be considered to be mitigation in relation to Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites, further to the mitigation already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA.

In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects was considered in the assessment and the mitigation measures incorporated into the Draft Plan, are seen to be robust to ensure there will be no significant effects as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan and associated Proposed Material Alterations either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.

Taking into account the mitigation measures already incorporated into the Plan, subject to additional recommendations to be integrated into the Plan in advance of adoption, it is concluded that the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 are not foreseen to give rise to any adverse effects on the integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>64</sup>. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

The AA process is ongoing and will inform and be concluded at adoption of the Plan.

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<sup>62</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

<sup>63</sup> MA 65, MA 67, MA 69, MA 70, MA 72, MA 99 and MA 101.

<sup>64</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

# Appendix I Background information on European Sites

List of European Sites considered by the assessment; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000007	Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Bog woodland [91D0], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150]	B01.02, I01, H01.05, B01.01, E01.03, H01.03, M01.03, H01.04, G01, A10.01, J02.01.03	Artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), invasive non-native species, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, forest planting on open ground (native trees), dispersed habitation, other point source pollution to surface water, flooding and rising precipitations, diffuse pollution to surface waters via storm overflows or urban run-off, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits
000115	Ballintra SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Limestone pavements [8240]	K02.01, A04.02.01, B07	Species composition change (succession), non-intensive cattle grazing, forestry activities not referred to above
000133	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC	Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Humid dune slacks [2190], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> ( <i>Salicion arenariae</i> ) [2170], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	J02.01.03, C01.01.02, G02.08, A04.01.01, K01.01, F01.01, G05.01, J02.12.01, G01	Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, removal of beach materials, camping and caravans, intensive cattle grazing, erosion, intensive fish farming, intensification, trampling, overuse, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities
000138	Durnesh Lough SAC	Coastal lagoons [1150], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410]	E03.01, A04.02.01, F03.01, G01, E01.03, A08	Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, non-intensive cattle grazing, hunting, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, dispersed habitation, fertilisation
000191	St. John's Point SAC	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330], Reefs [1170], Alkaline fens [7230], Marsh Frillitary ( <i>Euphydrys aurinia</i> ) [1065], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Limestone pavements [8240], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	G05.01, A04.02.01, F04.02.02, G01.02, G01.03.02, G01.07	Trampling, overuse, non-intensive cattle grazing, hand collection, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, off-road motorized driving, scuba diving, snorkelling
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Limestone pavements [8240], Alkaline fens [7230], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0]	A07, A04.03, J02.01, A08, C01.03.02, A04.01, A04.02.05, F03.01, A03.03, D01.01, G01, B06, J02.05, J02.11, A10.01, J02.05.02, K03.04, G05.01, A03, B02.02, J02.04.01	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, fertilisation, mechanical removal of peat, intensive grazing, non-intensive mixed animal grazing, hunting, abandonment or lack of mowing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, grazing in forests or woodland, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, modifying structures of inland water courses, predation, trampling, overuse, mowing or cutting of grassland, forestry clearance, flooding
000428	Lough Melvin SAC	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130]	A04, A08, I01, H01.05, A10.01, B02	Grazing, fertilisation, invasive non-native species, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, forest and plantation management & use
000440	Lough Ree SAC	Alkaline fens [7230], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Bog woodland [91D0], Limestone pavements [8240]	A03.03, H01.08, F02.03, A04, G01.02, L08, I01, D03.01.02, G01.01, E01.03, A08, G02.09, B02, J02.04, J02.11.02, K03.05, F03.01, H06.03, H02.06	Abandonment or lack of mowing, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, leisure fishing, grazing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, inundation (natural processes), invasive non-native species, piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, nautical sports, dispersed habitation, fertilisation, wildlife watching, forest and plantation management & use, flooding modifications, other siltation rate changes, antagonism arising from introduction of species, hunting, thermal heating of water bodies, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities
000584	Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC	Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8110], Slender green feather-moss ( <i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i> ) [6216], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> ) [3110], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], European dry heaths [4030]	A01, G05.09, A04.01.02, I02, A04.01.03, G01.02, H01.05, B01.02, C01.03, D01.01, G05.07, A07, J01, K01.01, G01.03.02, H05.01, F03.02.02, B02.01, G05.01, A04.02.03, D01.02, B	Cultivation, fences, fencing, intensive sheep grazing, problematic native species, intensive horse grazing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), peat extraction, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, fire and fire suppression, erosion, off-road motorized driving, garbage and solid waste, taking from nest (e.g. falcons), forest replanting, trampling, overuse, non-intensive horse grazing, roads, motorways, silviculture, forestry
000622	Ballysadare Bay SAC	Estuaries [1130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ) [1014], Humid dune slacks [2190], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120]	K01.01, F02, A04.03, J02.12.01, I01, J02.01.02, F01.03, G05.01, G02.01, E01.02, G01.02	Erosion, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, invasive non-native species, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, bottom culture, trampling, overuse, golf course, discontinuous urbanisation, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000623	Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8110], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Geyer's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013], European dry heaths [4030], Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels ( <i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i> ) [8120], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	C01.03.02, L05, A04.03, X, K01.01, D01.01, I01, A04.01.02, G01.03.02	Mechanical removal of peat, collapse of terrain, landslide, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, no threats or pressures, erosion, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, invasive non-native species, intensive sheep grazing, off-road motorized driving
000625	Bunduff Lough and Machair/ Trawalua/ Mullaghmore SAC	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Reefs [1170], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Humid dune slacks [2190], Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> ) [1395], Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ) [1065], Alkaline fens [7230], Machairs * in Ireland [21A0], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120]	J02.01.03, F03.02.04, K01.01, A10.01, A05.02, G01.02, A04.02.02, A04.01.01, J02.12.01, A02.01, A08	Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, predator control, erosion, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, stock feeding, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, non-intensive sheep grazing, intensive cattle grazing, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, agricultural intensification, fertilisation
000627	Cummeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ) [1014], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Estuaries [1130], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210]	G05.01, J01.01, G02.08, D03.01, G02.01, G02.09, E03.03, G01.03.02, I01, J02.11.01, G01.02, D03, A02.01, J02.12.01, F01.01, E01.03	Trampling, overuse, burning down, camping and caravans, port areas, golf course, wildlife watching, disposal of inert materials, off-road motorized driving, invasive non-native species, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, agricultural intensification, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, intensive fish farming, intensification, dispersed habitation
000638	Union Wood SAC	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	B02.02, I01, G01.02, B02.01.01, G05.09, B06	Forestry clearance, invasive non-native species, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, forest replanting (native trees), fences, fencing, grazing in forests or woodland
000979	Corratirrim SAC	Limestone pavements [8240]	H02.06, A10.01, A10, B02.01.02, A05.02, X, A07, I01, I02, A04.01.04, A10.02, G05.07, B01, G01	Diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, restructuring agricultural land holding, forest replanting (non-native trees), stock feeding, no threats or pressures, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, invasive non-native species, problematic native species, intensive goat grazing, removal of stone walls and embankments, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, forest planting on open ground, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities
001403	Arroo Mountain SAC	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], European dry heaths [4030], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels ( <i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i> ) [8120], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]	D01.01, C01.01.01, B02, A04.02.02, C01.03.01, J01.01, L05, I01, K01.01, C01.03.02, G01.03.02	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, sand and gravel quarries, forest and plantation management & use, non-intensive sheep grazing, hand cutting of peat, burning down, collapse of terrain, landslide, invasive non-native species, erosion, mechanical removal of peat, off-road motorized driving
001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC	Geyer's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013], Alkaline fens [7230]	A04.03, A04.02.01, A02, J01	Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, non-intensive cattle grazing, modification of cultivation practices, fire and fire suppression
001656	Bricklieve Mountains & Keishcorran SAC	White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092], Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels ( <i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i> ) [8120], Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ) [1065], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Turloughs [3180]	A04.02.01, F06, D01.01, C01.03.02, A10, J01.01, A10.01, A02.01, A04.01.02	Non-intensive cattle grazing, hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, mechanical removal of peat, restructuring agricultural land holding, burning down, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, agricultural intensification, intensive sheep grazing
001673	Lough Arrow SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	J02.01.03, I01, G02, A10.01, X, D03.01.02	Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, invasive non-native species, sport and leisure structures, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, no threats or pressures, piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers
001680	Streedagh Point Dunes SAC	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ) [1014], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330]	G01.02, C01.01.01, G02.08, X, G01.01, G05.01, G01.03.02	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, sand and gravel quarries, camping and caravans, no threats or pressures, nautical sports, trampling, overuse, off-road motorized driving
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Active raised bogs [7110]	A03.02, J02.15, G02.09, J02.07.02, A04.03, I01, F02.03, A03.03, H02.06, F03.01	Non-intensive mowing, other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, wildlife watching, groundwater abstractions for public water supply, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, invasive non-native species, leisure fishing, abandonment or lack of mowing, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, hunting

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
001898	Unshin River SAC	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranuncullion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106]	I01, B02, J02.10, A02.01, A04.02.02	Invasive non-native species, forest and plantation management & use, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, agricultural intensification, non-intensive sheep grazing
001919	Glenade Lough SAC	Slender naiad ( <i>Najas flexilis</i> ) [1833], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092]	I01, B02.02, B04	Invasive non-native species, forestry clearance, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)
001976	Lough Gill SAC	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0]	E01.03, J02.10, I01, D01.01, E03.03, E01.01, B06, A10.01, X, J02.05.02, G01.01.01, B	Dispersed habitation, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, invasive non-native species, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, disposal of inert materials, continuous urbanisation, grazing in forests or woodland, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, no threats or pressures, modifying structures of inland water courses, motorized nautical sports, silviculture, forestry
001992	Tamur Bog SAC	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	C01.03.02, A05.02, X, I01, J01.01	Mechanical removal of peat, stock feeding, no threats or pressures, invasive non-native species, burning down
002032	Boleybrack Mountain SAC	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], European dry heaths [4030], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410]	K03.02, B02, J01.01, C01.01.01, D02.02, A07, G01.02, A04.03, B, A10, I02, A04.02.01, C01.03.02, F03.02.04, F03.02.02, A04.02.02, A04.01.02, B01, J02.06.02, D01, C03.03	Parasitism (fauna), forest and plantation management & use, burning down, sand and gravel quarries, pipe lines, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, silviculture, forestry, restructuring agricultural land holding, problematic native species, non-intensive cattle grazing, mechanical removal of peat, predator control, taking from nest (e.g. falcons), non-intensive sheep grazing, intensive sheep grazing, forest planting on open ground, surface water abstractions for public water supply, roads, paths and railroads, wind energy production
002164	Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	X, C01.03.02, F02.03, D01.01	No threats or pressures, mechanical removal of peat, leisure fishing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ) [1330], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Estuaries [1130], Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ) [1029], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Coastal lagoons [1150], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Bottlenose dolphin ( <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> ) [1349], Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110], Reefs [1170], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranuncullion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]	E01, A04, C01.01.02, K02.03, G01.01, D01.01, I01, A08, J02.01.02, E03, F01, J02.10, F02.03, F03.01, J02.12.01, C01.03.01, J02.01.01, H04, B	Urbanised areas, human habitation, grazing, removal of beach materials, eutrophication (natural), nautical sports, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, invasive non-native species, fertilisation, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, discharges, marine and freshwater aquaculture, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, leisure fishing, hunting, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, hand cutting of peat, polderisation, air pollution, air-borne pollutants, silviculture, forestry
002202	Mount Jessop Bog SAC	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Bog woodland [91D0]	B02.02, I01, J02.15, J01.01, I02	Forestry clearance, invasive non-native species, other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, burning down, problematic native species
002241	Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC	Limestone pavements [8240], Alkaline fens [7230], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	K02.03, H01.08, A04.01, D01.01, G01, I01, M01.03, I02, A04.02.05, D03.01.02, M01.02, H01, A08, J02.10, J02.01.03, M01.01, J02, K02.01, C01, B02.01.01, A10.01, G02.09	Eutrophication (natural), diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, intensive grazing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species, flooding and rising precipitations, problematic native species, non-intensive mixed animal grazing, piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, droughts and less precipitations, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), fertilisation, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes), human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, species composition change (succession), mining and quarrying, forest replanting (native trees), removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, wildlife watching
002303	Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC	Turloughs [3180]	X, K02, A10.01, A02.01, A08	No threats or pressures, biocenotic evolution, succession, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, agricultural intensification, fertilisation
002346	Brown Bog SAC	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	J02.15, X, K01.03	Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, no threats or pressures, drying out
002348	Clooneen Bog SAC	Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Bog woodland [91D0], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	A09, A03, A04.02.01, C01.03.02	Irrigation, mowing or cutting of grassland, non-intensive cattle grazing, mechanical removal of peat
004013	Drumcliff Bay SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Sanderling ( <i>Callidris alba</i> ) [A144]	E01.03, A04, F01, G01.02, A08	Dispersed habitation, grazing, marine and freshwater aquaculture, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, fertilisation
004035	Cummeen Strand SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162]	A08, H, E02, F01, D03.02, E01, J02.01.02, F02.03, D01.02	Fertilisation, pollution, industrial or commercial areas, marine and freshwater aquaculture, shipping lanes, urbanised areas, human habitation, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, leisure fishing, roads, motorways

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004049	Lough Oughter SPA	Great Crested Grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038]	G01.01, F03.01, F02.03, A05.01, B, A08	Nautical sports, hunting, leisure fishing, animal breeding, silviculture, forestry, fertilisation
004050	Lough Arrow SPA	Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ) [A004], Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	F02.03, A08	Leisure fishing, fertilisation
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067]	F03.01, G01.01, F02.03, A08	Hunting, nautical sports, leisure fishing, fertilisation
004064	Lough Ree SPA	Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Coot ( <i>Fulca atra</i> ) [A125], Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ) [A004]	F03.01, F02.03, I01, A04, G01.01, G01.02, B, A08	Hunting, leisure fishing, invasive non-native species, grazing, nautical sports, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, silviculture, forestry, fertilisation
004068	Inishmurray SPA	Barnacle goose ( <i>Branta leucopsis</i> ) [A045], Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194], Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184]	X, G01.02	No threats or pressures, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> ) [A164], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Scaup ( <i>Aythya marila</i> ) [A062], Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	D03.02, G01.01, E02, E03, F01, A08, E01	Shipping lanes, nautical sports, industrial or commercial areas, discharges, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fertilisation, urbanised areas, human habitation
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Corncrake ( <i>Crex crex</i> ) [A122], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142]	A08, F02.03, D01.01, G01.02, D01.05, A04.03, F03.01, G01.01, A04, A03, E01	Fertilisation, leisure fishing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, bridge, viaduct, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, hunting, nautical sports, grazing, mowing or cutting of grassland, urbanised areas, human habitation
004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	A04, B, F02.03, F03.01, G01.01	Grazing, silviculture, forestry, leisure fishing, hunting, nautical sports
004129	Ballysadare Bay SPA	Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	F03.01, F01, E01.01, A08	Hunting, marine and freshwater aquaculture, continuous urbanisation, fertilisation
004145	Durnesh Lough SPA	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038]	E03, K02.03, A04, A08, G01.02	Discharges, eutrophication (natural), grazing, fertilisation, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
004151	Donegal Bay SPA	Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003]	D01.02, G01.01, A04, G01.02, E01.01, F01, A08	Roads, motorways, nautical sports, grazing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, continuous urbanisation, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fertilisation
004187	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA	Chough ( <i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> ) [A346], Peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103]	I01, C01.01.01, C01.03.02, G01.02, B01, C01.01, G02.08, A04, A04.03, K01.01, G01.04, E01.01	Invasive non-native species, sand and gravel quarries, mechanical removal of peat, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, forest planting on open ground, sand and gravel extraction, camping and caravans, grazing, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, erosion, mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, continuous urbanisation
004234	Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA	Barnacle goose ( <i>Branta leucopsis</i> ) [A045]	D04.01, X, E01	Airport, no threats or pressures, urbanised areas, human habitation
UK0030300	West Fermanagh Scarplands SAC	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Limestone pavements [8240], 9180 Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines [9180]	B02, K04, A04, G05, B03, B06, F03, G01, H01, H02, H04, I01, J01, J02, K02	Forestry plantation management and use, interspecific floral relations, grazing, forest exploitation, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources), air pollution, air-borne pollutants, invasive non-native species, fire and fire suppression, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, biocenotic evolution, succession, interspecific floral relations
UK0016603	Cuilcagh Mountain SAC	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	B02, B06, F03, G01, G02, H01, H04, I01, J02	Grazing, roads, paths and railroads, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, interpretative centres, air pollution, air-borne pollutants, problematic native species, fire and fire suppression, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, biocenotic evolution, succession
UK0016607	Pettigoe Plateau SAC	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	B02, B06, F03, G01, G02, H01, H04, I01, J02	Grazing, roads, paths, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, interpretative centres, air pollution, air-borne pollutants, problematic native species, fire and fire suppression, succession
UK9020051	Pettigoe Plateau SPA	Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140]	F03.01, F02.03, I01, A04, G01.01, G01.02, B, A08	Hunting, invasive non-native species, grazing, sports, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, forestry, fertilisation
UK0030045	Largalinn SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	B02, B06, F03, H04, I01	Forest and plantation management & use, grazing in forests/ woodland, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), air pollution, air-borne pollutants, invasive non-native species
UK0016619	Monawilkin SAC	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	A04, B02, G01, H04, I01, K02	Grazing, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, air pollution, air-borne pollutants, invasive non-native species, biocenotic evolution, succession

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
UK0030116	Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River SAC	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Freshwater pearl mussel Margaritifera margaritifera [1029]	B02, C01, C03, F02, H01, I01, J02, M01	Forest and plantation management & use, mining and quarrying, renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), invasive non-native species, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, changes in abiotic conditions
UK0030212	Moninea Bog SAC	Active raised bogs [7110]	A04, H04, J01, J02, K02	Grazing, air pollution, air-borne pollutants, fire and fire suppression, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, biocenotic evolution, succession
UK0016614	Upper Lough Erne SAC	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	B02, B06, F03, G01, G02, H01, H04, I01, J02	Forest and plantation management & use, grazing in forests/ woodland, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, sport and leisure structures, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), air pollution, air-borne pollutants, invasive non-native species, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
UK9020071	Upper Lough Erne SPA	Whooper swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038]	A02, A04, D02, G01, H01, M01, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, grazing, utility and service lines, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), changes in abiotic conditions, changes in biotic conditions

List of all Qualifying Interests of SACs that have undergone Assessment including Summaries of Current Threats and Sensitivity to Effects

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Geyer's Whorl Snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> )	[1013]	Loss of riverside and canal side habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> )	[1014]	Loss of riverside and canal side habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> )	[1029]	In stream works, hydrological and morphological alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due urbanisation etc. Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> )	[1065]	Declines in habitat quality led to species decline.	Habitat management; land use change and drainage.
White-clawed Crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> )	[1092]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Sea Lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> )	[1095]	Barriers to upstream migration (e.g., weirs), which limit access to spawning beds and juvenile habitat are main threats to this species.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity.
Brook Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> )	[1096]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change.
River Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> )	[1099]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change.
Salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )	[1106]	Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations.	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	[1110]	Climate change, wind farms, benthic dredging	Disturbance to structure and composition
Estuaries	[1130]	Pollution, fishing /aquaculture and habitat quality.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	[1140]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
Coastal lagoons	[1150]	Mixed source marine water pollution, modification of hydrological flow, drainage, Extraction activities generating marine pollution, Sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Changes in hydrological dynamics and pollution
Large shallow inlets and bays	[1160]	Pressures on the habitat include nutrient enrichment, dredging and invasive alien species. Overall Status is assessed as Bad and deteriorating, a genuine decline since the 2013 assessment of Inadequate and improving, and is based on more detailed information.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity, surface water runoff, discharge etc. On site management activities.
Reefs	[1170]	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	[1220]	Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	[1230]	A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change. There have been no significant losses in sea cliff habitat since the Directive came into force.	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	[1310]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> )	[1330]	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass ( <i>Spartina anglica</i> ); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
Common Bottlenose Dolphin ( <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> )	[1349]	Marine fish and shellfish harvesting ( <i>professional, recreational</i> ) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, geotechnical surveying	Interference with surrounding environment via light, noise, pollution
Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	[1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); hunting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
Harbour Seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> )	[1365]	Flooding and rising precipitations, urbanised areas, human habitation, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, leisure fishing, flooding modifications,	Changes in habitat, food resources, human waste from built environment and fisheries, noise and fisheries industries.
Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> )	[1395]	There are no significant impacts affecting this species.	None identified.



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Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> )	[1410]	Over-grazing by cattle or sheep; infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
Slender Naiad ( <i>Najas flexilis</i> )	[1833]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization, nutrient alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due urbanisation, water abstractions from groundwater, invasive non-native species, silting up, drying out, succession	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Embryonic shifting dunes	[2110]	Natural erosion processes exacerbated by recreation and sand extraction. Coastal protection interfering with natural processes.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes ( <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> )	[2120]	Recreation and coastal defences, which may interfere with local sediment dynamics.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ( <i>grey dunes</i> )	[2130]	Recreation; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; non-native plant species, particularly sea buckthorn ( <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> ).	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Dunes with willow scrub ( <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> and <i>Salicion arenariae</i> )	[2170]	Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Humid dune slacks	[2190]	Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change.
Machairs (* in Ireland)	[21A0]	Non-intensive sheep grazing, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, damage by herbivores (including game species), marine macro-pollution (i.e., plastic bags, styrofoam), burning down, off-road motorized driving, erosion, storm, cyclone, trampling, overuse.	Recreation, human disturbance, pollution, over or under grazing / land management.
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> )	[3110]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation ( <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> )	[3130]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of muskgrass ( <i>Chara spp.</i> )	[3140]	Hydrological changes, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	[3150]	Hydrological changes, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	[3160]	Nutrient alterations; management shifts in the associated peatland habitat, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
Turloughs	[3180]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation ( <i>Ranuncion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> )	[3260]	Hydrological and morphological changes, water quality, enrichment, and surface water discharges from industrial site and/or agriculture.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	[4010]	Reclamation, afforestation and burning; overstocking; invasion by non-heath species; exposure of peat to severe erosion.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
European dry heaths	[4030]	Afforestation, over burning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Alpine and Boreal heaths	[4060]	Abandonment; overgrazing; burning; outdoor recreation; quarries; communication networks; and wind farm developments.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	[5130]	Overgrazing, erosion, scrub clearance, inappropriate land use management, and succession processes.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> )* important orchid sites	[6210]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	[6230]	Bracken encroachment, succession, inappropriate grazing, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> )	[6410]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	[6430]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> )	[6510]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Active raised bogs	[7110]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes.
Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	[7120]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes.
Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	[7130]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Transition mires and quaking bogs	[7140]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes.
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	[7150]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes.

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Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Calcareous fens with species of mariscus sedge and bog cotton ( <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Caricion davalliana</i> )	[7210]	Hydrological changes, pollution to surface waters, urbanisation, roads development, groundwater interactions, grazing and cultivation practices and the inappropriate use of pesticides.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> )	[7220]	Ground water interactions, on site management activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Alkaline fens	[7230]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> )	[8110]	Overgrazing, undergrazing and succession were recorded as medium-importance pressures in this reporting period, and Structure and functions were again assessed as Inadequate, the trend is considered to be stable rather than improving. This change is due to improved knowledge and the habitat is considered to have been stable since before the last assessment.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels ( <i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i> )	[8120]	Overgrazing, mining and quarrying, sport and leisure activities, abiotic natural processes, air pollution	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species, human activities.
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	[8210]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	[8220]	Pressures associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb ( <i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> ).	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Limestone pavements	[8240]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	[8330]	Ports, marine constructions, human disturbance	Erosion, recreation, marine operations
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	[91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Bog woodland	[91D0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles	[91J0]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.

List of all Special Conservation Interest of SPAs that have undergone Assessment including Summaries of Current Threats and Sensitivity to Effects

Special Conservation Interests	Vulnerabilities of species of conservation interest
<p>Special Conservation Interests</p> <p>Great northern diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003]</p> <p>Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005]</p> <p>Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</p> <p>European shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018]</p> <p>Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]</p> <p>Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045]</p> <p>Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i> [Eastern Greenland/Scotland/Ireland]) [A045]</p> <p>Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i> [Svalbard/Denmark/UK]) [A045]</p> <p>Common shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</p> <p>Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]</p> <p>Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</p> <p>Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053]</p> <p>Northern pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]</p> <p>Northern shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]</p> <p>Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061]</p> <p>Greater scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062]</p> <p>Black (common) scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065]</p> <p>Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067]</p> <p>Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</p>	<p>Corn crane (<i>Crex crex</i>) [A122]</p> <p>Common coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125]</p> <p>Eurasian oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</p> <p>Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</p> <p>European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</p> <p>Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</p> <p>Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]</p> <p>Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</p> <p>Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]</p> <p>Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</p> <p>Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</p> <p>Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</p> <p>Common greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164]</p> <p>Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</p> <p>Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]</p> <p>Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</p> <p>Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</p> <p>Red-billed chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]</p> <p>Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]</p>
Wetlands for waterbirds [A999]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct land take is a common vulnerability to all sites; as well as significant water quality effects. The conservation objective of all SPAs designated for Wetland and Waterbirds is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds using it.</li> </ul>

<sup>65</sup> SNH (2007) A Review of Disturbance Distances in Selected Bird Species: Scottish Natural Heritage; M. Ruddock & D.P. Whitfield

# Appendix II Relationship Other Plans and Programmes

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>International/European Level</b>			
<b>SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</li> <li>Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission.</li> <li>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects.</li> <li>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme.</li> <li>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive.</li> <li>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> <li>Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA.</li> <li>For projects listed in Annex II, a “screening procedure” is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III.</li> <li>The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest.</li> <li>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species.</li> <li>Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species’ habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.</li> <li>Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present.</li> <li>Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats.</li> <li>Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation.</li> <li>The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.</li> <li>Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas).</li> <li>Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes.</li> <li>Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and – preventing further such pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>Ireland’s Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland’s third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State’s NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year</li> <li>set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk</li> <li>set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce</li> </ul>	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an integrated approach</li> <li>best available techniques,</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>flexibility; and</li> <li>public participation</li> </ul>	effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and</li> <li>the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products.</li> <li>Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU.</li> <li>It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets.</li> <li>All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets.</li> <li>The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables.</li> <li>EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans.</li> <li>Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption.</li> <li>The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor.</li> <li>Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive;</li> <li>Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014;</li> <li>Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels;</li> <li>Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020.</li> <li>Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures</li> <li>EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs</li> <li>The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services</li> <li>Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy</li> <li>Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering</li> <li>National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits</li> <li>Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it</li> <li>Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for</li> </ul>	The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism;</li> <li>The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure;</li> <li>Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law;</li> <li>Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.</li> </ul>	effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy.</li> <li>Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services.</li> <li>The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity</li> <li>Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure</li> <li>Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry</li> <li>Sustainable management of fish stocks</li> <li>Reducing invasive alien species</li> <li>Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy</b>	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.</li> <li>Supporting EU-level GI projects.</li> <li>Improving access to finance for GI projects.</li> <li>Improving information and promoting innovation.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and</li> <li>recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them;</li> <li>each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage;</li> <li>encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity</b>	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	The Convention has three main goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity);</li> <li>the sustainable use of its components; and</li> <li>the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change</b>	It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.	The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UN Kyoto Protocol (2<sup>nd</sup> Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</b>	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II).</li> <li>EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP.</li> <li>Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the

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	At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.		objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020.</li> <li>Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels.</li> <li>Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%.</li> <li>Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps.</li> <li>Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU.</li> <li>Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020.</li> <li>Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries.</li> <li>Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.</li> </ul>	<p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS).</li> <li>New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries.</li> <li>First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC)</b>  <b>Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive).</li> <li>Sets new air quality objectives for PM<sub>2.5</sub> (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives.</li> <li>Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values.</li> <li>Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM<sub>10</sub>) or up to five years (NO<sub>2</sub>, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission.</li> <li>The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole.</li> <li>Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria.</li> <li>Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures.</li> <li>Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public.</li> <li>Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases.</li> <li>Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</b>	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels;</li> <li>Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and</li> <li>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.</li> </ul> <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks</li> <li>Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3.</li> <li>Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above.</li> <li>Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats.</li> <li>Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies.</li> <li>Promote sustainable water usage.</li> <li>The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive</li> <li>Sampling Drinking Water Directive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Achieve "good status" for all waters.</li> <li>Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts.</li> <li>Involve the public and streamline legislation.</li> <li>Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas.</li> <li>Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas.</li> <li>Recover costs for water services.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive</li> <li>○ Shellfish Directive</li> <li>○ Freshwater Fish Directive</li> <li>○ Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive</li> <li>○ Dangerous Substances Directive</li> </ul>		
<b>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect, control and conserve groundwater.</li> <li>• Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</li> <li>• Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive.</li> <li>• Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption.</li> <li>• Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I.</li> <li>• Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a).</li> <li>• Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5.</li> <li>• Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause.</li> <li>• Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action.</li> <li>• Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health.</li> <li>• Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.</li> <li>• The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment.</li> <li>• Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges.</li> <li>• Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent.</li> <li>• Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures.</li> <li>• Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.</li> <li>• The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive.</li> <li>• The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator.</li> <li>• The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.</li> </ul>	
<b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.</li> </ul>	The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.</li> <li>The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values;</li> <li>(II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes;</li> <li>(III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and</li> <li>(IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.</li> <li>A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</li> <li>Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.</li> <li>Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal.</li> <li>Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society.</li> <li>Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Landscape Convention 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.</li> <li>Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</b>	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital</li> <li>to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy</li> <li>to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better implementation of legislation.</li> <li>Better information by improving the knowledge base.</li> <li>More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy.</li> <li>Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies.</li> </ul> <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make the Union's cities more sustainable.</li> <li>To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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<b>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</b>	The convention has three main aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats</li> <li>to promote cooperation between states</li> <li>to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species</li> </ul>	The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control.</li> <li>Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucas.</li> <li>Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies.</li> <li>Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.</li> <li>Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations.</li> <li>Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Bali Road Map (2007)</b>	The overall goals of the project are twofold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and</li> <li>To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.</li> </ul>	The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mitigation</li> <li>adaptation</li> <li>technology</li> <li>financing</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b>	Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation</li> <li>Transparency of actions</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Finance</li> <li>Adaptation</li> <li>Forests</li> <li>Capacity building</li> </ul>	Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</b>	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020);</li> <li>Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets;</li> <li>Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt;</li> <li>Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and</li> <li>Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Common Agricultural Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and</li> <li>To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future;</li> <li>Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)</b>	Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.	The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration,</li> <li>Evaluation,</li> <li>Authorisation; and</li> <li>Restriction of chemicals.</li> </ul> REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Stockholm Convention</b>	The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) that are listed in Annex A to the Convention</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention</li> <li>Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention</li> <li>Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner</li> <li>To target additional POPs</li> <li>Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ramsar Convention</b>	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;</li> <li>Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;</li> <li>Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European 2020 Strategy for Growth</b>	Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;</li> <li>Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;</li> <li>Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.</li> </ul>	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed;</li> <li>3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&amp;D;</li> <li>the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right);</li> <li>the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree;</li> <li>20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Parliament resolutions, including the European Green Deal (EGD) 2020</b>	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution.</li> <li>It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</li> <li>In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU (2020) Biodiversity Strategy</b>	A long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems across the European Union.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value.</li> <li>An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss.</li> <li>A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision-making.</li> <li>Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package</b>	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020</b>	Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.	As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation;</li> <li>• Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs;</li> <li>• Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and</li> <li>• Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Level</b>			
<b>Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan (2021-2030)</b>	The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between.  As part of Project Ireland 2040 the National Development Plan sets out the Government's over-arching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030. It is an ambitious plan that balances the significant demand for public investment across all sectors and regions of Ireland with a major focus on improving the delivery of infrastructure projects to ensure speed of delivery and value for money.	The National Planning Framework published alongside the National Development Plan yields ten National Strategic Outcomes as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compact Growth</li> <li>2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>4. Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>6. High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage</li> <li>8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society</li> <li>9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources</li> <li>10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland [in preparation]</b>	The high-level strategic framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network.  This new framework is the Department of Transport's contribution to Project Ireland 2040, Government's long-term strategy for accommodating population growth in a sustainable manner and making Ireland a better country for all of its people. It has been developed to ensure that our transport sectoral strategy is underpinned by and supports the achievement of the spatial objectives and National Strategic Objectives set out in the National Planning Framework.	The draft framework establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas.</li> <li>• There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission.</li> <li>• Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects.</li> <li>• Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.</li> <li>• These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning.</li> <li>• Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<p><b>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites.</li> <li>The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Waste Management Act 1996, as amended</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997).</li> <li>Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.</li> <li>Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.</li> </ul>	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution.</li> <li>Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values.</li> <li>Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3<sup>rd</sup> Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources</li> </ul>	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited</li> <li>Limits on the land application of fertilisers</li> <li>Storage requirements for livestock manure; and</li> <li>Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.</li> <li>The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 amends the principle Act of 2015 (outlined below) by reinforcing Ireland's transition to Net Zero and achieve its commitment to a climate neutral economy by no later than 2050. It establishes a legally binding framework with clear targets and commitments set in law, and ensure the necessary structures and processes are embedded on a statutory basis to ensure Ireland achieves its national, EU and international climate goals and obligations in the near and long term.</li> </ul>	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective,</li> <li>The policy of the Government on climate change,</li> <li>Climate justice,</li> <li>Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Climate Action Plan 2021</b>	The Climate Action Plan 2021 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</li> </ul> <p>The Plan lists the actions needed to deliver on our climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated annually, including in 2022, to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)</b>	National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan provides an 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes an 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.	The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs;</li> <li>Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals;</li> <li>Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and</li> <li>Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b>	€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</li> <li>It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)</b>	These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in European sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries;</li> <li>Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required;</li> <li>Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation;</li> <li>Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan;</li> <li>Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan;</li> <li>Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment;</li> <li>Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities;</li> <li>Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and</li> <li>Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)</b>	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)</b>	The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers.  Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs.	This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing on and offshore wind,</li> <li>Building a sustainable bioenergy sector,</li> <li>Fostering R&amp;D in renewables such as wave &amp; tidal,</li> <li>Growing sustainable transport; and</li> <li>Building out robust and efficient networks.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

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<b>Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)</b>	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:  Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.	bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.  Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)</b>	The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050.  Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.	National climate policy in Ireland: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity;</li> <li>Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future;</li> <li>Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and</li> <li>Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]</b>	The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation.</li> <li>The Strategy should also help tackle climate change.</li> <li>The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture.</li> <li>In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022</b>	EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; <i>"Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."</i>	Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>All Island Grid Study 2008</b>	The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network ("the grid") on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system.	Key conclusions of the study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study.</li> <li>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to portfolio 1</li> <li>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports.</li> <li>The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact.</li> <li>Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered.</li> <li>Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users.  It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure;</li> <li>Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity;</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the

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	significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and</li> <li>Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and</li> <li>Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.</li> </ul>	objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Water Resources Plan [in preparation]</b>	The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.	The key objectives of the plan are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions</li> <li>Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry</li> <li>Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources</li> <li>Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events</li> <li>Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water</li> <li>Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies</li> <li>Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)</b>	Vision: <i>"Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU."</i>	General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development</li> <li>Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability</li> <li>Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b>	Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.	This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong;</li> <li>Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;</li> <li>The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects;</li> <li>Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms;</li> <li>Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;</li> <li>Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and</li> <li>Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</b>	The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.	The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment [pending preparation]</b>	The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions.  Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>"Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."</i>	The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development;</li> <li>Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape;</li> <li>Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape;</li> <li>Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020 – 2025	The Policy sets out new targets to tackle waste and move towards a circular economy.	The plan includes halving our food waste by 2030, the introduction of a deposit and return scheme for plastic bottles and cans, a ban on certain single use plastics from July 2021, and a levy on disposable cups. Other measures include applying green criteria and circular economy principles in all public procurement, a waste recovery levy to encourage recycling, and ensuring all packaging is reusable or recyclable by 2030.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020 and new Draft National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027	This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published. Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally;</li> <li>• To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste;</li> <li>• To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export;</li> <li>• To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.</li> </ul>	The Environmental Protection Agency has a statutory responsibility to prepare National Hazardous Waste Management Plans. The National Hazardous Waste Management Plan for the period 2014-2020 was the third such national plan and had 27 recommendations with the following objectives: to prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste; to maximise the collection of hazardous waste; to strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; and to minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.  The Environmental Protection Agency has prepared a revised National Hazardous Waste Management Plan for the period 2021 to 2027 (currently at draft stage).	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	The vision is: <i>“A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.”</i>	These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life</li> <li>• Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities</li> <li>• Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)	Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o To reduce overall travel demand.</li> <li>o To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.</li> <li>o To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</li> <li>o To reduce transport emissions.</li> <li>o To improve accessibility to transport.</li> </ul>	Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment</li> <li>o ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking</li> <li>o improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies</li> <li>o strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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<b>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</b>	SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.	The three priorities stated in SFILT are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition);</li> <li>• Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and</li> <li>• Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network.</li> </ul> In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts;</li> <li>• Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and</li> <li>• To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</b>	White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Security of Supply</li> <li>o Sustainability of Energy</li> <li>o Competitiveness of Energy Supply</li> </ul>	The underpinning Strategic Goals are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand</li> <li>• Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland</li> <li>• Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation</li> <li>• Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks</li> <li>• Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production</li> <li>• Being prepared for energy supply disruptions</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</b>	NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change.</li> <li>• Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions.</li> <li>• Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change.</li> <li>• Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>2030 Climate and Energy Framework</b>	Adopted October 2014, includes EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period from 2021 to 2030.	Key targets for 2030: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels).</li> <li>• At least 32% share for renewable energy. This was revised upwards in 2018.</li> <li>• At least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency. This was revised upwards in 2018.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.</li> </ul>	Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy &amp; Climate Plan (NECP) 2021 – 2030</b>	Ireland's National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 takes into account energy and climate policies developed up to 2019, the levels of demographic and	The planned policies and measures that were identified up to the end of 2019, collectively deliver a 30% reduction by 2030 in non-Emission Trading Systems greenhouse gas emissions	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually

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	economic growth identified in the National Planning Framework - Project 2040 and includes all of the climate and energy measures as set out in the National Development Plan.	(from 2005 levels). Ireland is committed to achieving a 7% annual average reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 2021 and 2030. The NECP was drafted in line with the current EU effort-sharing approach, before the Government committed to this higher level of ambition, and therefore does not reflect this higher commitment. Ireland is currently developing those policies and measures and intends to integrate the revision of the NECP into the process which will be required for increasing the overall EU contribution under the Paris Agreement.	or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wildlife Act of 1976</b>  <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b>	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems</li> <li>• Give statutory protection to NHAs</li> <li>• Enhances wildlife species and their habitats</li> <li>• Includes more species for protection</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021)</b> <b>Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan</b>	Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors.</li> <li>• To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity.</li> <li>• To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.</li> <li>• To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside.</li> <li>• To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment.</li> <li>• To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species.</li> <li>• To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Broadband Plan (2012)</b>	Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.	<p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband.</li> <li>• Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.</li> <li>• The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.</li> <li>• A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)</b>  <b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</b>  <b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation.</li> <li>• Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water.</li> <li>• Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on River Basin Districts (RBDs).</li> <li>• Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies.</li> <li>• Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body.</li> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances.</li> <li>• Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater.</li> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies.</li> <li>• Outlines surface water quality standards.</li> <li>• Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)</b>	Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> <li>• Sets groundwater quality standards.</li> <li>• Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b>	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosecute for water pollution offences.</li> <li>• Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution.</li> <li>Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices;</li> <li>Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.</li> <li>Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<p><b>Water Services Act 2007</b></p> <p><b>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</b></p> <p><b>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides the water services infrastructure.</li> <li>Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services.</li> <li>Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply.</li> </ul> <p>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.</p>	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced.</li> <li>Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive.</li> <li>Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures.</li> <li>Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems.</li> <li>Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services.</li> <li>Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<p><b>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</b></p>	<p>This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</p>	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet Customer Expectations.</li> <li>Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply.</li> <li>Provide Effective Management of Waste water.</li> <li>Protect and Enhance the Environment.</li> <li>Support Social and Economic Growth.</li> <li>Invest in the Future.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<p><b>Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas</b></p>	<p>Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning.</li> <li>Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<p><b>Agri-Food Strategy 2030</b></p>	<p>This 10-year Strategy sets out four high-level "Missions" to be achieved in order to develop such a system in Ireland:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector</li> <li>Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Wellbeing</li> <li>Food that is Safe, Nutritious and Appealing, Trusted and Valued at Home and Abroad</li> <li>An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Sector, driven by Technology and Talent</li> </ol>	<p>Each of the Missions has a set of Goals which are underpinned by a series of Actions.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<p><b>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)</b></p> <p><b>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)</b></p> <p><b>Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)</b></p>	<p>Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.</li> <li>Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment.</li> <li>Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans.</li> <li>Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Rural Development Programme</b>	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	At a more detailed level, the programme also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation;</li> <li>• Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and</li> <li>• Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Realising our Rural Potential: The Action Plan for Rural Development 2017</b>	The Plan aims to unlock the potential of rural Ireland through a framework of supports at national and local level which will ensure that people who live in rural areas have increased opportunities for employment locally, and access to public services and social networks that support a high quality of life.	The Plan contains 276 actions across five key pillars. The five pillars are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Sustainable Communities,</li> <li>• Supporting Enterprise and Employment,</li> <li>• Maximising our Rural Tourism and Recreation Potential,</li> <li>• Fostering Culture and Creativity in Rural Communities, and</li> <li>• Improving Rural Infrastructure and Connectivity.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)</b>	Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020.	Measures include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afforestation and Creation of Woodland</li> <li>• NeighbourWood Scheme</li> <li>• Forest Roads</li> <li>• Reconstitution Scheme</li> <li>• Woodland Improvement Scheme</li> <li>• Native Woodland Conservation Scheme</li> <li>• Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions</li> <li>• Producer Groups</li> <li>• Innovative Forest Technology</li> <li>• Forest Genetic Reproductive Material</li> <li>• Forest Management Plans</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 3rd Cycle [in preparation]</b>	This draft River Basin Management Plan sets out the measures that are necessary to protect and restore water quality in Ireland. The overall aim of the plan is to ensure that our natural waters are sustainably managed and that freshwater resources are protected so as to maintain and improve Ireland's water environment.	The River Basin Management Plan sets out the measures necessary to protect and improve the quality of Ireland's waters. These plans are prepared in 6-year cycles, during which a programme of measures must be implemented so as to achieve water quality objectives. Good water quality contributes to protecting human health by improving the quality of drinking water sources and bathing waters.  UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 6 'ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all' have been integrated into the measures and the governance arrangements for the proposed River Basin Management Plan.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</b>	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	Objectives of the Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management.</li> <li>• To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils.</li> <li>• To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions.</li> <li>• To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly.</li> <li>• To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use.</li> <li>• To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required.</li> <li>• To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs.</li> <li>• To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b>	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

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<b>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020</b>	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:  Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.	Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs.</li> <li>To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy.</li> <li>To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.</li> </ul>	bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.  Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016</b>	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030</b>	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFV forecasts</li> <li>Electricity targets</li> <li>Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>Hydrogen targets</li> <li>Biofuels targets</li> <li>LPG targets</li> <li>Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</b>	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>85% increase in exports to €19 billion.</li> <li>70% increase in value added to €13 billion.</li> <li>60% increase in primary production to €10 billion.</li> <li>The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b>	Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland. Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020</li> <li>Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b>	This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable.  By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce overall travel demand</li> <li>Maximise the efficiency of the transport network</li> <li>Reduce reliance on fossil fuels</li> <li>Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>Improve accessibility to transport</li> </ul> <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021</b>	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy Context</li> <li>Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination

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	involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancing the Visitor Experience</li> <li>Research in the Irish Tourism Sector</li> <li>Supporting Local Communities in Tourism</li> <li>Wider Government Policy</li> <li>International Context</li> <li>Co-ordination Structures</li> </ul>	effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</b>	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts;</li> <li>250,000 people employed in tourism; and</li> <li>10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE)</b>	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.  Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030</b>	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFV forecasts</li> <li>Electricity targets</li> <li>Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>Hydrogen targets</li> <li>Biofuels targets</li> <li>LPG targets</li> </ul> Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>People Place and Policy - Growing Tourism to 2025, (DTTAS, 2014)</b>	Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.	The framework establishes the overall tourism goal of Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment in the tourism sector will be 250,000 by 2025, compared with around 200,000 at present.</li> <li>There will be 10 million visits to Ireland annually by 2025.</li> </ul> The Government's ambition is that overseas tourism revenue will reach €5 billion in real terms by 2025.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020</b>	The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i> .	Four objectives of the Plan include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice.</li> <li>Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement.</li> <li>Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset.</li> <li>Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)</b>	This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.	The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience;</li> <li>To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs;</li> <li>To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and</li> <li>To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the

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<p><b>Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006</b> (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) <b>Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997</b> (23/1997) <b>Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998</b> (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 <b>Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001</b> (40/2001) <b>Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006</b> (8/2006)</p>	<p>The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.</p>	<p>The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications.</li> </ul>	<p>objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011</b></p>	<p>The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences</li> <li>Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal.</li> <li>In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Marine Planning Development Management Bill (General Scheme), 2019</b></p>	<p>The Bill seeks to establish in law a completely new regime for the maritime area which will replace existing State and development consent regimes and streamline arrangements on the basis of a single consent principle.</p>	<p>One of the aims is to establish a legal basis for An Bord Pleanála and coastal local authorities to consent to development in the maritime area, while retaining existing foreshore and planning permission provisions for aquaculture and sea fisheries related development. It will also provide for a single environmental impact assessment (EIA) and a single appropriate assessment (AA), where applicable.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)</b></p>	<p>The NMPF details how marine activities will interact with each other in an ocean space that is under increasing spatial pressure, ensuring the sustainable use of Ireland's marine resources to 2040. The NMPF has been prepared with an ecosystem-based approach and informed by best available knowledge.</p>	<p>The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time, outlining the Government's vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity.</p> <p>The NMPF is intended as the marine equivalent to the National Planning Framework. This approach will enable the Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>set a clear direction for managing our seas</li> <li>clarify objectives and priorities</li> <li>direct decision makers, users and stakeholders towards strategic, plan-led, and efficient use of our marine resources</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Seafood Operational Programme (2014-2020)</b></p>	<p>The Operational Programme (OP) supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in Ireland aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the EU's "Europe 2020" objectives. The OP supports the general reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the development of its Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) in Ireland.</p> <p>The OP strategy is designed around the Irish national priorities in the agri-food sector: 'Act Smart' by encouraging knowledge and innovation, 'Think Green' through a responsible and sustainable use of resources, 'Achieve Growth' in order to maintain and create jobs.</p>	<p>The Irish OP is organised around the following priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union Priority 1 (UP1): €67 million (28% of the total allocation) aim at assuring the sustainable development of fishing activities, while protecting the marine environment.</li> <li>Union Priority 2 (UP2): €30 million (12% of the total allocation) will support the Irish National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture that aims at boosting the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector.</li> <li>Union Priority 3 (UP3): €84.8 million (35.4% of the total allocation) will go towards compliance with CFP rules regarding control and data collection.</li> <li>Union Priority 4 (UP4): €12 million (5% of the total allocation) will support local development initiatives — a substantial, eleven-fold increase compared to the 2007-2013 funding period.</li> <li>Union Priority 5 (UP5): €33 million (13.8% of the total allocation) will go towards creating scale in the Irish marketing and processing sectors, starting from the base of very small-scale businesses.</li> <li>Union Priority 6 (UP6): €10.6 million (4% of the total allocation) will be used on measures to improve the knowledge on the state of the marine environment and the level of protection of marine areas.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012</b>	Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors;</li> <li>• Increase the contribution to the national GDP;</li> <li>• Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework;</li> <li>• Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems;</li> <li>• Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem;</li> <li>• Implement and comply with environmental legislation;</li> <li>• Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity;</li> <li>• Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and</li> <li>• Engagement and participation by all.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 and 2021-2025 [in preparation]</b>	<p>The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects in order to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment.</p> <p>The main objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly;</li> <li>• Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them;</li> <li>• Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers;</li> <li>• Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and</li> <li>• Collecting evidence to track change and measure success.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations.</li> <li>• A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat.</li> <li>• Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Regional/ County/Local Level</b>			
<b>Northern and Western Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2020-2032</b>	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Northern and Western Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Northern and Western Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council; Leitrim County Council; Cavan County Council; Monaghan County Council; Roscommon County Council; Mayo County Council; Sligo County Council; Galway City Council; Galway County Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</b>	The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Greater Dublin Transport Strategy 2016-2035, focused on improving public and sustainable transport. While the bulk of the Plan relates solely to the Greater Dublin Area, certain areas such as public transport services and activities related to small public service vehicles are dealt with on a national basis.	<p>The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus</li> <li>• Light Rail;</li> <li>• Heavy Rai;</li> <li>• Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment;</li> <li>• Integrated Service Plan; and</li> <li>• Integration and Accessibility.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</b>	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site</li> <li>• To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest</li> <li>• To describe the site and its management</li> <li>• To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site</li> <li>• To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected.</li> <li>• These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Groundwater Protection Schemes</b>	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Land Use Plans (including Development Plans and Local Area Plans) in force within County Leitrim and in other adjoining planning authorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline planning objectives for land use development.</li> <li>Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Northern and Western Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy.</li> <li>Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the relevant area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required.</li> <li>Protect and enhances amenities and environment.</li> <li>Guide planning authority in assessing proposals.</li> <li>Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development.</li> <li>Aim to promote sustainable development.</li> <li>Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including Leitrim LECP 2016-2022</b>	The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Leitrim Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessments in adjoining counties</b>	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Leitrim Heritage Plan 2020 - 2025</b>	This Heritage Plan is a 6 year plan with 33 actions and will form the basis of the work programme of the Heritage Office and the Heritage Forum.	Heritage Plan Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the Conservation and Recording of Leitrim's Heritage;</li> <li>Raise Awareness of Leitrim's Heritage;</li> <li>Engage Communities with their Heritage;</li> <li>Support Sustainable Heritage Tourism in Leitrim.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft Leitrim Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2021-2026</b>	Planning Authorities play a key role in supporting biodiversity initiatives, including implementing Local Biodiversity Action Plans. The Council fully recognises the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the need to protect the County's biodiversity. The Leitrim Development Company, in partnership with Leitrim County Council, has prepared the first draft Leitrim Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) to coincide with the period 2021-2026.	The draft BAP identifies 33 actions across six themes for biodiversity specific to County Leitrim ranging from raising awareness of biodiversity amongst individuals and communities in County Leitrim to identifying support structures to further engage with biodiversity through education and practical conservation participation.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Leitrim Noise Action Plan 2019-2023</b>	Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to: Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Leitrim County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</b>	This Climate Change Adaptation Strategy represents a proactive step by Leitrim County Council in the process of adaptation planning to build resilience and respond effectively to the threats posed by climate change.	The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy takes on the role as the primary instrument at local level to:	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise.

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure a proper comprehension of the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change;</li> <li>• Bring forward the implementation of climate resilient actions in a planned and proactive manner; and</li> <li>• Ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into all plans and policies and integrated into all operations and functions of Leitrim County Council.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft Leitrim County Renewable Energy Strategy 2021</b>	The Strategy sets out the framework for the delivery of sustainable and renewable energies throughout the County.	The LARES outlines the potential for a range of renewable energy resources and developments and acknowledges the significant contribution that they can make to the county in terms of energy security, reduced reliance on traditional fossil fuels, enabling future energy exports, meeting assigned national targets and the transition to a low carbon economy.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021</b>	These plans give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the Wild Atlantic Way</b>	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.	Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</b>	These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.	These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.