

# CONSOLIDATED NATURA IMPACT REPORT

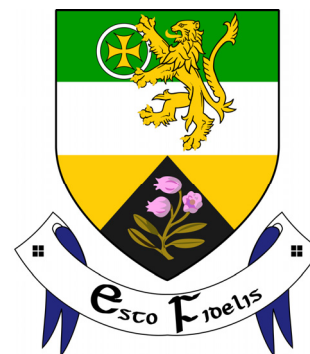
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## IN SUPPORT OF THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

## FOR THE OFFALY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027

**for: Offaly County Council**

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# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This consolidated Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027 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").

This report is part of the ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, at adoption of the Plan.

In carrying out AA and in preparing this consolidated Natura Impact Report, the Council takes into account the matters specified under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including the following:

- The Natura Impact Report prepared for the Draft Plan (an earlier version of this consolidated document);
- The Natura Impact Report for the Proposed Material Alterations;
- Written submissions made during the Plan preparation process; and
- Ongoing advice on AA from the Council's agents.

This document should be considered alongside all other documentation relating to the matters above.

An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared following adaption that will include the final AA determination expected to be made at adoption.

## 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 (also known as Natura 2000 sites).

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 Draft Plan was informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report was prepared to accompany it on public display. 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>1</sup>. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited.

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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.

Submissions received resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan. These alterations were subject to Screening for AA. Taking into account 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 was no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise as a result of all Proposed Material Alterations apart from Proposed Material Alteration No. MA330, which would have the potential to affect the integrity of Ferbane Bog Special Area of Conservation. Therefore, MA330 must be subject to Stage 2 AA. 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 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, with the objective of protecting the integrity of the European Sites, it was advised prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA. The Stage 2 AA for the Proposed Material Alterations concluded that the Draft Plan, and any Proposed Material Alterations that may be adopted, is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>2</sup> - once an additional measure providing for the protection of Ferbane Bog was adopted as part of the Plan, if MA330 was also being adopted<sup>3</sup>. In August 2021 the Chief Executive made Recommendations that may or may not be adopted as part of the Plan – none of these would introduce additional sources for effects that are not already provided for by the Plan through related and/or overarching provisions and they incorporate a number of relatively minor modifications that would not affect the integrity of any European site.

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>4</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.

The ecological desktop study completed for the AA of the Plan comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European sites within 15km of the Plan boundary with identification of potential pathways links for specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15km 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 as follow:

**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 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.

<sup>2</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>3</sup> BLO-07 – Any proposal for development at the lands to the north west of the town as shown in the Ferbane Town Objectives Map must demonstrate that it will not affect the nearby Ferbane Bog SAC, including as a result of changes to drainage patterns.

<sup>4</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.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making process and avoiding such impacts. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If potential impacts 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>5</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 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 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.

The AA exercise has been prepared 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, 2002;
- "Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission, 2000; and
- Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021.

This evaluation has been made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which the relevant European sites have been designated.

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<sup>5</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.

## Section 2 Description of the Plan<sup>6</sup>

The Offaly County Development Plan is a land use plan and overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area of County Offaly over the six-year period 2021-2027. Not later than four years after the adoption of the Plan, the Council is required to review it and commence the preparation of a new Plan.

The Plan includes a Written Statement, that provides the development policies, Core Strategy and mandatory and discretionary objectives for different policy areas addressed by the Development Plan, and Settlement Plans for the county's towns, villages and Sráids.

The Written Statement is divided into 13 separate chapters setting out various policies and objectives under the headings of:

- Chapter 1 Introduction
- Chapter 2 Core Strategy, Settlement Strategy, Housing Strategy
- Chapter 3 Climate Action & Energy
- Chapter 4 Biodiversity and Landscape
- Chapter 5 Economic Development
- Chapter 6 Tourism and Recreational Development
- Chapter 7 Retail & Town Centre Strategy, and Regeneration
- Chapter 8 Sustainable Mobility & Accessibility
- Chapter 9 Social Inclusion, Community and Cultural Development
- Chapter 10 Built Heritage
- Chapter 11 Water Services and Environment
- Chapter 12 Land Use Objectives
- Chapter 13 Development Management Standards

The Plan's Strategic Vision is:

*To create a sustainable and competitive county that supports the health and wellbeing of our people and places, from urban to rural, with access to employment opportunities supported by high quality housing and physical, social and community infrastructure for all, in a climate resilient manner and with respect for our biodiversity.*

The Development Plan presents an opportunity to shape the future growth of Offaly to plan for and support the sustainable long term development of the County. The Plan aims to build on our previous successes and to strengthen our strategic advantages as a County, to ensure that we utilise the strengths of our citizens, communities, built and natural heritage, infrastructure and tourism to their full potential. The Strategic Objectives of the Plan are to:

- (i) Plan for a population increase in County Offaly during the plan period of 9,239 persons.
- (ii) Consolidate settlements by avoiding undesirable and inefficient sprawl. This will be achieved through targeting a significant proportion of future development on infill/ brownfield/ underutilised sites within the existing built-up footprint of all settlements in accordance with the principle of Compact Growth set out in the National Planning Framework.
- (iii) Ensure better alignment between the location of population growth and employment growth. This will allow settlements to become more self-sustaining, sustainable and balanced rather than based on long distance commuter driven activity.
- (iv) Reduce car dependency, and increase the use of sustainable mobility such as walking, cycling and public transport through planning for and encouraging integrated transportation and landuse.
- (v) Direct a significant proportion of the county's development and population growth into Tullamore a Key Town as designated in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy in order to build up its critical mass and fulfil its role as a key growth driver of the county and midland region.
- (vi) Reverse the decline / stagnation of villages through renewal and regeneration, and create healthy place-making by improving the attractiveness, quality, design, viability, vibrancy and liveability of the county's settlements. Also to manage urban generated growth in Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence and Stronger Rural Areas.
- (vii) Protect and enhance Offaly's natural assets of clean water, biodiversity, landscape, green infrastructure, heritage and agricultural land.
- (viii) Provide high quality housing of a sufficient scale, mix, tenure, sequence and density, located in optimum locations and aligned with adequate infrastructure, services and amenities.
- (ix) Make more efficient use of key resources such as land, water, energy, waste and transportation infrastructure.
- (x) Create a competitive business environment supporting economic development, job creation, tourism and prosperity for all.

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<sup>6</sup> Incorporating: the Draft Plan; all alterations and August 2021 Chief Executive's Recommendations included in Section 5 "Mitigation Measures" in this report; any other alterations; and any other August 2021 Chief Executive's Recommendations.

- (xi) Achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy. This should be facilitated through reducing the need to travel, by integrating land use and sustainable modes of transport, and by reducing the use of non-renewable resources. In line with this, promote active and healthy lifestyles through increased opportunities for walking, cycling and active sport recreation.
- (xii) Encourage inclusive and active sustainable communities based around a strong network of community facilities and amenities.
- (xiii) Contribute, as practicable, towards achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as outlined in Figure 1.2 in the Plan.

The Development Plan identifies the following list as *principles for growth* upon which to encourage the focus of new development:

- (i) **Compact growth**, by targeting at least 30% of all new homes that are proposed in settlements within their existing built-up footprints, with a focus on **infill / brownfield** lands, rather than continually sprawling outwards;
- (ii) Making better use of under-utilised land and buildings including **vacant**, derelict and under-occupied buildings;
- (iii) Supporting, facilitating and promoting a transition to a **low carbon society**;
- (iv) Strengthening **town and village centres** to meet their full potential;
- (v) **Aligning** population, employment, community and housing growth in a balanced fashion;
- (vi) Renewal and rejuvenation of all settlements by identifying significant **regeneration areas** in the existing built up areas of our towns and villages as well as rural regeneration opportunities;
- (vii) Moving towards **self-sustaining rather than long distance commuter driven** activity;
- (viii) In order to achieve more **balanced and sustainable** development, some settlements need to attract increased population, whereas others need more jobs, amenities or better transport links;
- (ix) Addressing the legacy of rapid unplanned growth, by facilitating amenities, jobs and services **catch-up**, together with a slower rate of population growth in recently expanded commuter settlements;
- (x) **Sequential** provision of housing and infrastructure;
- (xi) Managing **urban generated growth** in rural areas under strong urban influence and stronger rural areas and **reverse the decline** or stagnation of many rural villages;
- (xii) Developing the designated **Key Town of Tullamore** of sufficient scale and quality to be a driver of regional growth, investment and prosperity, followed by Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Self-Sustaining Towns to grow to a sustainable level. Other towns need to be promoted for regeneration, local employment and managed levels of growth, and the rural area which includes villages, Sráids and the open countryside, shall be promoted for regeneration and local employment and services with targeted rural housing policies;
- (xiii) Developing **serviced zoned land and serviceable zoned land** within the life of this County Development Plan;
- (xiv) Compliance with **government policy and section 28 Ministerial Guidelines** including specific planning policy requirements;
- (xv) Reducing car dependency, promoting sustainable mobility and regional accessibility, and **integrating transportation and landuse**;
- (xvi) Towns and villages to become more attractive, well-designed, of high quality design and 'liveable' through **healthy place-making**;
- (xvii) Promoting **economic development** and enterprise activity;
- (xviii) Protecting assets by **preserving the quality of the landscape**, open space, recreational resources, biodiversity, architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage and material assets in the county;
- (xix) Promoting **social inclusion**; and
- (xx) **Collaboration** between key stakeholders in land amalgamation and coordination.

These principles stem from the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and are significant guiding principles for the County Development 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>7</sup> or species<sup>8</sup> at that site have been considered.

### 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. A review of all sites within this zone has allowed a determination to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of the Plan will not impose effects beyond the 15 km buffer.

Details of European sites that occur within 15 km of the Plan is listed in Table 3.1. European sites and EPA Rivers and Catchments are also mapped in Figure 3.1 below. 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) has 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 following NPWS documents:

- (2016) Conservation Objectives: All Saints Bog and Esker SAC 000566. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Charleville Wood SAC [000571]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives: Clara Bog SAC 000572. Version 1.
- (2019) Conservation Objectives: Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC 000859. Version 1.
- (2015) Conservation Objectives: Ferbane Bog SAC 000575. Version 1.
- (2019) Conservation Objectives: Fin Lough (Offaly) SAC 000576. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Island Fen SAC 002236. Version 1.
- (2019) Conservation Objectives: Lisduff Fen SAC 002147. Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives: Mongan Bog SAC 000580. Version 1.
- (2015) Conservation Objectives: Moyclare Bog SAC 000581. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Pilgrim’s Road Esker SAC 001776. Version 1.
- (2015) Conservation Objectives: Raheenmore Bog SAC 000582. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Ridge Road, SW of Rapemills SAC 000919. Version 1.
- (2011) Conservation Objectives: River Barrow and River Nore SAC 002162. Version 1.0.

<sup>7</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>8</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.

- (2018) Conservation objectives for River Shannon Callows SAC [000216]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2015) Conservation Objectives: Sharavogue Bog SAC 000585. Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives: Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC 000412. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC [000925]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for All Saints Bog SPA [004103]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Dovegrove Callows SPA [004137]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Middle Shannon Callows SPA [004096]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Mongan Bog SPA [004017]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for River Little Brosna Callows SPA [004086]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA [004160]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for River Suck Callows SPA [004097]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Lough Ree SPA [004064]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA [004058]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for River Nore SPA [004233]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA [004165]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Lough Ennell SPA [004044]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Lough Croan Turlough SPA [004139]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [004232]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Wooddown Bog SAC [002205]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Ballymore Fen SAC 002313. Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives: Mount Hevey Bog SAC 002342. Version 1. .
- (2018) Conservation objectives for The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC [000925]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Ballynafagh Lake SAC [001387]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2015) Conservation Objectives: Ballynafagh Bog SAC 000391. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Pollardstown Fen SAC [000396]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives: Coolrain Bog SAC 002332. Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives: Knockacoller Bog SAC 002333. Version 1. .
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC 000934. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Silvermine Mountains SAC 000939. Version 1.
- (2017) Conservation Objectives: Lower River Suir SAC 002137. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Bolingbrook Hill SAC 002124. Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives: Kilcarren-Firville Bog SAC 000647. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Liskeenan Fen SAC 001683. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Scohaboy (Sopwell) Bog SAC [002206]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2015) Conservation Objectives: Carn Park Bog SAC 002336. Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives: Crosswood Bog SAC 002337. Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives: Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC 002339. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Split Hills and Long Hill Esker SAC 001831. Version 1.
- (2015) Conservation Objectives: Ardgraigue Bog SAC 002356. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Glenloughaun Esker SAC 002213. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Castlesampson Esker SAC 001625. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2012) Conservation Objectives for Boyne Coast And Estuary SAC 0001957. Version 1.
- (2012) Conservation Objectives for Lower River Shannon SAC 0002165. Version 1.
- (2012) Conservation Objectives for River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA 0004077. Version 1.
- (2013) Conservation Objectives for Boyne Estuary SPA 0004080. Version 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 Plan against the QIs/SCIs of each site. The conservation objectives for each site were consulted throughout the assessment process.

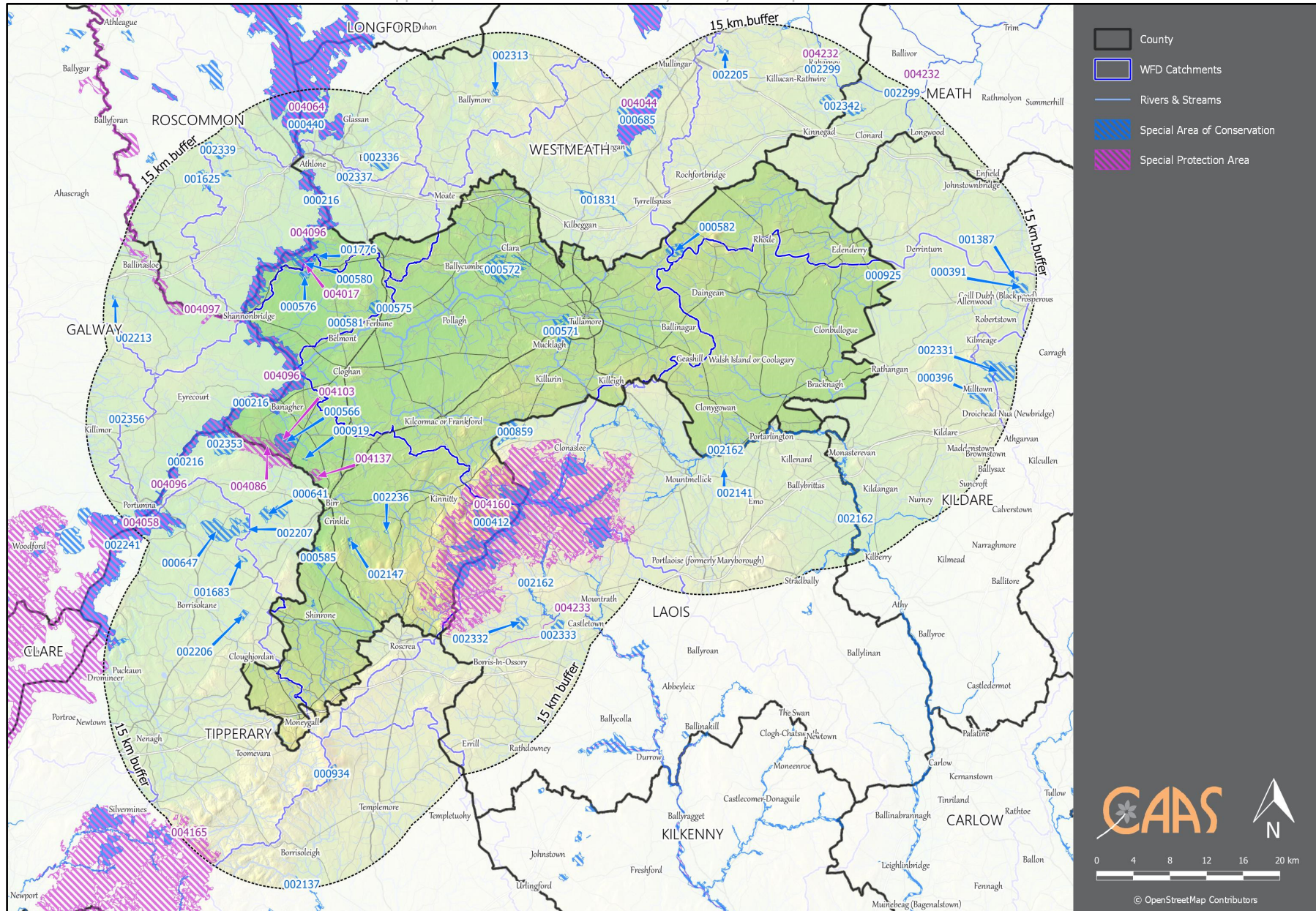


Figure 3.1 European sites within 15 km of the County<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded November 2019)  
CAAS for Offaly County Council

### **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 is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to coordinate and plan the future development of County Offaly. Therefore, the Plan is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites.

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

The Plan provides a framework for the sustainable development of the Offaly area. Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites include:

- Provisions for sectors such as transport, urbanisation, streetscape works, education, tourism and recreation development that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and/habitat fragmentation.

The elements of the Plan with the highest potential to give rise to the effects indicated above are generally associated with construction phase elements of the implementation of the Plan. The operational phase elements of the Plan are generally consistent with the existing condition of the area, however these will also need to be carefully considered. All policies and objectives are considered in this assessment with respect to the ecological integrity of each of the European sites identified. Considering the sensitivities/vulnerabilities of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects and potential pathways for such effects. Where sources and pathways for effects are identified potential effects will be assessed in relation to the SSCOs.

#### **3.3.3 Screening of Sites**

Table 3.1 examines whether there is potential for effects on European sites considering information provided above, including Appendix I. Sites are screened based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- The existence of potential for pathways for significant effects, such as hydrological links Plan proposals and the site to be screened;
- The distance of the relevant site from the County boundary; and
- The existence of a link between identified threats or vulnerabilities at a site to potential impacts that may arise from the Plan.

**Table 3.1 Screening of European sites within 15 km of the County**

Site Code	European site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Potential Pathway for Significant Effects?	Potential for In-Combination Effects?
000566	All Saints Bog and Esker SAC	Within	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150] Bog woodland [91D0]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000571	Charleville Wood SAC	Within	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000572	Clara Bog SAC	Within	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150] Bog woodland [91D0]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000859	Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC	Within	Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000575	Ferbane Bog SAC	Within	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000576	Fin Lough (Offaly) SAC	Within	Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002236	Island Fen SAC	Within	<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Alkaline fens [7230]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002147	Lisduff Fen SAC	Within	Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000580	Mongan Bog SAC	Within	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000581	Moyclare Bog SAC	Within	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
001776	Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC	Within	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000582	Raheenmore Bog SAC	Within	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000919	Ridge Road, SW of Rapemills SAC	Within	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Within	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] European dry heaths [4030] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220] 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] <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes

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			<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaite Shad) [1103] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421] <i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i> (Nore Pearl Mussel) [1990]			
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	Within	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caerulea</i> ) [6410] Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510] Limestone pavements [8240] 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>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000585	Sharavogue Bog SAC	Within	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000412	Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC	Within	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] 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]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000925	The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC	Within	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004103	All Saints Bog SPA	Within	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004137	Dovegrove Callows SPA	Within	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	Within	Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038] Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050] Cormcrake ( <i>Crex crex</i> ) [A122] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156] Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004017	Mongan Bog SPA	Within	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004086	River Little Brosna Callows SPA	Within	Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038] Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050] Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052] Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054] Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156] Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004160	Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA	Within	Hen Harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ) [A082]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004097	River Suck Callows SPA	Within	Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038] Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142] Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes

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002206	Scohaboy (Sopwell) Bog SAC	3.76	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	This site is designated for raised bogs that are sensitive to localised effects such as drainage, encroachment, inappropriate grazing and land use management. Diffuse pollution is not a significant pressure for such habitats. There are no sources for effects considering the distances between the site and the County boundary and the conservation objectives. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is not required.	No	No
001831	Split Hills and Long Hill Esker SAC	3.81	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	This site is designated for terrestrial grassland habitats that are sensitive to localised effects such as inappropriate grazing and land use management. These habitats are not sensitive to hydrological interactions. There are no sources for effects considering the distances between the site and the County boundary and the conservation objectives. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is not required.	No	No
004233	River Nore SPA	4.11	Kingfisher ( <i>Alcedo atthis</i> ) [A229]	The Kingfisher is sensitive to localised effects such as disturbance and land use management. The Plan does not introduce any sources for direct interactions at a local level. However, potential effects on water quality could affect prey availability. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002332	Coolrain Bog SAC	5.22	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats such as raised bogs that are sensitive to localised effects such as drainage, encroachment, inappropriate grazing and land use management. Diffuse pollution is not a significant pressure for such habitats. There are no sources for effects considering the distances between the site and the County boundary and the conservation objectives. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is not required.	No	No
000934	Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC	5.27	European dry heaths [4030] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]	This site is designated for terrestrial qualifying interests such as European dry heaths and <i>Nardus</i> Grassland that are sensitive to localised effects such as inappropriate grazing and recreational activities. These habitats are not sensitive to hydrological interactions. There are no sources for effects considering the distances between the site and the County boundary and the conservation objectives. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is not required.	No	No
001683	Liskeenan Fen SAC	6.43	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]	This site is designated for QIs that are sensitive to ground water interactions that may occur due to the implementation of the Plan. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002336	Carn Park Bog SAC	7.26	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats such as raised bogs that are sensitive to localised effects such as drainage, encroachment, inappropriate grazing and land use management. Diffuse pollution is not a significant pressure for such habitats. There are no sources for effects considering the distances between the site and the County boundary and the conservation objectives. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is not required.	No	No
000647	Kilcarren-Firville Bog SAC	8.12	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats such as raised bogs that are sensitive to localised effects such as drainage, encroachment, inappropriate grazing and land use management. Diffuse pollution is not a significant pressure for such habitats. There are no sources for effects considering the distances between the site and the County boundary and the conservation objectives. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is not required.	No	No
002337	Crosswood Bog SAC	8.13	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats such as raised bogs that are sensitive to localised effects such as drainage, encroachment, inappropriate grazing and land use management. Diffuse pollution is not a significant pressure for such habitats. There are no sources for effects considering the distances between the site and the County boundary and the conservation objectives. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is not required.	No	No
002313	Ballymore Fen SAC	8.36	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	This site is designated for habitats that are sensitive to ground water interactions that may occur due to the implementation of the Plan. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004064	Lough Ree SPA	8.69	Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ) [A004] Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038] Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050] Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052] Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053] Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056] Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061] Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065] Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067] Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142] Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The SCI species for this site are sensitive to localised effects such as disturbance and land use management. The Plan does not introduce any sources for direct interactions at a local level. However, potential effects on water quality could affect prey availability. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002342	Mount Hevey Bog SAC	9.00	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats such as raised bogs that are sensitive to localised effects such as drainage, encroachment, inappropriate grazing and land use management. Diffuse pollution is not a significant pressure for such habitats. There are no sources for effects considering the distances between the site and the County boundary and the conservation objectives. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is not required.	No	No
002333	Knockacoller Bog SAC	9.39	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats such as raised bogs that are sensitive to localised effects such as drainage, encroachment, inappropriate grazing and land use management. Diffuse pollution is not a significant pressure for such habitats. There are no sources for effects considering the distances between the site and the County boundary and the conservation objectives. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is not required.	No	No
001625	Castlesampson Esker SAC	10.14	Turloughs [3180] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	This site is designated for QIs that are sensitive to ground water interactions that may occur due to the implementation of the Plan. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	11.71	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013] <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]	This site is designated for QIs that are sensitive to ground water interactions that may occur due to the implementation of the Plan. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	11.73	Kingfisher ( <i>Alcedo atthis</i> ) [A229]	The Kingfisher is sensitive to localised effects such as disturbance and land use management. The Plan does not introduce any sources for direct interactions at a local level. However, potential effects on water quality could affect prey availability. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes

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002339	Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC	11.95	Turloughs [3180] Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150] Bog woodland [91D0]	This site is designated for Turlough habitats which are sensitive to ground water interactions that may occur due to the implementation of the Plan. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004165	Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA	12.31	Hen Harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ) [A082]	The SCI species for this site are sensitive to localised effects such as disturbance and land use management. The Plan does not introduce any sources for direct interactions at a local level. However, potential effects on water quality could affect prey availability. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004044	Lough Ennell SPA	12.31	Pochard ( <i>Aythya ferina</i> ) [A059] Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061] Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The SCI species for this site are sensitive to localised effects such as disturbance and land use management. The Plan does not introduce any sources for direct interactions at a local level. However, potential effects on water quality could affect prey availability. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002356	Ardgraigue Bog SAC	12.47	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats such as raised bogs that are sensitive to localised effects such as drainage, encroachment, inappropriate grazing and land use management. Diffuse pollution is not a significant pressure for such habitats. There are no sources for effects considering the distances between the site and the County boundary and the conservation objectives. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is not required.	No	No
002331	Mouds Bog SAC	12.85	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats such as raised bogs that are sensitive to localised effects such as drainage, encroachment, inappropriate grazing and land use management. Diffuse pollution is not a significant pressure for such habitats. There are no sources for effects considering the distances between the site and the County boundary and the conservation objectives. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is not required.	No	No
001387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC	12.87	Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016] <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]	This site is designated for Turlough habitats which are sensitive to ground water interactions that may occur due to the implementation of the Plan. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
000391	Ballynafagh BOG SAC	13.25	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats such as raised bogs that are sensitive to localised effects such as drainage, encroachment, inappropriate grazing and land use management. Diffuse pollution is not a significant pressure for such habitats. There are no sources for effects considering the distances between the site and the County boundary and the conservation objectives. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is not required.	No	No
002205	Wooddown Bog SAC	13.84	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitats such as raised bogs that are sensitive to localised effects such as drainage, encroachment, inappropriate grazing and land use management. Diffuse pollution is not a significant pressure for such habitats. There are no sources for effects considering the distances between the site and the County boundary and the conservation objectives. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is not required.	No	No
002213	Glenloughlaun Esker SAC	13.91	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	This site is designated for terrestrial grassland habitats that are sensitive to localised effects such as inappropriate grazing and land use management. These habitats are not sensitive to hydrological interactions. There are no sources for effects considering the distances between the site and the County boundary and the conservation objectives. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is not required.	No	No
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	14.20	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] <i>Hydrophilous</i> tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] 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] <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaiite Shad) [1103] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	The QIs of this site feature terrestrial and aquatic (marine and freshwater) habitats and species. The Plan could affect water quality and there are hydrological pathways between the County boundary and this site. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	14.45	Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017] Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061] Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067] Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The SCI species for this site are sensitive to localised effects such as disturbance and land use management. The Plan does not introduce any sources for direct interactions at a local level. However, potential effects on water quality could affect prey availability. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	Yes	Yes
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	17.54	Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], Coastal lagoons [1150], Bottlenose dolphin ( <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> ) [1349], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Reefs [1170], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Subtidal sandbanks (Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time) [1110],	The SCI species for this site are sensitive to localised effects such as disturbance and land use management. The Plan does not introduce any sources for direct interactions at a local level. There is an indirect hydrological pathway for effects to water quality; however, given the distance involved and dilution and settling effect of the pathway through Lough Derg there are no significant effects to the conservation objectives of the site identified. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	No	No



Appropriate Assessment of the Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027

Site Code	European site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Potential Pathway for Significant Effects?	Potential for In-Combination Effects?
			Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> )) [1330], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caerulea</i> ) [6410], Estuaries [1130], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ) [1029]			
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	47.43	Ringed plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Eurasian oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Mew gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Eurasian curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Northern pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Eurasian teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Common shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Great crested grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005], Common greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> ) [A164], Northern shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Grey plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Greater scaup ( <i>Aythya marila</i> ) [A062], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053], Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Red knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Red-breasted merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Common redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], European golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Great cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Ruddy turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Northern lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142]	The SCI species for this site are sensitive to localised effects such as disturbance and land use management. The Plan does not introduce any sources for direct interactions at a local level. There is an indirect hydrological pathway for effects to water quality; however, given the distance involved and dilution effect of the pathway there are no significant effects to the conservation objectives of the site identified. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	No	No
001957	Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC	62.23	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Estuaries [1130], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> )) [1330], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130]	This site is designated for terrestrial dune habitats and tidal areas such as mud flats that are sensitive to localised effects such as inappropriate grazing and land use management. These habitats are not sensitive to hydrological interactions. There are no sources for effects considering the distances between the site and the County boundary and the conservation objectives. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is not required.	No	No
004080	Boyne Estuary SPA	63.38	Ringed plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Northern lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Little tern ( <i>Sterna albibronis</i> ) [A195], Common redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Common shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Ruddy turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Eurasian teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Common greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> ) [A164], Mew gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Eurasian oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Eurasian curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053], Red knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Red-breasted merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Great cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], European golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Grey plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141]	The SCI species for this site are sensitive to localised effects such as disturbance and land use management. The Plan does not introduce any sources for direct interactions at a local level. There is an indirect hydrological pathway for effects to water quality; however, given the distance involved and dilution effect of the pathway and the Irish sea there are no significant effects to the conservation objectives of the site identified. Therefore, consideration at Stage 2 AA is required.	No	No

### **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 Plan to cause in-combination effects to European sites such as the Offaly Tourism Strategy 2017-2022, the Offaly Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 and Offaly Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. These plans and programmes were considered throughout the assessment.

All projects within the Plan area and receiving environment will be considered in combination with any and all lower tiers 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 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 effects that could arise from the Plan have been examined in the context of several factors that could potentially affect the integrity of any European site. On the basis of the findings of this Screening for AA, it is concluded that the Plan:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 38 (no.) European sites.

Therefore, a Stage 2 AA is required for the Plan (see Section 4 of this report). An AA Screening Determination undertaken by the planning authority is provided at Figure 3.2.

**Screening for Appropriate Assessment**

**Determination**

under  
Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,  
for the

**Emerging Draft Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027**

In order to comply with the requirements of Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, this determination has been made by Offaly County Council relating to the potential for the emerging Draft Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027 to have significant effects on European sites.

In making the determination that Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required, the information on the likely significant effects on European Sites arising from the emerging Draft Plan has been taken into account (this information will be placed on public display in the Natura Impact Report alongside the emerging Draft Plan). The process of screening for AA began at an early stage in the drafting of the Plan. The screening process assessed whether the emerging Draft Plan had the potential to have significant effects on any European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The screening process concluded that an AA of the emerging Draft Plan would be required, as the Plan: is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites; and may, on the basis of objective information, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects, if unmitigated have significant adverse effects on 38 (no.) European sites.

Factors that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites include:

- Provisions for sectors such as transport, urbanisation, streetscape works, education, tourism and recreation development that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and/habitat fragmentation.

Therefore, Stage 2 AA (including the preparation of the Natura Impact Report) is required for the emerging Draft Plan.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that it could not be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the emerging Draft Plan, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects would have likely significant effect on a European site and therefore an AA is required.

Signatory:

*Lorraine Mitchell, Senior Executive Planner*

Date:

*9<sup>th</sup> June 2020*

**Figure 3.2 Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination**

## Section 4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

### 4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the Plan alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse impacts on the integrity of the 38 European sites brought forward from screening (those of the 52 sites considered on Table 3.1 for which there is "Potential Pathway for Significant Effects" and/or "Potential for In-Combination Effects"), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

### 4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified 38 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 38 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>10</sup>.

### 4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts<sup>11</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.

- 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 SSCOs 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*

<sup>10</sup> Last accessed 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020; <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>.

<sup>11</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".

*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 cSACs:**

- 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.

**One 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 impacts 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 (water quality etc.); 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).

**4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area**

The Plan provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2) for the whole County. Potential effects arising from developments and activities include land take, habitat destruction, disturbance effects, light pollution, dust, hydrological interactions, airborne pollution and excessive noise. All 25 sites occurring within or partially within the County have the potential to be impacted.

Various measures have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of ensuring that there are no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European site (see Section 5; for example, BLP-01, BLP-02, BLP-03, BLP-04, BLP-17, BLO-01, BLO-02 and BLO-03). These policies 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.

**4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation**

The Plan provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2). Potential effects arising from developments and activities include the fragmentation of habitat and or species through, for example, light pollution, habitat loss or removal of stepping stone habitats.

The Plan includes measures to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as riparian zones, planting of native tree species and/or management of habitats such as woodlands (see Section 5; for example, BLP-18, BLP-20, BLP-22, BLP-23, BLP-24, BLO-01, BLO-02, BLO-03, BLO-08, BLO-10, BLO-14, BLO-15, BLO-16, ENVP-19 and ENVO-09).

Further to the provisions referred to above, there are provisions related to non-designated sites and specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as waterways, wetlands and peatlands that will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation does not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites.

**4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species**

The Plan provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2).

Disturbance effects are caused by any activity that has potential to alter the movement patterns or distribution of species, for example direct disturbance through human activity/movement as a result of recreation/tourism or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through

provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11.

Noise and light will be managed through provisions such as ENVP-19, ENVP-20, ENVP-21 and ENVO-13. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species such as the hen harrier. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).

Further details on the mitigation measures integrated into the Plan is provided at Section 5.

#### **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 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 and trampling. However, the Plan contains provisions to enhance biodiversity, landscape and the environment within Offaly (for example BLP-01, BLO-02 and BLO-03).

The Plan includes provisions related to non-designated sites and specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as waterways, wetlands and peatlands that will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation does not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites. Measures relating to light pollution, noise pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation are addressed above (and are detailed further in Section 5). Measures are also included that will help protect and improve water quality interactions, which can influence species densities, including those relating to water services infrastructure, protective buffer zones and water quality standards.

#### **4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value**

Indicators of conservation value are identified as key ecological resources such as water quality, air quality, habitat quality, population health of ecosystem engineers or 'keystone species' etc. The protection of these resources is a key focus of the Plan including provisions contained within Chapters 4 "Biodiversity and Landscape" and 11 "Water Services and Environment".

The Plan contains many robust policies and objectives to ensure the protection of both ground and surface water quality. Development within the vicinity of groundwater or surface water dependent European sites will not be permitted where there is potential for a significant impact upon the groundwater or surface water supply to the European sites. Plan mitigation relating to water status and the provision of water services includes CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06, ENVP-07, ENVO-2 and ENVO-04,. 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 Policy BLP20.

Emissions to air have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European sites. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of protecting air quality (for example ENVP-16, ENVP-17, ENVP-18, ENVO-09 and ENVO-10).

#### **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. BLO-02 states that it is Council policy *'to ensure that no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, 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 individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects)'*. 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.

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

Site Code	Site Name <sup>12</sup>	Distance (Km)	Characterisation of Potential Effects on European Sites as a result of the Plan
000566	All Saints Bog and Esker SAC	Within	The Plan provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2). Potential effects arising from developments and activities include land take, habitat destruction, disturbance effects, light pollution, dust, hydrological interactions, airborne pollution and excessive noise. Various measures have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of ensuring that there are no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European site (see Section 5; for example, ENVO-01, BLP-02, BLP-03, BLP-04, BLP-17, BLP-05, BLO-01, BLO-02 and BLO-03). Site threats/pressures include peat extraction, stock feeding, storage of materials, sand and gravel extraction, disposal of waste and inert materials and fertilisation. Many of these relate to direct on-site management practices. Mitigation measures integrated into the Plan, including those cited above, will ensure that any such practices that would have the potential to affect European sites are not permitted. The habitats for which the site is designated are sensitive to hydrological and hydrogeological interactions and various mitigation measures integrated into the Plan (see Section 5; for example ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07), including those cited above, will help to ensure that no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European site occur.
000571	Charleville Wood SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include agricultural activities, urbanisation, disposal of household waste and taking/removal of terrestrial plants. Fertilisation is a threat beyond the boundary. Agricultural fertilisation and hydrological interactions are addressed above and through other measures integrated into the Plan (see Section 5; for example, ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07).
000572	Clara Bog SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include agricultural activities, urbanisation, disposal of household waste and taking/removal of terrestrial plants. Fertilisation is a threat beyond the boundary. Agricultural fertilisation and hydrological interactions are addressed above and through other measures integrated into the Plan (see Section 5; for example, ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07).
000859	Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. The known threats relate to direct on-site management practices. Mitigation measures integrated into the Plan, including those cited above, will ensure that any such practices that would have the potential to affect European sites are not permitted. The habitats for which the site is designated are sensitive to hydrological and hydrogeological interactions and various mitigation measures integrated into the Plan (see Section 5; for example ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07), including those cited above, will help to ensure that no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European site occur.
000575	Ferbane Bog SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include agricultural activities, peat extraction, sand and gravel extraction and forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth. The known threats and pressures for the site relate to direct on-site management practices and the habitats are sensitive to forestry interactions. Mitigation measures integrated into the Plan, including those cited above, will ensure that any such practices that would have the potential to affect European sites are not permitted. Plan provisions related to forestry, including CAEP-61 will help to ensure the protection of the integrity of the site.
000576	Fin Lough (Offaly) SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include agricultural activities, disposal of household/recreational facility waste, disposal of inert materials and management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage. The known threats relate to direct on-site management practices. Mitigation measures integrated into the Plan, including those cited above, will ensure that any such practices that would have the potential to affect European sites are not permitted. The habitats for which the site is designated are sensitive to hydrological and hydrogeological interactions and various mitigation measures integrated into the Plan (see Section 5; for example ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07), including those cited above, will help to ensure that no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European site occur.
002236	Island Fen SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include agricultural activities, roads, paths and railways and hunting. Hunting is a threat beyond the boundary. The known threats relate to direct on-site management practices. Mitigation measures integrated into the Plan, including those cited above, will ensure that any such practices that would have the potential to affect European sites are not permitted. The habitats for which the site is designated are sensitive to hydrological and hydrogeological interactions and various mitigation measures integrated into the Plan (see Section 5; for example ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07), including those cited above, will help to ensure that no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European site occur.
002147	Lisduff Fen SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include agricultural activities, storage of materials, disposal of inert materials and disposal of household/recreational facility waste. Hunting as a threat beyond the boundary. The known threats and pressures for the site relate to direct on-site management practices, management of household waste and direct extraction. The habitats are sensitive to groundwater interactions and hydrological interactions such as drainage. The measures identified above will ensure no direct land use management activities will be permitted through the Plan. Plan mitigation relating to household waste includes ENVP-08, ENVP-09, ENVP-10, ENVP-11, ENVP-12 and ENVO-05. Plan mitigation relating to hydrological interactions includes ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07.
000580	Mongan Bog SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include agricultural activities, peat extraction and the disposal of household/facility waste and inert materials. The known threats and pressures for the site relate to direct on-site management practices, management of household waste and direct extraction. The habitats are sensitive to groundwater interactions and hydrological interactions such as drainage. The measures identified above will ensure no direct land use management activities will be permitted through the Plan. Plan mitigation relating to household waste includes ENVP-08, ENVP-09, ENVP-10, ENVP-11, ENVP-12, ENVO-05 and ENVO-06. Plan mitigation relating to hydrological interactions includes ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07.
000581	Moyclare Bog SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include agricultural activities, disposal of household/facility waste and inert materials and peat extraction. The known threats and pressures for the site relate to direct on-site management practices, management of household waste and direct extraction. The habitats are sensitive to groundwater interactions and hydrological interactions such as drainage. The measures identified above will ensure no direct land use management activities will be permitted through the Plan. Plan mitigation relating to household waste includes ENVP-08, ENVP-09, ENVP-10, ENVP-11, ENVP-12, ENVO-05 and ENVO-06. Plan mitigation relating to hydrological interactions includes ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07.
001776	Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include agricultural activities, the disposal of household/facility waste and inert materials and roads, paths and railroads. The known threats and pressures for the site relate to direct on-site management practices, management of household waste and direct extraction. The habitats are sensitive to groundwater interactions and hydrological interactions such as drainage. The measures identified above will ensure no direct land use management activities will be permitted through the Plan. Plan mitigation relating to household waste includes ENVP-08, ENVP-09, ENVP-10, ENVP-11, ENVP-12, ENVO-05 and ENVO-06. Plan mitigation relating to hydrological interactions includes ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07.
000582	Raheenmore Bog SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include agricultural activities and the infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds and pools. The known threats and pressures for the site relate to direct on-site management practices, management of household waste and direct extraction. The habitats are sensitive to groundwater interactions and hydrological interactions such as drainage. The measures identified above will ensure no direct land use management activities will be permitted through the Plan. Plan mitigation relating to household waste includes ENVP-08, ENVP-09, ENVP-10, ENVP-11, ENVP-12, ENVO-05 and ENVO-06. Plan mitigation relating to hydrological interactions includes ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07.

<sup>12</sup> For distance from Plan boundary and qualifying features for each European Site (QIs and SCIs), please refer to Table 3.1

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Site Code	Site Name <sup>12</sup>	Distance (Km)	Characterisation of Potential Effects on European Sites as a result of the Plan
000919	Ridge Road, SW of Rapemills SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include agricultural activities, roads, paths and railroads. The known threats and pressures for the site relate to direct on-site management practices, management of household waste and direct extraction. The habitats are sensitive to groundwater interactions and hydrological interactions such as drainage. The measures identified above will ensure no direct land use management activities will be permitted through the Plan. Plan mitigation relating to household waste includes ENVP-08, ENVP-09, ENVP-10, ENVP-11, ENVP-12 and ENVO-05. Plan mitigation relating to hydrological interactions includes ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01, O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07.
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include agricultural activities, surface water pollution, forest and plantation management, gravel extraction and invasive species. Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, peat extraction and industrial and commercial areas are threats beyond the boundary. The known threats and pressures for the site relate to direct on-site management practices, hydrological interactions, extraction and forestry management. The habitats for which the site is designated are sensitive to hydrological interactions and various mitigation measures integrated into the Plan (see Section 5; for example ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01, O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07), including those cited above, will help to ensure that no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European site occur. Plan provisions related to forestry, including CAEP-61 will help to ensure the protection of the integrity of the site.
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include agricultural activities, recreational activities, paths, roads, railroads, mechanical removal of peat and grazing in forests/woodlands. The measures identified above will ensure no direct land use management activities will be permitted through the Plan. Recreational activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11.
000585	Sharavogue Bog SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include agricultural activities, invasive species and changes in hydraulic conditions. All of these pressures have been identified both within and beyond the site boundary. The known threats and pressures for the site relate to direct on-site management practices, hydrological interactions and invasive species. The measures identified above will ensure no direct land use management activities will be permitted through the Plan. Invasive species will be controlled through policy BLP-18 and further supported by BLP-19. Plan mitigation relating to hydrological interactions includes ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01, O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07.
000412	Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include recreational activities, invasive species, agricultural activities, roads and changes in hydraulic conditions. "Mining and quarrying" and "forest and plantation management and use" are threats beyond the site boundary. The known threats and pressures for the site relate to direct on-site management practices, hydrological interactions invasive species, and recreational activities. The measures identified above will ensure no direct land use management activities will be permitted through the Plan. Invasive species will be controlled through policy BLP-18 and further supported by BLP-19. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-100 (which recognises potential for opportunities at this SAC where they do not affect the conservation objectives), TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11. Plan mitigation relating to hydrological interactions includes ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01, O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07.
000925	The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include recreational activities, agricultural activities, roads, paths, railroads and storage of materials. The known threats and pressures for the site relate to direct on-site management practices, transport infrastructure and recreational activities. The habitats are sensitive to hydrological interactions including groundwater. The measures identified above will ensure no direct land use management activities will be permitted through the Plan. Recreational activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11. Plan mitigation relating to hydrological interactions includes ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01, O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07.
004103	All Saints Bog SPA	Within	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include agricultural activities, roads and motorways, sand and gravel extraction, mechanical removal of peat and hunting. Fertilisation, dispersed habitation, forest planting on open ground, peat extraction and grazing are threats beyond the boundary. The known threats and pressures for the site relate to direct on-site management practices, transport infrastructure, fragmentation, forestry and recreational activities. The habitats are sensitive to hydrological interactions including groundwater. The measures identified above will ensure no direct land use management activities will be permitted through the Plan. Recreational activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11. There are a number of policies within the plan relating to forestry such as CAEP-61. Plan mitigation relating to hydrological interactions includes ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01, O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07.
004137	Dovegrove Callows SPA	Within	Beyond direct land use interactions, hydrological interactions and effects to habitats through reduction of habitat quality (addressed above in detail) SPA sites are sensitive to disturbance effects. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11, noise through provisions such as ENVP-19 and ENVP-20. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species such as the hen harrier. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	Within	Beyond direct land use interactions, hydrological interactions and effects to habitats through reduction of habitat quality (addressed above in detail) SPA sites are sensitive to disturbance effects. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11, noise through provisions such as ENVP-19 and ENVP-20. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species such as the hen harrier. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).
004017	Mongan Bog SPA	Within	Beyond direct land use interactions, hydrological interactions and effects to habitats through reduction of habitat quality (addressed above in detail) SPA sites are sensitive to disturbance effects. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11, noise through provisions such as ENVP-19 and ENVP-20. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species such as the hen harrier. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).
004086	River Little Brosna Callows SPA	Within	Beyond direct land use interactions, hydrological interactions and effects to habitats through reduction of habitat quality (addressed above in detail) SPA sites are sensitive to disturbance effects. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11, noise through provisions such as ENVP-19 and ENVP-20. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species such as the hen harrier. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).
004160	Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA	Within	Beyond direct land use interactions, hydrological interactions and effects to habitats through reduction of habitat quality (addressed above in detail) SPA sites are sensitive to disturbance effects. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11, noise through provisions such as ENVP-19 and ENVP-20. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species such as the hen harrier. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).
004097	River Suck Callows SPA	Within	Beyond direct land use interactions, hydrological interactions and effects to habitats through reduction of habitat quality (addressed above in detail) SPA sites are sensitive to disturbance effects. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11, noise through provisions such as ENVP-19 and ENVP-20. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species such as the hen harrier. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).
004233	River Nore SPA	4.11	Beyond direct land use interactions, hydrological interactions and effects to habitats through reduction of habitat quality (addressed above in detail) SPA sites are sensitive to disturbance effects. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11, noise through provisions such as ENVP-19 and ENVP-20. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species such as the hen harrier. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).
001683	Liskeenan Fen SAC	6.43	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include grazing, fertilisation, invasive non-native species and peat extraction. The known threats and pressures for the site relate to direct on-site management practices and invasive species. The habitats are



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Site Code	Site Name <sup>12</sup>	Distance (Km)	Characterisation of Potential Effects on European Sites as a result of the Plan
			sensitive to hydrological interactions including groundwater. The measures identified above will ensure no direct land use management activities will be permitted through the Plan. Invasive species will be controlled through policy BLP-18 and further supported by BLP-19. Plan mitigation relating to hydrological interactions includes ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07.
002313	Ballymore Fen SAC	8.36	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include problematic native species, point source pollution to surface water, fertilisation and lack of grazing. The measures identified above will ensure no direct land use management activities will be permitted through the Plan. Plan mitigation relating to hydrological interactions includes ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07.
004064	Lough Ree SPA	8.69	Beyond direct land use interactions, hydrological interactions and effects to habitats through reduction of habitat quality (addressed above in detail) SPA sites are sensitive to disturbance effects. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11, noise through provisions such as ENVP-19 and ENVP-20. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species such as the hen harrier. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).
001625	Castlesampson Esker SAC	10.14	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Extraction is a threat. The habitats on site are hydrologically dependent. The measures identified above will ensure no direct land use management activities will be permitted through the Plan. There are no policies or objectives within the plan that would introduce any risk of potential extractions from the SAC. Plan mitigation relating to hydrological interactions includes ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07.
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	11.71	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Threats to the site include fishing, grazing, silviculture, electricity and phone lines and hunting. Threats beyond the boundary include urbanisation, grazing and sand and gravel extraction. The habitats present are sensitive to hydrological interactions. Mitigation is provided by a range of Plan provisions including those relating to angling (TRP-23), overhead lines (CAEP-04), forestry (such as CAEP-61) and hydrological interactions (such as ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07).
004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	11.73	Beyond direct land use interactions, hydrological interactions and effects to habitats through reduction of habitat quality (addressed above in detail) SPA sites are sensitive to disturbance effects. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11, noise through provisions such as ENVP-19 and ENVP-20. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species such as the hen harrier. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).
002339	Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC	11.95	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. The habitats on site are hydrologically dependent. The measures identified above will ensure no direct land use management activities will be permitted through the Plan. Plan mitigation relating to hydrological interactions includes ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07.
004165	Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA	12.31	Beyond direct land use interactions, hydrological interactions and effects to habitats through reduction of habitat quality (addressed above in detail) SPA sites are sensitive to disturbance effects. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11, noise through provisions such as ENVP-19 and ENVP-20. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species such as the hen harrier. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).
004044	Lough Ennell SPA	12.31	Beyond direct land use interactions, hydrological interactions and effects to habitats through reduction of habitat quality (addressed above in detail) SPA sites are sensitive to disturbance effects. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11, noise through provisions such as ENVP-19 and ENVP-20. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species such as the hen harrier. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).
001387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC	12.87	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Fishing and agricultural activities are identified as threats. The habitats present are sensitive to hydrological interactions. Mitigation is provided by a range of Plan provisions including those relating to angling (TRP-23) and hydrological interactions (such as ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07).
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	14.2	In relation to direct land take or management practices on site, the policies stated above for Site Code 000566 will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain site integrity. Site threats/pressures include invasive non-native species, reclamation of land and cultivation. These threats relate to on management and invasive species. The habitats present are sensitive to hydrological interactions. Invasive species will be controlled through policy BLP-18 and further supported by BLP-19. Plan mitigation relating to hydrological interactions includes ENVO-2, ENVO-04, CAEP-35, CAEP-36, CAEP-71, CAEP-79, CAEP-75, ENVP-01,O-03, ENVP-02, ENVP-03, ENVP-04, ENVP-05, ENVP-06 and ENVP-07.
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	14.45	Beyond direct land use interactions, hydrological interactions and effects to habitats through reduction of habitat quality (addressed above in detail) SPA sites are sensitive to disturbance effects. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TRP-02, TRP-08, TRP-09, TRP-10, TRP-15, TRP-18, TRP-21, TRP-27, TRP-30, TRO-10 and TRO-11, noise through provisions such as ENVP-19 and ENVP-20. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species such as the hen harrier. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).

## **Section 5 Mitigation Measures**

This section outlines measures that have been incorporated into the Plan in order to mitigate against potential effects to European sites as identified above.

The Plan was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. The mitigation measures also consider submissions made during the SEA Scoping process and the public consultation process for the Draft Plan.

These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European site from implementation of the Plan. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European sites are identified in Table 5.1 below.

**Table 5.1 Measures most relevant to the protection of European sites**

Recommendation integrated into the Plan	Plan Reference
<p><b>Corridor and Route Selection Process</b>                      The following Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken for relevant new infrastructure:                      Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental constraints (including those identified in Section 4 of the accompanying SEA Environmental Report) and opportunities (such as existing linear infrastructure) will assist in the identification of possible route corridor options;</li> <li>• Potentially feasible corridors within which infrastructure could be accommodated will be identified and these corridors assessed. The selection of the preferred route corridor will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists; and</li> <li>• In addition to the constraints identified above, site-specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate corridors.</li> </ul> <p>Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potentially feasible routes within the preferred corridor will be identified and assessed. The selection of preferred routes will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists, taking into account project level information and potential mitigation measures that are readily achievable;</li> <li>• In addition to the constraints identified above, site specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate routes; and</li> <li>• In addition to environmental considerations, the identification of route corridors and the refinement of route lines is likely to be informed by other considerations.</li> </ul>	<p>Integrated into Chapter 8.5.4 Corridor &amp; Route Selection Process</p>
<p><b>Construction and Environmental Management Plan</b>                      Construction Environment Management Plans (CEMPs) shall be prepared in advance of the construction of relevant projects and implemented throughout. Such plans shall incorporate relevant mitigation measures which have been integrated into the Plan and any lower tier Environmental Impact Statement or Appropriate Assessment. CEMPs typically provide details of intended construction practice for the proposed development, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. location of the sites and materials compound(s) including area(s) identified for the storage of construction refuse,</li> <li>b. location of areas for construction site offices and staff facilities,</li> <li>c. details of site security fencing and hoardings,</li> <li>d. details of on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction,</li> <li>e. details of the timing and routing of construction traffic to and from the construction site and associated directional signage,</li> <li>f. measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network,</li> <li>g. measures to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris,</li> <li>h. alternative arrangements to be put in place for pedestrians and vehicles in the case of the closure of any public right of way during the course of site development works,</li> <li>i. details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels,</li> <li>j. containment of all construction-related fuel and oil within specially constructed bunds to ensure that fuel spillages are fully contained; such bunds shall be roofed to exclude rainwater,</li> <li>k. disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil, including compliance with 2006 Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects, Department of the Environment</li> <li>l. a water and sediment management plan, providing for means to ensure that surface water runoff is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local water courses or drains,</li> <li>m. details of a water quality monitoring and sampling plan.</li> <li>n. if peat is encountered - a peat storage, handling and reinstatement management plan.</li> <li>o. measures adopted during construction to prevent the spread of invasive species (such as Japanese Knotweed).</li> <li>p. appointment of an ecological clerk of works at site investigation, preparation and construction phases.</li> <li>q. details of appropriate mitigation measures for lighting specifically designed to minimise impacts to biodiversity, including bats.</li> </ol>	<p>Integrated into Chapter 11.5.2 Waste Management</p>
<p><b>Environmental considerations and Limitations in the types of uses</b>                      There are a wide range of land uses identified under each of the Land Use Zoning Objectives. Proposals for development will need to demonstrate compliance with the various written provisions of the Plan, as relevant, including those relating to environmental protection and management. Environmental considerations, such as those related to elevated levels of flood risk or European site ecological designations, may limit the types of uses that may be possible at certain sites. Prospective applicants are encouraged to engage with the Planning Authority at the earliest opportunity to seek guidance as to the appropriateness of emerging proposals.</p>	<p>Chapter 12.1</p>
<p><b>Designated and Non-Designated Sites</b>                      It is Council policy to protect, conserve, and seek to enhance the county’s biodiversity and ecological connectivity.                      It is Council policy to conserve and protect habitats and species listed in the Annexes of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Wildlife Acts 1976 (as amended) and the Flora Protection Orders.                      It is Council policy to support and co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage proposed or designated sites in order to achieve their conservation objectives.</p>	<p>BLP-01                      BLP-02                      BLP-03                      BLP-04                      BLP-05                      BLP-06</p>

Recommendation integrated into the Plan	Plan Reference
<p>It is Council policy to protect and maintain the conservation value of all existing and future Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites, Wildfowl Sanctuaries and Biogenetic Reserves in the county.</p> <p>It is Council policy to ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact, incapable of satisfactory avoidance or mitigation, on plant, animal or bird species protected by law.</p> <p>It is Council policy to consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and take account of any licensing requirements, when undertaking, approving or authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species protected by law.</p> <p>It is Council policy to support the implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 and the Offaly Heritage Plan Key Actions 2017-2021 and future editions in partnership with relevant stakeholders subject to available resources.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council that no plans, programmes or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, 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 individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects ).</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council that all projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. A plan or project will only be authorised after the competent authority has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and subsequent Appropriate Assessment where necessary, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or</li> <li>2. The plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or</li> <li>3. The plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.</li> </ol> <p>It is an objective of the Council to ensure that the impact of development within or adjacent to national designated sites, Natural Heritage Areas, Ramsar Sites and Nature Reserves likely to result in significant adverse effects on the designated site is assessed by requiring the submission of an Ecological Impact Assessment prepared by a suitably qualified professional, which should accompany planning applications.</p>	<p>BLP-07 BLO-02 BLO-03 BLO-04</p>
<p><b>Peatlands</b></p> <p>It is Council policy to protect the county’s designated peatland areas and landscapes, including any historical walkways through bogs and to conserve their ecological, archaeological and cultural heritage and to develop educational heritage.</p> <p>It is Council policy to work with adjacent local authorities and relevant stakeholders in promoting a National Park designation for the peatlands in the midlands and a ‘Regional Peatway’ connecting natural and cultural attractions.</p> <p>It is Council policy to support the provision of outdoor pursuits, walking and cycling routes through the county’s peatlands and network of industrial railways linking the River Shannon Blueway, Royal Canal, Grand Canal and Barrow Blueway across the midlands as outlined in the ‘Major Cycling Destination in the Midlands of Ireland –Feasibility Study 2016’, which is a priority of the ‘Outdoor Recreation Plan State Lands and Waters’ (2017).</p> <p>It is Council policy to support the National Parks and Wildlife Service in carrying out an EU LIFE fund supported raised bog restoration project in restoring the following Special Areas of Conservation sites in the county to favourable conservation status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clara Bog;</li> <li>• Ferbane Bog;</li> <li>• Mongan Bog;</li> <li>• Moyclare Bog;</li> <li>• Raheenmore Bog; and</li> <li>• Sharavogue Bog.</li> </ul> <p>It is Council policy to support collaboration between Offaly County Council, Regional Transition Team and relevant stakeholders of a partnership approach to integrated peatland management for a just transition that incorporates the management, rehabilitation and restoration / re-wetting of significant tracts of peatlands in conjunction with appropriate developed after uses.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to require the preparation and submission of a Hydrological Report/Assessment for significant developments within and in close proximity to protected raised bogs and to take account of same in the assessment of impacts on the integrity of peatland ecosystems.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to work with relevant stakeholders on suitable peatland sites in order to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques to promote their heritage and educational value subject to ecological impact assessment and appropriate assessment screening.</p>	<p>BLP-14 BLP-15 BLP-16 BLP-17 BLP-18 BLO-08 BLO-09</p>

Recommendation integrated into the Plan	Plan Reference
<p><b>Waterways, Lakes and Wetlands</b></p> <p>It is Council policy to protect the landscape associated with the River Shannon, including the Callows and views of special interest, and also to encourage the development of Shannonbridge, Banagher and Shannon Harbour as focal points. It will also be Council policy to investigate the possibility of providing a Linear Park based on the River Shannon from Banagher to Meelick, which takes account of the sensitive ecological nature of the Callows area.</p> <p>It is Council policy to protect riparian corridors by reserving land along their banks for ecological corridors and maintain them free from inappropriate development. Where appropriate clear span structures will be promoted where fisheries exist, and culverting and/or realignment of streams will be discouraged. The Council will consult with Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to riparian and instream works as appropriate.</p> <p>It is Council policy to have regard to the Waterways Corridor Study 2002 and protect the recreational, educational and amenity potential of navigational and non-navigational waterways with the county, such as the Grand Canal Corridor, towpaths and adjacent wetlands.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to maintain a riparian zone for larger and smaller river channels based on the The Shannon Regional Fisheries Board Guidance Document, 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment, a Guide to the Protection of Watercourses through the use of Buffer Zones, Sustainable Drainage Systems, Instream Rehabilitation and Recreational Planning'.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to (a) investigate the feasibility of and cooperate with relevant agencies in providing a Linear Park based on the River Shannon from Banagher to Meelick, which takes account of the sensitive ecological nature of the Callows area and (b) to support the development of an overall vision/ strategy for the Shannon Callows in co-operation with all stakeholders to ensure that the area is appropriately managed at a landscape scale.</p>	<p>BLP-19 BLP-20 BLP-21 BLO-10 BLO-11</p>
<p><b>Trees, Forestry and Hedgerows</b></p> <p>It is Council policy to support the protection and management of existing networks of woodlands, trees and hedgerows which are of amenity or biodiversity value and/or contribute to landscape character, and to strengthen local networks.</p> <p>It is Council policy to encourage the planting of native species in all new residential developments (individual and multiple units) and as part of landscaping for commercial and industrial developments.</p> <p>It is Council policy to require, where practical, the management of mature trees, such as tree surgery instead of felling particularly where the trees contribute to amenity.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to preserve individual trees and groups of trees that are included in Table 4.14 and 4.15.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders to protect trees and woodlands of high value.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to encourage the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees, not listed in Table 4.14 and 4.15;</p> <p>(a) in particular, on the grounds of Country Houses, Gardens and Demesnes and on approaches to settlements in the county; and</p> <p>(b) as part of the development management process, require the planting of native, deciduous, pollinator friendly trees in all new developments where possible.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to encourage pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, the management of features of the landscape, such as traditional field boundaries, important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to encourage the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the county. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).</p>	<p>BLP-22 BLP-23 BLP-24 BLO-12 BLO-13 BLO-14 BLO-15 BLO-16</p>
<p><b>Green Infrastructure Strategy</b></p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to require all new developments to identify, protect and enhance ecological features by making provision for local biodiversity (for example, through provision of swift boxes or towers, bat roost sites, green roofs, etc.) and provide links to the wider Green Infrastructure network as an essential part of the design process.</p>	<p>BLO-17</p>
<p><b>Invasive Species</b></p> <p>It is Council policy to continue to deliver and support measures for the prevention, control and/or eradication of invasive species within the county, and to seek details of how these species will be managed and controlled where their presence is identified.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to require, as part of the planning application process, the appropriate eradication/control of invasive species when identified on site or in the vicinity of a site, in accordance with Regulation 49 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 to 2015.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to continue to maintain mapping identifying the location of invasive species in the county in conjunction with the National Biodiversity Data Centre.</p>	<p>BLP-31 BLO-18 BLO-19</p>
<p><b>Light Pollution</b></p> <p>It is Council policy to require that the design of lighting schemes minimises the incidence of light pollution into the surrounding environment. New schemes shall ensure that there is no unacceptable adverse impact on residential or visual amenity and biodiversity in the surrounding area.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to seek to minimise the harmful effects of light pollution in the future provision of outdoor lighting, including investigating measures to improve the approach to street lighting and ensuring that new developments are lit appropriately and that environmentally sensitive areas are protected.</p>	<p>ENVP-21 ENVO-13</p>
<p><b>Increases in visitor numbers</b></p> <p>It is Council policy to seek to manage any increases in visitor numbers in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance and impacts on existing infrastructure. Visitor / habitat management plans will be required for proposed tourism projects as relevant and appropriate.</p>	<p>TRP-09</p>

Recommendation integrated into the Plan	Plan Reference
<p><b>Built Heritage: Protected Species</b> Protect habitats and species when considering proposed works to buildings which are likely to impact on protected ecological sites and protected species.</p>	BHP-34
<p><b>Water Quality/Status</b> It is Council policy to ensure that the Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plan and any subsequent Water Management Plans are fully considered throughout the planning process. It is Council policy to manage, protect and enhance surface water and ground water quality to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. It is Council policy to support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plan and the Local Authority Waters Programme in achieving and maintaining at least good environmental status for all water bodies in the county. It is Council policy that all proposed development which may have an impact on a high status water quality site will require site specific assessment to determine localised pressures and demonstrate suitable mitigation measures in order to protect these sites. It is Council policy to promote and comply with the environmental standards and objectives established for: (i) Bodies of surface water, by the European Communities (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009, made to give effect to the measures needed to achieve the environmental objectives established for bodies of surface water by the European Water Framework Directive; and (ii) Groundwater, by the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, made to give effect to the measures needed to achieve the environmental objectives established for groundwater by the European Water Framework and Groundwater Directives, for which standards and objectives are included in the River Basin Management Plan. It is Council policy to protect groundwater sources through the implementation of the Groundwater Protection Scheme and Source Protection Zones. Development proposals within these zones which have the potential to pose a risk to groundwater will be required to demonstrate that no reasonable alternative site is available and that groundwater quality will be protected to the satisfaction of the Council. It is Council policy to encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan. It is an objective of the Council to ensure, through the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan, and any other associated legislation, the protection and improvement of all drinking water, surface water and ground waters throughout the county. It is an objective of the Council to protect through its regulatory controls and in conjunction with the Local Authority Waters Programme, water bodies with 'high ecological status'; to restore water bodies that have fallen below 'high ecological status'; to maintain water bodies at 'Good Status'; and to mitigate threats to water bodies identified as 'At Risk' i.e. 'Moderate and Poor Status'. It is an objective of the Council to protect both ground and surface water resources; to work with Irish Water to develop and implement Drinking Water Safety Plans to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchment; and to work with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes in respect of Source Protection Plans for Group Water Schemes to protect these sources. It is an objective of the Council to comply with the Blue Dot Catchments Programme. It is Council policy to ensure that any proposed projects do not conflict with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. It is Council policy to ensure that agricultural developments are designed and constructed in a manner that will ensure that groundwater watercourses and sources of potable water are protected from the threat of pollution in line with Water Quality Regulations and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p>	<p>ENVP-01 ENVP-02 ENVP-03 ENVP-04 ENVP-05 ENVP-06 ENVP-07 ENVO-01 ENVO-02 ENVO-03 ENVO-04 CAEP-30 REDP-04</p>
<p><b>Air Quality</b> It is Council policy to manage air quality in accordance with relevant legislation and policy. It is Council policy 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 set out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011, or any updated/superseding documents. It is Council policy to require activities likely to give rise to air emissions to implement measures to control such emissions and to undertake air quality monitoring. Application of this policy will take into account instances whereby activities are licensed by other bodies through other processes (such as Integrated Pollution Control Licensing or Industrial Emissions Licensing). It is an objective of the Council to reduce harmful emissions and achieve and maintain good air quality for the county. It is an objective of the Council to actively promote measures to reduce air pollution and combat climate change including promotion of energy efficient buildings, cleaner home heating, green infrastructure, active and public transport modes, electric vehicles and innovative design solutions. It is an objective of the Council to promote sustainable design and construction to help reduce emissions from the demolition and construction of buildings. It is an objective of the Council to work with relevant agencies to support local data collection in the development of air quality monitoring.</p>	<p>ENVP-16 ENVP-17 ENVP-18 ENVO-09 ENVO-10 ENVO-11 ENVO-12</p>
<p><b>Noise</b> It is Council policy to promote the implementation of the Environmental Noise Directive and associated regulations through the Offaly County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 and any subsequent Plan.</p>	<p>ENVP-19 ENVP-20</p>

Recommendation integrated into the Plan	Plan Reference
<p>It is Council policy to promote the pro-active management of noise where it is likely to have significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life. Planning permission will not normally be granted for new uses / development or extensions of existing uses that produce significant and unacceptable levels of noise and/or vibration at site boundaries or within adjacent noise sensitive areas, especially residential areas.</p>	
<p><b>Peatlands</b> It is Council policy that planning applications for development on or immediately adjacent to peatlands shall be accompanied by assessments considering the following issues where relevant; peatland stability, hydrology, and/ or carbon emissions balance.</p>	CAEP-16
<p><b>Waste Management</b> It is Council policy to facilitate the provision of adequate waste recovery and disposal facilities for the county. It is Council policy to promote circular economy principles, prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery, and to sustainably manage residual waste. New developments will be expected to take account of the provisions of the Waste Management Plan for the Region and observe those elements of it that relate to waste prevention and minimisation, waste recycling facilities, and the capacity for source segregation. It is Council policy to ensure that all waste disposal shall be undertaken in compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency and relevant Waste Management Legislation. It is Council policy to continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008, including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills. It is Council policy to require the provision of recycling infrastructure where it is considered necessary and will assess requirements for recycling facilities on a case by case basis as part of the development management process. It is Council policy to require Construction and Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs) to be prepared for larger scale projects and this requirement shall be assessed on a case by case basis as part of the development management process. Where a CEMP is required, it shall be prepared in accordance with the criteria set out in Section 11.5.2 of this Plan. It is an objective of the Council to implement the Eastern-Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021; the Council's Litter Management Plan and Waste Bye-Laws. It is an objective of the Council to use statutory powers to prohibit the illegal deposit and disposal of waste materials, refuse and litter, and to authorise and regulate, waste disposal within the county in an environmentally sustainable manner. It is an objective of the Council to implement the legislative provisions in relation to historic landfill sites in the county and to undertake risk assessments where required and any subsequent remedial measures where necessary. It is an objective of the Council to promote the inclusion of adequate and easily accessible storage space that supports the separate collection of dry recyclables and food, as appropriate, within developments.</p>	<p>Integrated into Chapter 11.4.2 Waste Management ENVP-08 ENVP-09 ENVP-10 ENVP-11 ENVP-12 ENVP-13 ENVO-05 ENVO-06 ENVO-07 ENVO-08</p>
<p><b>Measures included in Proposed Material Alterations/Further Modifications</b>  It is an objective of the Council in accordance with Article 4(4) of the Birds Directive and Regulation 27(4) of the European Communities (Birds and Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015 to strive to avoid pollution or deterioration of bird habitats outside Special Protection Areas.  It is an objective of the Council to take account of the objective and management practices proposed in any management or related plans for European Sites (SACs and SPAs) in and adjacent to the county published by the Department including the National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) Management Plan 2017-2022 and any subsequent editions.  It is Council policy to proactively encourage the Bord na Móna Peatlands Rehabilitation Scheme (which is to be administered by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and regulated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) to deliver on potential amenity and tourism benefits for example complimenting the delivery of the Midlands Cycling Destination – Offaly, where routes pass through the rehabilitated bogs, subject to environmental, biodiversity, hydrological and climate mitigation actions (including renewable energy projects) requirements.  <b>Also, text under "Area generally from Cloneygowan to Clonbullogue"</b> (A potential constraint in this area is the objective in Chapter 4 to examine the feasibility of developing Wilderness Corridors at bogs at Cavemount, Esker, Ballycon, Derrycricket, Clonsast North, Clonsast and Derryounce. The Council will not be in favour of any developments proposed on these bogs with the potential to impact upon the character, uniqueness and wilderness potential of these areas. The impact on a potential Wilderness Corridor from any wind farm development will be assessed at project level by the Council.)  <b>Also, text under "Area generally east of Shannonbridge and south of Clonmacnoise"</b> (A potential constraint in this area is the objective in Chapter 4 to examine the feasibility of developing Wilderness Corridors at bogs at Blackwater, Ballaghurt and Belmont Bog. The Council will not be in favour of any developments proposed on these bogs with the potential to impact upon the character, uniqueness and wilderness potential of these areas. The impact on a potential Wilderness Corridor from any wind farm development will be assessed at project level by the Council.)</p>	<p>Measures included in Proposed Material Alterations/ Further Modifications</p>

Recommendation integrated into the Plan	Plan Reference
<p><b>Also, an amended BLO-11</b>                      (final text It is an objective of the Council to (a) investigate the feasibility of and cooperate with relevant agencies in providing a Linear Park based on the River Shannon from Banagher to Meelick, which takes account of the sensitive ecological nature of the Callows area and (b) to support the development of an overall vision/ strategy for the Shannon Callows in co-operation with all stakeholders to ensure that the area is appropriately managed at a landscape scale.)</p> <p><b>BLO-07</b>                      Any proposal for development at the lands to the north west of the town as shown in the Ferbane Town Objectives Map must demonstrate that it will not affect the nearby Ferbane Bog SAC, including as a result of changes to drainage patterns.</p>	



## Section 6 Conclusion

Stage 1 AA Screening and Stage 2 AA of the Plan has been carried out. Implementation of the Plan<sup>13</sup> to be adopted has the potential to result in effects to the integrity of any European sites, if unmitigated.

The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and mitigate effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to AA/screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027<sup>14</sup> is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>15</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>13</sup> Incorporating: the Draft Plan; all alterations and August 2021 Chief Executive's Recommendations included in Section 5 "Mitigation Measures" in this report; any other alterations; and any other August 2021 Chief Executive's Recommendations.

<sup>14</sup> Incorporating: the Draft Plan; all alterations and August 2021 Chief Executive's Recommendations included in Section 5 "Mitigation Measures" in this report; any other alterations; and any other August 2021 Chief Executive's Recommendations.

<sup>15</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 within 15 km of the Plan boundary; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Site Description/Vulnerability
000566	All Saints Bog and Esker SAC	Within	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150] Bog woodland [91D0]	All Saints Bog is a lowland raised bog lying about 5 km north-west of Birr in Co. Offaly, and separated from the Little Brosna Callows by a fragmented esker ridge. An extensive area in the north-east corner of the bog, representing about 20% of the bog surface, is being cut for turf, with drains running into the eastern edge of the birch woodland. This appears to be leading to the bog drying out, as the surface is reported to be much drier than when first surveyed in the mid-1980s. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: peat extraction, stock feeding, storage of materials, sand and gravel extraction, disposal of waste and inert materials and fertilisation. All of these threats have been identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000571	Charleville Wood SAC	Within	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]	Charleville Wood is a large Oak woodland surrounded by estate parkland and agricultural grassland located about 3 km south-west of Tullamore in Co. Offaly. The site, which is underlain by deep glacial deposits, includes a small lake with a wooded island, and a stream runs along the western perimeter. The woodland is considered to be one of very few ancient woodlands remaining in Ireland, with some parts undisturbed for at least 200 years. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: recreational activities, poaching, wildlife watching and taking/removing of terrestrial plants. All of these threats have been identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000572	Clara Bog SAC	Within	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150] Bog woodland [91D0]	Clara Bog is situated some 2 km south of Clara village in Co. Offaly. Much of it is State-owned and designated a statutory Nature Reserve. The site has been divided into a western and an eastern section by a road. The eastern part of the site has been damaged by previous drainage works, although restoration work is in progress. Continuing peat extraction from the southern margins is also damaging and has a potential effect upon much of the internal bog, including the soak system. Ideally the whole bog should be managed as a hydrological unit. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Agricultural activities, urbanisation, disposal of household waste and taking/removal of terrestrial plants. All of the threats have been identified within the site boundary. The NPWS have also listed fertilisation as a threat existing beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000859	Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC	Within	Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	Located approximately 5 km west of the town of Clonaslee, and largely in Co. Laois, this site consists of a series of morainic hills and esker ridges which are the legacy of the last period of glaciation. To the north-west, the Derry Hills are two isolated hills situated in a bog, which forms part of the site. The main esker ridge runs along the southern part of the site. A significant land use practice within the site is the extraction of gravel. One quarry west of the road is currently being worked. This activity leads directly to destruction of the esker and irreparable damage to the site. Some of the esker grasslands (mostly at the western end) have been improved either for pasture or for arable farming. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: mechanical removal of peat and pollution from garbage and solid waste. All of these pressures have been identified within the site boundary. The NPWS have also listed dispersed habitation as a threat existing beyond the site. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000575	Ferbane Bog SAC	Within	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	Ferbane Bog is a relatively large, domed, raised bog located about 10 km east of Shannonbridge in Co. Offaly. It is underlain by low permeability Waulsortian limestone and clay-rich tills. Drainage is extensive at this site and has caused significant drying out. Past peat-cutting and some active peat-cutting have also speeded up water loss. However, although the high bog has suffered some water loss, it is still in restorable condition. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Agricultural activities, peat extraction, sand and gravel extraction and forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000576	Fin Lough (Offaly) SAC	Within	Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	Fin Lough is a shallow limestone lake surrounded by a complex of wetland habitats; 7 km north-east of Shannonbridge in Co. Offaly. The name Fionn Loch, "White Lake", probably derives from the white colour of the lake bottom caused by marl deposits. It is a shallow lake, about 16 ha in extent (in winter) and bounded to the north and east by the Clonfinlough esker ridge, and to the south and west by Blackwater Bog, which is now largely cut-over. Drainage works to facilitate peat milling activities adjoining the site have reduced the extent of open water in the site, and large areas of the former lake basin are now overgrown by reedswamp and scrub woodland. Fin Lough remains an important site, however, because of the diversity of wetland habitats and species that it supports. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Agricultural activities, disposal of household/recreational facility waste, disposal of inert materials and management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002236	Island Fen SAC	Within	<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Alkaline fens [7230]	Island Fen SAC is located in a small valley in the foothills of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, south west of Clareen village in Co. Offaly. The geology of the area is Lower Carboniferous Limestone and the principle soil is grey brown podzolic with brown earths, gleys, basin peat and limestone gravels and sands. The site overlies an old lake bed lined with shelly marl. Soil cover is generally thin, with some rocks protruding locally. This wetland site is relatively small, but is quite species-diverse. Cattle grazing is the dominant land use at the site. Recent damage from drainage activities to the north of the site has reduced the overall scientific interest somewhat, but the remainder of the site does not appear to be under threat from similar activities. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Agricultural activities, roads, paths and railways and hunting. All of these pressures have been identified within the site boundary. The NPWS have identified hunting as an existing threat beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002147	Lisduff Fen SAC	Within	Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	Lisduff Fen is situated about 4 km south-east of Birr in Co. Offaly, near Kilcolman crossroads. A survey in 1995 confirmed the presence of the species ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) at Lisduff. The habitat was considered to be excellent for the species and there were no apparent threats. However, a small site such as Lisduff could easily be damaged or destroyed by drainage activities. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Agricultural activities, storage of materials, disposal of inert materials and disposal of household / recreational facility waste. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. The NPWS have identified hunting as an existing threat beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000580	Mongan Bog SAC	Within	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	Mongan Bog is a midland raised bog of medium size situated immediately east of the monastic site of Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly, and 12 km south of Athlone. It is situated in a basin, surrounded on 95% of its perimeter by high ground on mineral soil. At two points in the north it shares a common boundary with Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC. Most of the bog is a Statutory Nature Reserve, established in 1987. The bog has been the subject of ongoing intensive research since 1972. Although there have been only low levels of disturbance in the recent past, the hydrology of the bog has been adversely affected by drainage, due mainly to the effects of domestic peat-cutting. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Agricultural activities, peat extraction and the disposal of household/facility waste and inert materials. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.

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000581	Moyclare Bog SAC	Within	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	Moyclare Bog is a small raised bog situated 4 km west of Ferbane in Co. Offaly. Its mean height above sea level is 54 m. On the western edge of the bog, a low peat face with no perimeter drain lies adjacent to wet peaty pasture, which has a spring-line at its junction with mineral soil. The water from this spring disappears under the peat dome of the bog. The site occurs in close proximity to a number of important raised bogs close to the floodplain of the River Shannon. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Agricultural activities, disposal of household/facility waste and inert materials and peat extraction. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
001776	Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC	Within	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC is a narrow esker ridge extending 2 km east from Clonmacnoise in Co. Offaly. The site is adjacent to the River Shannon Callows, to the north, and Mongan raised bog, to the south. The western area includes Buntulla Hill (north of the road) and Hanging Hill (south of the road); the central area runs along both sides of the summit ridge before widening out eastwards to include a substantial area of esker grassland centred on the site of an old ring-fort. Land use on the site is mostly grazing by cattle (also rabbits) and this helps to prevent encroachment of scrub, a potential threat to the species-rich grassland. In places to the east, where grazing is less intensive, Blackthorn ( <i>Prunus spinosa</i> ) encroachment is evident. Lack of fertiliser application has allowed the localised species-rich flora to survive. If fertiliser application were ceased over the whole area species-richness would gradually increase throughout. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Agricultural activities, the disposal of household/facility waste and inert materials and roads, paths and railroads. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000582	Raheenmore Bog SAC	Within	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	This raised bog developed in a small basin in the catchment of two major river systems i.e. the Brosna and the Boyne. It is situated about 5 km from Daingean in Co. Offaly. The peat is very deep, up to 15 m in places. The bog has a well-developed hummock and hollow system. The structure of the bog habitat has been affected by drainage. This has resulted from peat-cutting along the margins of the bog which has led to the lowering of the water table within the adjoining, intact high bog areas. Although the north-eastern section of the bog suffered from burning in the past, the majority of the site is relatively unaffected by this practice at present. Also, peat extraction has largely discontinued. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Agricultural activities and the infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds and pools. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000919	Ridge Road, SW of Rapemills SAC	Within	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	This site consists of steep-sided, twin esker ridges formed from glacial gravels. It is situated under 2 km south-west of the village of Rapemills in Co. Offaly. The more northerly ridge supports a road running towards the Little Brosna River. Hollows are present with deeper soils which are more nutrient-enriched, while the banks are slightly leached. Eskers are becoming increasingly rare in Ireland; many have been destroyed as a result of gravel extraction. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Agricultural activities, roads, paths and railroads. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Within	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranuncion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] European dry heaths [4030] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and Fraxinus excelsior ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0] <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaiite Shad) [1103] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421] <i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i> (Nore Pearl Mussel) [1990]	This site consists of the freshwater stretches of the Barrow and Nore River catchments as far upstream as the Slieve Bloom Mountains, and it also includes the tidal elements and estuary as far downstream as Creadun Head in Waterford. The site passes through eight counties – Offaly, Kildare, Laois, Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford and Waterford. Major towns along the edge of the site include Mountmellick, Portarlinton, Monasterevin, Stradbally, Athy, Carlow, Leighlinbridge, Graigueamanagh, New Ross, Inistioge, Thomastown, Callan, Bennettsbridge, Kilkenny and Durrow. The larger of the many tributaries include the Lerr, Fushoge, Mountain, Aughavaud, Owenass, Boherbaun and Stradbally Rivers of the Barrow, and the Delour, Dinin, Erkina, Owveg, Munster, Arrigle and King's Rivers on the Nore. Land use at the site consists mainly of agricultural activities – mostly intensive in nature and principally grazing and silage production. Slurry is spread over much of the area. Arable crops are also grown. The spreading of slurry and fertiliser poses a threat to the water quality of the salmonid river and to the populations of E.U. Habitats Directive Annex II animal species within the site. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Agricultural activities, surface water pollution, forest and plantation management, gravel extraction and invasive species. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. The NPWS have identified fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, peat extraction and industrial and commercial areas as existing threats beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	Within	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] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and Fraxinus excelsior ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	The River Shannon Callows is a long and diverse site which consists of seasonally flooded, semi-natural, lowland wet grassland, along and beside the river between the towns of Athlone and Portumna. It is approximately 50 km long and averages about 0.75 km wide (reaching 1.5 km wide in places). Along much of its length the site is bordered by raised bogs (many, but not all, of which are subject to large-scale harvesting), esker ridges and limestone-bedrock hills. The soils grade from siltyalluvial to peat. This site has a common boundary, and is closely associated, with two other sites with similar habitats, River Suck Callows and Little Brosna Callows. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Agricultural activities, recreational activities, paths, roads, railroads, mechanical removal of peat and grazing in forests/woodlands. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000585	Sharavogue Bog SAC	Within	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	Sharavogue Bog (SAC) comprises 2 raised bog sites. The main area, Sharavogue Bog, which covers 223.43 ha is located about 8 km south of Birr, Co. Offaly, in the Little Brosna Valley. Cangort (Kilfrancis) Bog is a small outlier 4 km further south, and covers 13.12 ha. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Agricultural activities, invasive species and changes in hydraulic conditions. All of these pressures have been identified both within and beyond the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.

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000412	Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC	Within	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] 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]	The Slieve Bloom Mountains lie on the Offaly-Laos border, starting about 8 km north-east of Roscrea and running about 24 km north-east, towards Clonaslee. The mountains are of Old Red Sandstone, flanked by Silurian rocks. The site extends from approximately 180 m to 529 m O.D. The primary threats to Irish blanket bogs in general are afforestation, drainage and over-grazing, and current habitat quality is often dependent on past land use. On the Slieve Blooms, the Heather forms tall, dense stands, with individual stems up to 20 years old, suggesting that burning has not been extensive in recent years. There is little evidence of grazing or erosion. Overall, vegetation structure is exceptionally well-conserved due to lack of disturbance. A large portion of the site lies within a Statutory Nature Reserve. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: recreational activities, invasive species, agricultural activities, pollution from solid waste and changes in hydraulic conditions. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. The NPWS have identified mining and quarrying and forest and plantation management and use as existing threats beyond the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000925	The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC	Within	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	The Long Derries is located approximately 5 km south-east of Edenderry in Co. Offaly and is part of a low esker ridge running from Edenderry to Rathdangan. It consists primarily of glacial gravels interspersed with loam and peat soil. At the western section of this site activities connected with the harvesting of peat occur. The eastern section of the site is grazed by cattle and horses. Grazing is essential for the preservation of the rare orchid, but over-grazing needs to be avoided. Shooting and motorbike scrambling are other activities occurring. Although gravel extraction has helped create habitats for some plant species, this could result in excessive damage if uncontrolled. Dumping of rubbish and old railway tracks is undesirable, as is interference with Badger sets. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Recreational activities, agricultural activities, roads, paths, railroads and storage of materials. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004103	All Saints Bog SPA	Within	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	All Saints Bog is a lowland raised bog located about 5 km north-west of Birr in Co. Offaly. It is separated from the River Little Brosna callows by a fragmented esker ridge. The site is unique in that it contains the largest stand of birch ( <i>Betula</i> sp.) woodland in the country growing on an active raised bog. At the time this site was designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) it was known to be utilised by part of an internationally important population of Greenland Whitefronted Goose. Greenland White-fronted Goose is regarded as a special conservation interest for this SPA. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Agricultural activities, roads and motorways, sand and gravel extraction, mechanical removal of peat and hunting. All of these pressures have been identified within the site boundary. The NPWS have identified fertilisation, dispersed habitation, forest planting on open ground, peat extraction and grazing as existing threats beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004137	Dovegrove Callows SPA	Within	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	Dovegrove Callows is an area of callowland beside the Little Brosna River 2 km downstream from Birr, Co. Offaly and 5 km upstream from the start of the main area of River Little Brosna callows. The main habitat is wet grassland which floods. The standard data form for the site includes fertilisation as a threat within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	Within	Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038] Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050] Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A122] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156] Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The Middle Shannon Callows SPA is a long and diverse site which extends for approximately 50 km from the town of Athlone to the town of Portumna; it lies within Counties Galway, Roscommon, Offaly, Offaly and Tipperary. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: hunting, bridges and viaducts, agricultural activities, recreational activities, paths, tracks and cycling tracks and fishing. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. The NPWS have identified urbanisation and fertilisation as existing threats beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004017	Mongan Bog SPA	Within	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	Mongan Bog is a midland raised bog of medium size situated immediately east of the monastic site of Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly, and 12 km south of Athlone. It is situated in a basin, surrounded on part of its perimeter by high ground on mineral soil. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: improved access to the site, grazing and peat extraction. All of these threats have been identified within the boundary. The NPWS have identified grazing, sand and gravel extraction and peat extraction as existing threats beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004086	River Little Brosna Callows SPA	Within	Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038] Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050] Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052] Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054] Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156] Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The River Little Brosna Callows SPA follows the River Brosna from its confluence with the River Shannon for approximately 9 km south-eastwards to just beyond New Bridge on the R438 road. The site extends along both sides of the river within counties Offaly and Tipperary. The main habitat present is the extensive area of low-lying callow grassland along the floodplain of the river. These grasslands are subject to prolonged flooding in winter, early spring and occasionally in summer. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: fishing, grazing, fertilisation, hunting and mowing/cutting of grassland. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. The NPWS have identified dispersed habitation, fertilisation and paths, tracks and cycle tracks as existing threats beyond the site. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004160	Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA	Within	Hen Harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ) [A082]	The Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA is situated on the border between Counties Offaly and Laos, and runs along a north-east/south-west aligned ridge for approximately 25 km. Much of the site is over 200 m in altitude, rising to a maximum height of 527 m at Arderin. The mountains are of Old Red Sandstone, flanked by Silurian rocks. Several important rivers rise within the site, including the Barrow, Delour and Silver. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: dispersed urbanisation, tracks, paths and cycle tracks, agricultural activities, roads, motorways and peat extraction. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. The NPWS have identified agricultural activities and dispersed habitation as existing threats beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004097	River Suck Callows SPA	Within	Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038] Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142] Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The River Suck Callows SPA is a linear, sinuous site comprising a section of the River Suck from Castlecoote, Co. Roscommon to its confluence with the River Shannon close to Shannonbridge, a distance of approximately 70 km along the course of the river. The river forms part of the boundary between Counties Galway and Roscommon. The site includes the River Suck itself and the adjacent areas of seasonally-flooded semi-natural lowland wet callow grassland. The River Suck is the largest tributary of the River Shannon. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: Agricultural activities, recreational activities, hunting and leisure fishing. All of these pressures have been identified within the site boundary. The NPWS have identified urbanisation, forestry and agricultural activities as threats existing beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000925	The long Derries, Edenderry SAC	Within	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	The Long Derries is located approximately 5 km south-east of Edenderry in Co. Offaly and is part of a low esker ridge running from Edenderry to Rathdangan. It consists primarily of glacial gravels interspersed with loam and peat soil. At the western section of this site activities connected with the harvesting of peat occur. The eastern section of the site is grazed by cattle and horses. Grazing is essential for the preservation of the rare orchid, but over-grazing needs to be avoided. Shooting and motorbike scrambling are other activities occurring. Although gravel extraction has helped create habitats for some plant species, this could result in

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				excessive damage if uncontrolled. Dumping of rubbish and old railway tracks is undesirable, as is interference with Badger setts. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: agricultural activities, off-road motorised driving, improved access to the site and roads, paths and railroads. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002206	Scohaboy (Sopwell) Bog SAC	3.76	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	Scohaboy (Sopwell) Bog SAC occurs within the larger raised bog system that is designated as Scohaboy Bog NHA (000937). It is situated 4 km north-west of Cloughjordan in Co. Tipperary. It lies within the townland of Sopwell. The underlying geology is carboniferous limestone. Current landuse on the site consists of conservation management by the site owners, Coillte. Until recently, there was also turf cutting in the south-eastern corner of the site but this has now ceased. Damaging activities associated with this landuse, including drainage and burning, are continuing within Scohaboy Bog NHA. Drainage activities for turf cutting occurred widely in the past on adjacent areas of the high bog, but many of these drains have been blocked by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) following acquisition of the land. Fire damage has been recorded in the 1980s and more recently in the west of the site and there is evidence of regular burning throughout the area. These activities have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. The standard data form does not list any further threats to the site.
001831	Split Hills and Long Hill Esker SAC	3.81	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	Split Hills and Long Hill Esker is a 5 km long site which crosses the main Galway-Dublin road mid-way between Kilbeggan and Tyrrellspass in Co. Offaly. It is a prominent feature on the local landscape. The main threat to the esker is quarrying for sand and gravel. This activity already occurs on the site at several locations. Grazing is a critical factor affecting esker habitats, and getting a balance right is important. The presence of too many grazers causes damage to the ground vegetation in both woodlands and grasslands and prevents regeneration of woody species. However, if the grazing level is too low, grasslands are vulnerable to the encroachment of scrub at the expense of species which require open conditions. Fertiliser application, associated with agricultural improvement, also leads to a reduction in species-richness of grasslands. The standard data form for the site does not list any further threats to the site.
004233	River Nore SPA	4.11	Kingfisher ( <i>Alcedo atthis</i> ) [A229]	The River Nore SPA is a long, linear site that includes the following river sections: the River Nore from the bridge at Townparks, (north-west of Borris in Ossory) to Coolnamuck (approximately 3 km south of Inistioge) in Co. Kilkenny; the Delour River from its junction with the River Nore to Derrynaseera bridge (west of Castletown) in Co. Laois; the Erkina River from its junction with the River Nore at Durrow Mills to Boston Bridge in Co. Laois; a 1.5 km stretch of the River Goul upstream of its junction with the Erkina River; the Kings River from its junction with the River Nore to a bridge at Mill Island, Co. Kilkenny. The site includes the river channel and marginal vegetation. The standard data form for the site details port areas as a threat within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002332	Coolrain Bog SAC	5.22	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	Coolrain Bog is situated in Co. Laois, approximately 4 km north-east of Borris-in-Ossory, mainly within the townlands of Derries, Rosnaclonagh Outside, Coolrain and Caher. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The northern margin of the site is bounded by the Tonet River and the eastern boundary by forestry on old cutover. Current land uses on the site consist of peat-cutting at the margins and forestry on the old cutover. The forestry and peat-cutting are activities that have resulted in the loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site. There is no evidence of recent burning on the bog and it has recovered well from old burns. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: land reclamation, changes in hydraulic conditions caused by humans, invasive non-native species and hand cutting of peat. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000934	Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC	5.27	European dry heaths [4030] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]	This upland site is situated approximately 6 km north-west of Templemore in Co. Tipperary. It comprises the summit of Devilsbit Mountain and much of the eastern side of the ridge which extends northwards to Kilduff Mountain. Most of the site lies above 250 m and the highest point is 480 m. Devilsbit Mountain is composed of Silurian grits. The site is heavily grazed by cattle and sheep. Agricultural improvement and afforestation are the main threats, particularly to those areas of unimproved grassland found within the site. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: agricultural activities, removal of terrestrial animals, pollution to surface water due to agriculture and recreational activities. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
001683	Liskeenan Fen SAC	6.43	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]	Liskeenan Fen is a small turlough-like fen situated about 10 km north-west of Borrisokane and just 1 km from the village of Aghlish, in north Co. Tipperary. The site floods in winter via a swallow hole in the far north-west corner. The eastern part of the site consists of a small, dry, inactive raised bog on which mixed woodland is developing, as well as an extensive and unusual area of flooded cut-away. In summer the fen is grazed, but few cattle venture into the wettest centre. Any alteration of the swallow-hole could threaten the water levels at the site. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: grazing, fertilisation, invasive non-native species and peat extraction. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002336	Carn Park Bog SAC	7.26	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	Carn Park Bog is situated 8 km east of Athlone, in the townlands of Tullywood, Carn Park, Cappaghbrack, Warren High and Moydrum, Co. Offaly. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The margins of the site are bounded by roads on the north, west and southern margins and forestry on the east. Current land use on the site consists of mechanised peat-cutting, forestry and agricultural reclamation around the edge of the high bog. Peat-cutting is carried out along the track and road, which form the northern and north-western site boundaries. Afforestation occurs on the bog margins and extends onto intact or high bog. Some agricultural grassland has been reclaimed from cutover bog to the south and north-west of the site. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include drainage throughout the site (both old and recent) and extensive burning of the bog. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and which pose a continuing threat to its viability. The standard data form for the site does not list any further threats to the site.
000647	Kilcarren-Firville Bog SAC	8.12	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	Kilcarren-Firville Bog is situated approximately 2 km east of the village of Carrigahorrig in north Co. Tipperary. It is a lowland raised bog complex which extends about 4.5 km from east to west and is bisected by a road. It contains a large area of uncut high bog. Peripheral areas at Kilcarren-Firville Bog have been extensively damaged by peat cutting, drainage and land reclamation. The structure of the high bog has been detrimentally affected by drainage effects over a long period of time through a lowering of the water table. This can lead to the decline in abundance of plant species of wet bog conditions. Without restoration works, further drying out of the bog surface is likely to occur and further peat cutting remains a threat. The standard data form does not list any further threats to the site.
002337	Crosswood Bog SAC	8.13	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	Crosswood Bog is situated approximately 5 km east of Athlone, Co. Offaly, mainly in the townlands of Crosswood, Glenaghanvoneen, and Creggan Lower. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The northern margin of the bog lies along the southern side of the Dublin-Galway railway line. Current land use on the site consists of peat-cutting around the edge of the high bog; it is more intensively cut on the western and southern margins. While the northern margin has drains that extend into the intact bog, it is relatively protected from development due to the proximity to the railway. Forestry is found to the south of the site on areas of cutover bog. Some fields on old cutover are used for pasture and are presently undergoing further reclamation. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include drainage throughout the site (both old and recent) and extensive burning of the high bog. These are activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. The standard data form for the site does not list any further threats.
002313	Ballymore Fen SAC	8.36	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	Ballymore Fen lies approximately 17 km west of Mullingar adjacent to the Mullingar to Ballymore road (R390) in Co. Offaly. The geology of the area is Carboniferous Limestone. The site occupies a relatively wide and deep depression in the surrounding drift which is fed on both the east and west by springs. The area may at one stage have been a lake of some size but at present is occupied by a transition mire complex with a characteristic lagg fen at the edges. Parts of the site have been

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				cut for turf in the past, as evidenced by parallel heather covered ridges and banks. Peat cutting has not occurred for a long time – confirmed by a local landowner. Regeneration of vegetation is occurring in these areas and the ground underfoot is very wet and soft. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: problematic native species, point source pollution to surface water, fertilisation and lack of grazing. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004064	Lough Ree SPA	8.69	Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ) [A004] Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038] Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050] Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052] Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053] Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056] Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061] Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065] Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067] Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142] Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Situated on the River Shannon between Lanesborough and Athlone, Lough Ree is the third largest lake in the Republic of Ireland. It lies in an ice-deepened depression in Carboniferous Limestone. Some of its features (including the islands) are based on glacial drift. The main inflowing rivers are the Shannon, Inny and Hind, and the main outflowing river is the Shannon. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: leisure fishing, hunting, invasive non-native species and recreational activities. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. The NPWS have identified agricultural activities and recreational activities as existing threats beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002342	Mount Hevey Bog SAC	9.00	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	Mount Hevey Bog is situated approximately 4 km north-east of Kinnegad, in the townlands of Cloncrave, White Island, Aghamore, Kilwarden and Kilnagallagh. The Meath-Offaly County boundary runs through the centre of the bog. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The Dublin-Sligo railway runs through the northern part of the bog isolating two northern lobes. The northern lobes are adjacent to the Royal Canal. Current land use on the site consists of limited mechanised peat-cutting, mostly on the eastern end of the high bog. There are areas of old peat cuttings all around the site with some very old abandoned regenerating cutover along the edge of the railway. The area to the east of the site has been afforested. Areas of cutover have been reclaimed for agricultural purposes. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include drainage throughout the site (both old and recent) and burning of the high bog. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: paths, tracks and cycle tracks, introduced genetic material, land reclamation, railways lines, invasive non-native species, hand cutting of peat and disposal of household/facility waste. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002333	Knockacoller Bog SAC	9.39	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	Knockacoller Bog is situated approximately 2 km south-west of Castletown in Co. Laois, and lies mainly within the townlands of Butterisland, Rush Hall and Knockacoller. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. Current land uses on the site consist of peat cutting around the margin of the high bog. Active peat cutting appears to be concentrated to the south-west, south-east and the north. Also, along the northern margin of the site in the cutover the dumping of household refuse is occurring. All of these activities have resulted in the loss of habitat, damage to the hydrological status of the site and pose a continuing threat to its viability. Another potentially damaging operation is a quarry towards the northeast of the cutover which may affect the hydrology of the site. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
001625	Castlesampon Esker SAC	10.14	Turloughs [3180] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	Castlesampon Esker is a complex site with esker, turlough and raised bog all found. The esker is the most westerly of an important group of eskers centred on Adrnacloon Hill in south-east Co. Roscommon, 9 km west of Athlone. It forms a steep-sided, crescent-shaped hill composed of glacial gravels, situated on the south side of a metalled road. Although gravel is being quarried all around the esker and gravel pits occur within the site, the esker ridge itself is largely intact and fairly undisturbed. Lying to the east of the esker is a raised bog, whilst to its west is a turlough. No site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	11.71	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013] <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]	Pollardstown Fen is situated on the northern margin of the Curragh of Kildare, approximately 3 km north-west of Newbridge. It lies in a shallow depression, running in a north-west/south-east direction. About 40 springs provide a continuous supply of water to the fen. These rise chiefly at its margins, along distinct seepage areas of mineral ground above the fen level. The standard data list for the site lists a number of potential threats to the site including fishing, grazing, silviculture, electricity and phone lines and hunting. All of these threats have been identified within the boundary. The NPWS have identified threats beyond the boundary including urbanisation, grazing and sand and gravel extraction.
004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	11.73	Kingfisher ( <i>Alcedo atthis</i> ) [A229]	The River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA is a long, linear site that comprises stretches of the River Boyne and several of its tributaries; most of the site is in Co. Meath, but it extends also into Cos Cavan, Louth and Offaly. The standard data form for the site lists roads and motorways as being a threat within the site boundary. The NPWS have listed dispersed habitation and roads and motorways as threats existing beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002339	Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC	11.95	Turloughs [3180] Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150] Bog woodland [91D0]	Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough is situated approximately 9 km west of Athlone, mainly in the townlands of Skeanamuck, Carrowkeeran and Pollalaher, in Co. Roscommon. The site comprises a relatively small portion of what was once a large bog complex, and includes areas of high bog and cutover bog, and also the turlough, Corkip Lough. Current land use on the site consists of limited peat-cutting at the north-east and south-west of the site. There is a small area of commercial forestry at the east of the site. Some areas of cutover bog at the south have been reclaimed for agriculture. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include frequent burning. This recurrent burning is having a serious drying effect on the bog. Drainage, for the most part, is restricted to the cutover areas of the bog. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. The standard data form for the site does not list any further threats to the site.
004165	Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA	12.31	Hen Harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ) [A082]	The Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA is an extensive upland site located in Counties Tipperary and Limerick. Much of the site is over 200 m in altitude and rises to 694 m at Keeper Hill. Other peaks included in the site are Slieve Felim, Knockstanna, Knockappul, Mother Mountain, Knockteige, Cooneen Hill and Silvermine Mountain. The site is underlain mainly by sandstones of Silurian age. Several important rivers rise within the site, including the Mulkear, Bilboa and Clare. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: roads, paths and cycleways, peat extraction, roads and motorways, grazing and dispersed habitation. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004044	Lough Ennell SPA	12.31	Pochard ( <i>Aythya ferina</i> ) [A059] Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061] Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Lough Ennell is a large, limestone lake located south of Mullingar in Co. Offaly. It has a length of approximately 6.5 km along its long axis and is mostly about 2 km wide. The River Brosna is the principal inflowing and outflowing river. It is a relatively shallow lake, with a maximum depth of c. 30 m. The water is hard, with low colour and markedly alkaline pH. The lake is classified as a mesotrophic system though it has been eutrophic in the past. The lake bottom is of limestone with a marl deposit. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: hunting, trampling and overuse, recreational activities and fishing. All of these

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				threats have been identified within the site boundary. The NPWS have identified agricultural activities, urbanisation and recreational activities as threats existing beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002356	Ardgraique Bog SAC	12.47	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	Ardgraique Bog is situated approximately 3 km north-east of Killimor, in Co. Galway, in the townlands of Ardgraique, Kilquain, Woodfield, and Lissaniska North and South. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. It is surrounded by agricultural fields and is located within a cluster of raised bogs. The bog is just north of the Killimor-Eyrecount road with a number of local access roads leading to the bog and one leading onto the high bog. Current land use on the site consists of peat-cutting around most of the margins of the high bog. Areas of cutover have been reclaimed for agricultural purposes to the north of the site. Peat-cutting on the site appears to be domestic mechanised peat extraction. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include drainage around the high bog and burning of the high bog. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. The standard data form for the site does not list any further threats to the site.
002331	Mouds Bog SAC	12.85	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	Mouds Bog is located about 3 km north-west of Newbridge in Co. Kildare, close to the Hill of Allen, and includes amongst others, the townlands of Grangehiggin, Barretstown and Hawkfield. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. Much of the margins of the site are bounded by trackway. Current land use on the site consists of peat-cutting, with extensive active industrial peat moss production in the western section of the remaining high bog. Burning has taken place in the recent past, and there is extensive damage in the west of the site due to industrial peat production. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
001387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC	12.87	Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016] <i>Euphydrys aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]	Ballynafagh Lake is located about 2 km north-west of Prosperous in Co. Kildare. It is a shallow alkaline lake with some emergent vegetation. The Blackwood Feeder, which connects Ballynafagh Lake to the Grand Canal, is also included in the site. The main land use at the site is fishing in the lake. There is a 'No Shooting Area' Order on the site. The standard data form for the site details a list of threat to include: fishing and agricultural activities. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000391	Ballynafagh BOG SAC	13.25	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	This site is a raised bog situated about 1 km west of Prosperous in Co. Kildare. The area is directly underlain by muddy, fossiliferous limestones, interbedded with calcareous shales. The subsoils are predominantly clay-rich tills. All are of low permeability. The bog has been damaged by afforestation, mechanised peat-cutting and drainage. These three activities pose the main threats to the survival of raised bogs. In addition, a significant proportion of the bog surface was badly damaged by fire in the mid-1990s. The standard data form for the site lists a number of threats to include: urbanisation, peat extraction, human disturbances and forest planting on open ground. All of these threats have been identified within and beyond the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002205	Wooddown Bog SAC	13.84	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	Wooddown Bog SAC occurs within the larger raised bog system that is designated as Wooddown Bog NHA (000694). It is situated 5.0 km north-east of Mullingar in the townland of Wooddown, Co. Offaly. The underlying geology is carboniferous limestone. Current landuse on the site consists of conservation management with the removal of conifer plantations and the blocking of drainage associated with these plantations, both on the high bog and on the cutover. This work was undertaken as part of the Coillte E.U. Life Project Demonstrating Best Practice in Raised Bog Restoration in Ireland. Active peat-cutting and drainage is occurring outside the south-western boundary and to the north-east of the SAC and there is a major drain running through the centre of the adjacent high bog. There is also some dumping around the site. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: invasive non-native species, problematic native species, changes in hydraulic conditions cause by humans and hand cutting of peat. All of these threats have been identified both within and beyond the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002213	Glenloughlaun Esker SAC	13.91	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	Situated approximately 5 km south-west of Ballinasloe in Co. Galway, this small site comprises a fine example of dry, mostly unimproved, orchid-rich calcareous grassland on an esker ridge. A feature of the site is the somewhat unusual mixture of calcicole and calcifuge species. Leaching of the base-rich substrate of the esker is likely to have given rise to soil conditions suitable for colonisation by calcifuge plants. The site is grazed at moderate levels by cattle and some areas have been partly improved through fertilization resulting in a lower plant diversity. Quarrying of the esker for gravel or sand would be very detrimental to the site. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: agricultural activities, peat extraction, problematic native species and forest planting on open ground. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	14.20	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] <i>Hydrophilous</i> tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum 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] <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaite Shad) [1103] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	Lower River Suir SAC consists of the freshwater stretches of the River Suir immediately south of Thurles, the tidal stretches as far as the confluence with the Barrow/Nore immediately east of Cheekpoint in Co. Waterford, and many tributaries including the Clodiagh in Co. Waterford, the Lingaun, Anner, Nier, Tar, Aherlow, Multeen and Clodiagh in Co. Tipperary. The Suir and its tributaries flow through the counties of Tipperary, Kilkenny and Waterford. Land use at the site consists mainly of agricultural activities including grazing, silage production, fertilising and land reclamation. The grassland is intensively managed and the rivers are Therefore, vulnerable to pollution from run-off of fertilisers and slurry. Arable crops are also grown. Fishing is a main tourist attraction on stretches of the Suir and some of its tributaries, and there are a number of Angler Associations, some with a number of beats. The standard data form for the site details a list of threats to include: invasive non-native species, reclamation of land and cultivation. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	14.45	Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017] Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061] Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067] Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Lough Derg lies within counties Tipperary, Galway and Clare and is the largest of the River Shannon Lakes, being some 40 km long. Its maximum breadth across the Scarriff Bay -Youghal Bay transect is 13 km but for most of its length it is less than 5 km wide. The standard data for the site details a list of threats to include: hunting, fishing and recreational activities. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. The NPWS have identified agricultural activities as existing threats beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	17.54	Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], Coastal lagoons [1150],	The site contains many Annexed habitats, including the most extensive area of estuarine habitat in Ireland. A good range of Annexed species are also present, including the only known resident population of <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> in Ireland, all three Irish species of lamprey, and a good population of <i>Salmo salar</i> . A number of

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Site Description/Vulnerability
			<p>Bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) [1349], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Reefs [1170], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Subtidal sandbanks (Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time) [1110], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)) [1330], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410], Estuaries [1130], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029]</p>	<p>birds listed on the EU Birds Directive either winter or breed in the site. The site is internationally important for waterfowl with more than 50,000 individuals occurring in winter. Several species listed in the Irish Red Data Book are present, perhaps most notably the only known Irish populations of Scirpus triquetus.</p> <p>A very large, long site approximately 14 km wide and 120 km long, encompassing: the drained river valley which forms the River Shannon estuary; the broader River Fergus estuary, plus a number of smaller estuaries e.g. Poulmasherry Bay; the freshwater lower reaches of the Shannon River, between Killaloe and Limerick, plus the freshwater stretches of much of the Feale and Mulkear catchments; a marine area at the mouth of the Shannon estuary with high rocky cliffs to the north and south; ericaceous heath on Kerry Head and Loop Head; and several lagoons. The underlying geology ranges from Carboniferous limestone (east of Foynes) to Namurian shales and flagstones (west of Foynes) to Old Red Sandstone (at Kerry Head). The salinity of the system varies daily with the ebb and flood of the tide and with annual rainfall fluctuations seasonally.</p> <p>The standard data form identifies the known threats and pressures for the site to be Grazing, Eutrophication (natural), Fertilization, Silviculture, forestry, Removal of beach materials, Hand cutting of peat, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Invasive non-native species, Nautical sports, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Leisure fishing, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Urbanized areas, human habitation, Air pollution, air-borne pollutants, Pulverization, Discharges, Hunting, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, and Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.</p>
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	47.43	<p>Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Eurasian oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Northern pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Common shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Common greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164], Northern shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Greater scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]</p>	<p>This is the most important coastal wetland site in the country and regularly supports in excess of 50,000 wintering waterfowl. It has internationally important populations of <i>Calidris alpina</i>, <i>Limosa limosa</i> and <i>Tringa totanus</i>. A further 16 species have populations of national importance. The site is particularly significant for <i>Calidris alpina</i> (11% of national total), <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (7.5% of total), <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (6.5% of total), <i>Tringa totanus</i> (6.1% of total) and <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (6.0% of total). It has <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>, <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> in significant numbers. The site was formerly frequented by a population of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> but these have now abandoned the area. The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the wintering birds and habitat quality for most of the estuarine habitats is good.</p> <p>The River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries form the largest estuarine complex in Ireland. The site comprises all of the estuarine habitat west from Limerick City and south from Ennis, extending west as far as Killadysert and Foynes on the north and south shores of the Shannon respectively (a distance of some 25 km from east to west). Also included are several areas in the outer Shannon estuary, notably Clonderalaw Bay and Poulmasherry Bay. The site has vast expanses of intertidal flats. The main macro-invertebrate community is a <i>Macoma-Scrobicularia-Nereis</i> community which provides a rich food resource for the wintering birds. Eelgrass (<i>Zostera</i> spp.) is present in places. The intertidal flats are often fringed with salt marsh vegetation, areas which provide important high tide roost sites for the birds. In the innermost parts of the estuaries, the tidal channels or creeks are fringed with species such as <i>Phragmites australis</i> and <i>Scirpus</i> spp. <i>Spartina anglica</i> is frequent in parts.</p> <p>The standard data form identifies the known threats and pressures for the site to be Fertilisation, Industrial or commercial areas, Nautical sports, Discharges, Shipping lanes, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture</p>
001957	Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC	62.23	<p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Estuaries [1130], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)) [1330], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130]</p>	<p>While the site has a good diversity of coastal habitats, including fixed dunes, most have been modified in some way. The containment of the main tidal channel has altered the tidal pattern which affects the functioning of the various estuarine habitats. Both dune systems were formerly far more extensive but much of the stable areas have now been converted to golf courses. Site is important for wintering waterfowl, supporting nine species in nationally important numbers, including <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>, an Annex I EU Birds Directive species. <i>Sterna albifrons</i> breeds or attempts to breed in most years. This moderately sized coastal site, which is situated below the town of Drogheda, comprises most of the estuary of the Boyne River, a substantial river which drains a large catchment. On the seaward side the site extends north and south for several kilometres to include the remaining intact areas of dune systems at Baltray and Mornington, as well as the adjacent beaches and intertidal sand flats. The main channel of the Boyne is contained by training walls for navigable purposes. As well as intertidal sand and mud flats, the inner part of the site has salt marshes and <i>Spartina</i> swards. The standard data form identifies the known threats and pressures for the site to be Interpretative centres, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Bridge, viaduct, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Off-road motorized driving, Storm, cyclone, Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, marshes or pits, Removal of sediments (mud...), Other human intrusions and disturbances, Vandalism, Pollution to surface waters (limnic &amp; terrestrial, marine &amp; brackish), Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Disposal of inert materials, Storage of materials, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Reduction, lack or prevention of erosion, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, Biocenotic evolution, succession</p>
004080	Boyne Estuary SPA	63.38	<p>Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195], Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Common shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Common greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Eurasian oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</p>	<p>The Boyne Estuary is one of the most important sites for wintering waterfowl on the east coast. It has a total of 10 species with populations of national importance - of particular note is that it supports 7.0% of the national total of <i>Calidris canutus</i> and 4.0% of the total for <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>. Other species which have populations of national importance include <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>, <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>, <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>, <i>Limosa limosa</i>, <i>Tringa totanus</i> and <i>Arenaria interpres</i>. The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the birds. <i>Sterna albifrons</i> bred in the past but successful breeding has not occurred since 1996. This moderately-sized coastal site, which is situated below the town of Drogheda, comprises most of the estuary of the Boyne River, a substantial river which drains a large catchment. Apart from one section which is over 1 km wide, the width is mostly less than 500 m. The main river channel, which is navigable and dredged, is defined by training walls, the latter being breached in places. Intertidal flats occur on the sides of the channelled river. The sediments vary from fine muds in the innermost areas to sandy muds or sands towards the mouth. The linear stretches of intertidal flats to the north and south of the river mouth are mainly sands. Intertidal areas are fringed by salt marshes in the inner sheltered areas. <i>Spartina</i> is frequent on the flats and salt marshes. The standard data form identifies the known threats and pressures for the site to be Urbanised areas, human habitation, Golf course, Leisure fishing, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Invasive non-native species, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh.</p>



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

Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
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.
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.
Twaite Shad ( <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> ) [1103]	Habitat quality, particularly at spawning sites is the most notable threat to this species.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</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.
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.
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.
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.
Calcareous fens with species of the <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Caricion davallianae</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.
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.
Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes.
Estuaries [1130]	Pollution, fishing /aquaculture and habitat quality.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ) [1065]	Declines in habitat quality lead to species decline.	Habitat management; land use change and drainage.
European dry heaths [4030]	Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	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.
<i>Juniperus communis</i> 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.
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.
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.
Limestone pavements [8240]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
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.
Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); unting; 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.
River Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel ( <i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i> ) [1990]	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.
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.
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.
<i>Molinia</i> 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.
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.
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [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.
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> 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.
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.
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.
Reefs [1170]	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.

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Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
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.
Salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106]	Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations.	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.
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 <i>Nardus</i> 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.
<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [9130]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
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.
Killarney Fern ( <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> ) [1421]	Threatened by habitat loss, deliberate collection, encroachment of invasive or vigorous species, or indirectly by water pollution, removal of woodland or alteration of watercourses.	Land use management and direct impacts.
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.
Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ) [1014]	Loss of riverside and canalside 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.
Geyer's Whorl Snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013]	Loss of riverside and canalside 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.
Desmoulin's Whorl Snail ( <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> ) [1016]	Loss of riverside and canalside 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.
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [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.

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 Special Conservation Interests
Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395] Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038] Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050] Cormcrake ( <i>Crex crex</i> ) [A122] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156] Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052] Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054] Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056]	Hen Harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ) [A082] Kingfisher ( <i>Alcedo atthis</i> ) [A229] Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ) [A004] Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053] Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061] Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065] Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067] Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125] Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193] Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bird species are particularly vulnerable to direct disturbance due to noise and/or vibration. These effects are localised, and disturbance effects are foreseen to be low at distances beyond 2km.</li> <li>Direct habitat loss is a serious concern for bird species, as well as the reduction in habitat quality. Habitat degradation could occur through effects such as local enrichment due to agricultural practices or damage to habitat through activities such as trampling.</li> <li>Prey species diversity and availability is a key element of species conservation. Community dynamics and ecosystem functionality are complex concepts and require site specific information. The site synopsis and conservation objectives for the SPAs identified within the ZOI were used to identify any specific prey sensitivities.</li> <li>Availability of nesting/roosting habitat.</li> <li>Vegetation composition, structure and functionality.</li> </ul>
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]		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.

## Appendix II Relationship Other Plans and Programmes

This appendix is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the Directive, Regulation, Plan or Programme to become familiar with the full details of each.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>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>	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>	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>	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 I.</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> </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.

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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>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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <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>	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 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.</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> <li>flexibility; and</li> <li>public participation</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>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>	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>	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 1st 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>	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</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

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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>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>	<p>frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.</p> <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>	<p>objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>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>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 human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.</li> </ul>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;</li> <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>	<p>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>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>	<p>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>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy</b>	<p>Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.</p>	<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>	<p>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>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</li> </ul>	<p>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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	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.	progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.	
<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>	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>	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) (EU Air Framework Directive)</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>	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>	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</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

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		<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	<p>objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b></p>	<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> <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> </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>	<p>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>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</b></p>	<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>	<p>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>Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)</b></p>	<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>	<p>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>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)</b></p>	<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> </ul>	<p>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</p>

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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>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>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> <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> <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>	<p>objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>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>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>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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>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>	<p>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>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</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> </ul>	<p>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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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>	
<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>	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>	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>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</b>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <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>	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <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 Caucasus.</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>	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>	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <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>	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mitigation</li> <li>adaptation</li> <li>technology</li> <li>financing</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>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b>	<p>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:</p> <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>	<p>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.</p>	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>	<p>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.</p>	<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> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in

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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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	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>	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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.</li> </ul>	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration,</li> <li>Evaluation,</li> <li>Authorisation; and</li> <li>Restriction of chemicals.</li> </ul> <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p>	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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.</li> </ul>	<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 POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention</li> <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".	<p>Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <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>	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>	<p>Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:</p> <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>	<p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <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>	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>National Level</b></p> <p><b>Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, (replacing the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020) and the National Development Plan (2018-2027)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.</li> </ul>	<p>National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compact Growth</li> <li>Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>Enhanced Amenity and Heritage</li> <li>Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society</li> <li>Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources</li> <li>Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</li> </ol>	<p>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>Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation]</b></p>	<p>The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term;</li> <li>Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and,</li> <li>Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.</li> </ol>	<p>In preparation</p>	<p>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>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</b></p>	<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>	<p>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 Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011</b></p>	<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>	<p>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 (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>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</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>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</p>

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	Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.		their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I 296 of 2009)</b>	<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>	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 2010 (S.I 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)</b>	<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>	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 (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)</b>	<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>	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>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015</b>	<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> </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> <li>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</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>The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> <li>The Plan provides a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:</p> <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> </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

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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
	<p>targets. It also includes a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	<p>objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€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.</li> </ul>	<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>	<p>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 Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)</b></p>	<p>These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in Natura 2000 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).</p>	<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>	<p>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>Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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>	<p>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>Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <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>	<p>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 Climate Mitigation Plan 2017</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives.</li> </ul>	<p>The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Action Policy Framework</li> <li>Decarbonising Electricity Generation</li> <li>Decarbonising the Built Environment</li> <li>Decarbonising Transport</li> <li>An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors</li> </ul>	<p>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 Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <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> </ul>	<p>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</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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>	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>	<p>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></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</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>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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 significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.</li> </ul>	<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> <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>	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 Water Resources Plan [in preparation]</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <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>	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>	<p>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></p>	<p>General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020):</p> <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>	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>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <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>	<p>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>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>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>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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></li> </ul>	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <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>	<p>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>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020</b>	<p>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:</p> <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>	<p>The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevention</li> <li>Collection</li> <li>Self-sufficiency</li> <li>Regulation</li> <li>Legacy issues</li> <li>North-south cooperation</li> <li>Guidance and awareness</li> <li>Implementation</li> </ul>	<p>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>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>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</p>

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	others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.		their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025</b>	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>	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>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</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>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved.</li> <li>• Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To reduce overall travel demand.</li> <li>○ To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.</li> <li>○ To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</li> <li>○ To reduce transport emissions.</li> <li>○ To improve accessibility to transport.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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>○ 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>○ improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies</li> <li>○ strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</li> </ul> </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>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <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> <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <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>	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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland.</li> <li>• Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Security of Supply</li> <li>○ Sustainability of Energy</li> <li>○ Competitiveness of Energy Supply</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <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>	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>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	<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>	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>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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95%</li> <li>Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.</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>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.	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>	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 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</li> </ul>	<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>	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) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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 ecosystems 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>	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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.</li> </ul>	The Plan sets out: <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> </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

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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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<p><b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)</b></p> <p><b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</b></p> <p><b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)</b></p>	<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>Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans.</li> <li>Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on 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>	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>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation.</li> </ul>	<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>	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 Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.</li> </ul>	<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> <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> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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> </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.

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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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	
<b>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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>	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>Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs</li> </ul>	<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>	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 Harvest 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.</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>Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan</b>	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	not applicable	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>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)</b>  <b>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)</b>  <b>Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection.</li> <li>GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.</li> </ul>	<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>	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 Rural Development Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <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>	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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020.</li> </ul>	<p>Measures include the following:</p> <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> </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.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	
<b>River Basin Management Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive.</li> <li>• Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD.</li> <li>• Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD.</li> <li>• Involve the public through consultations.</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>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.	To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </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>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	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.	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 National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020</b>	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	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>	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 (DCAE) 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.	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>	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	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including:	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align

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	economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	<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>	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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland</li> <li>Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed</li> </ul>	<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>	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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <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>	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 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.	<p>The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy Context</li> <li>Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination</li> <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>	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.	<p>The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year</li> <li>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>	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.	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	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.	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <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> <p>Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</p>	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.

Appropriate Assessment of the Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Regional/ County/Local Level</b> <b>Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy,</b>	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midlands Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.	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 Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <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>	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>	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <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>	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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<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>	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 the Offaly LECP 2016-2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</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>Land Use Plans including those in force in County Offaly (Tullamore Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016, extended until 2020, Birr Town and Environs Development Plan 2010, extended until 2020), and those in force in other adjoining planning authorities (including development plans for Counties Meath, Westmeath, Roscommon, Galway, Tipperary, Laois and Kildare and local plans for Portarlington, Monasterevin, Rathangan, Moate,</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport and tourism objectives).</li> <li>• Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies.</li> <li>• Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority 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>	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.

Appropriate Assessment of the Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Cloughjordan, Roscrea and Mountmellick)			
<b>Offaly Tourism Statement of Strategy 2017-2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Vision: to maximise sustainable tourism product development opportunities and to develop Offaly as a quality tourism destination steeped in treasures of culture and heritage and renowned for open spaces and welcoming people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Vision will be delivered through, inter alia, measures relating to product development and marketing and promotion.</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>Offaly Heritage Plan 2017-2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aim to highlight the importance of heritage at a strategic level. Aim to protect, conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services across all spectrums</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage and promote heritage as well as increase awareness. Aim to conserve and protect heritage. Outline the status of biodiversity and identifies species of importance. Outline objectives and targets to be met to maintain and improve biodiversity. Aims to increase awareness.</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>Eastern &amp; Midlands 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.</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>Offaly Noise Action Plan 2018-2023</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.	<p>The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</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>Offaly Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</b>	Respond to the impact that climate change is having, and will continue to have. Attempt to climate change adaptation and mitigation.	<p>These Plans include actions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy and Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature-Based Solutions and Resource Management</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>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the Ireland's Ancient East and Hidden Heartlands brands</b>	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East 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.	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.
<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.	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.