

SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

APPENDIX III – NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

FOR THE

DRAFT DINGLE PENINSULA VISITOR EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

for: **Fáilte Ireland**
88-95 Amiens Street
Dublin 1



by: **CAAS Ltd.**
1st Floor
24-26 Ormond Quay Upper
Dublin 7



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Section 1 Introduction and Terms of Reference

This is the Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Report for the Draft Dingle Peninsula Visitor Experience Development Plan (hereafter referred to as 'the Plan'). The purpose of the Environmental Report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of the Plan. The Environmental Report has been prepared as part of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process that is being undertaken by CAAS Ltd. on behalf of Fáilte Ireland.

What is an SEA?

SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a proposed plan, or other strategic action, in order to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic, social and other considerations.

Why is it needed?

The SEA has been carried out in order to comply with the provisions of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended, and in order to contribute towards sustainable development and environmental protection and management. The output of the process is an Environmental Report that should be read in conjunction with the Plan.

How does it work?

All of the main environmental issues in the area were assembled and considered by the team who prepared the Plan. This helped them to devise a Plan that contributes towards the protection and management of environmental sensitivities. It also helped to identify wherever potential conflicts between the Plan and the environment exist and enabled these conflicts to be mitigated.

The SEA was scoped in consultation with designated environmental authorities.

What is included in the Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan?

The Environmental Report contains the following information:

- A description of the environment and the key environmental issues;
- A description and assessment of alternatives for the Plan;
- An assessment of the provisions of the Plan; and,
- Mitigation measures, which will avoid/reduce the environmental effects of implementing the Plan and will contribute towards compliance with important environmental protection legislation.

Difficulties Encountered during the SEA process

No significant difficulties were encountered in undertaking the assessment.

What happens at the end of the process?

An SEA Statement is prepared which summarises, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan.

Section 2 The Draft Plan

2.1 Overview

The focus of the Dingle Peninsula Visitor Experience Development Plan (VEDP) is to motivate international tourists to visit and stay in the local communities across the peninsula, increase the economic dividend generated by international visitors to the area while extending the season.

The **key objectives** of the Dingle Peninsula VEDP are to develop hero, supporting and ancillary experiences for the region that will:

- Motivate visitors to stay longer and spend more;
- Extend the length of the season;
- Align to relevant brand, target markets and segments;
- Sustain and increase job creation in the local area; and
- Protect the special environmental character of the region.

The VEDP identifies **two overarching themes** for the Wild Atlantic Way key proposition (“Inspired Culture” and “Timeless Wellbeing”) under both of which four **Destination Experience Themes** are identified, with which visitors can connect with that showcase the key proposition, and associated **Hero Products** through which the Destination Themes can be accessed. **Supporting Experiences** (what each business does to bring the signature experience to life) and **Ancillary Experiences** (how the wider tourism offering supports the regional themes) are also identified.

Catalyst Projects recommended are as follows:

1. Assess the feasibility of enhancing the Dingle Way to become an internationally renowned walking destination and provide the necklace to integrate all themes.
2. Assess the feasibility of developing a new Traffic Management Plan to investigate options to address current traffic movement throughout the Dingle Peninsula.
3. Assess the feasibility of Dingle Hospital delivering a gateway visitor experience for the Dingle Peninsula and provide visitor interpretation for the stories of the Peninsula while contributing to the sustainable tourism development of the destination.
4. Assess the development of the Brandon Basecamp as a catalyst for developing the potential of the area as a focal point for walking and leisure activities.
5. Assess the feasibility of promoting and expanding the eight identified Blueway sites across the Dingle Peninsula.
6. Support the development of a new focus on the Irish language and integration with visitor experiences.
7. Assess the potential to extend the opening period of the Blasket Islands Visitor Centre while assessing the delivery of improved mooring facilities on the Great Blasket Island.
8. Assess the feasibility of improved levels of visitor interpretation focused on the Maherees and the incorporation of the Seven Hogs stories.
9. Assess the feasibility of enhancing the archaeology story of the Dingle Peninsula to enhance visitor experience and act as an information and interpretation base for surrounding key sites.
10. Assess the feasibility of establishing an Arts & Cultural Centre that will enhance the visual and performance arts level of provision while enhancing visitor evening economy options.

Destination Experience Themes and associated **Hero Products** under the **overarching theme** of “Inspired Culture” are as follows:

Theme: The Gaeltacht Life

- Blasket Islands
- Blasket Island Visitor centre
- Irish Language Schools and vibrant Irish language in the community
- An Tinteán Ceoil
- Oidhreacht Corca Dhuibhne

Theme: Learning on the Edge

- Dingle Cookery School
- Louis Mulcahy Pottery Workshops
- Watersports on the North Shore
- Irish language learning at Oidhreacht Corca Dhuibhne

Theme: Myths to Local Legends

- Mount Brandon
- Conor Pass
- Annascaul Lake
- Gallarus Oratory

Theme: Centuries of Creative Spirit

- Louis Mulcahy Pottery
- Blasket Islands & Blasket Island Centre
- Brian De Staic, Jeweller

Destination Experience Themes and associated **Hero Products** under the **overarching theme** of “Timeless Wellbeing” are as follows:

Theme: Seasons of Vitality

- Dingle Way
- Sleah Head Drive
- Conor Pass
- Dingle Sea Safari
- Dingle Peninsula Blueways
- Dingle Marina

Theme: Wellbeing of Adventure

- Dingle Way
- Climb Mount Brandon
- Surf the Wild Atlantic Way at Inch Beach
- Watersports in Castlegregory and North Shore
- Scuba Diving in the Maharees
- SUP Tours Dingle

Theme: A Social Energy

- Irish Cultural Sessions in traditional pubs around Dingle Peninsula
- An Tinteán Ceoil, Cloghane

Theme: Peninsula of Contrasts

- The Dingle Way
- Blasket Islands
- Sleah Head Drive
- Mount Brandon
- Sea Safari & Harbour Cruises
- Conor Pass
- Eco Marine Tours

Enablers of Success recommended are as follows:

1. Visitor Management and Dispersal.
2. Better Collaboration Between Groups.
3. Inspire and Create Confidence in Sharing Stories.
4. Effective Marketing and Promotion.

Implementing the Plan will involve Fáilte Ireland helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders (including local authorities, other government agencies, tourism operators, communities and visitors) in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans that have been subject to environmental assessment. The Plan does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent.

The Plan is situated alongside a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use development, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management.

Fáilte Ireland provides funding for sustainable tourism projects that emerge as part of specific, competitive, themed and time-bound grant schemes or as part of wider strategic partnerships. These include projects relating to land use, infrastructural development and land use activities and attractions. Reference made to such projects included in the Plan does not guarantee funding. While funding is provided to certain projects, Fáilte Ireland is not the developer.

In order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland’s stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance¹ with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

¹ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.
CAAS for Fáilte Ireland

- Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme Appendix 5 "Site Maintenance Guidelines" and other relevant measures from the Fáilte Ireland visitor and habitat management guidelines series (and any subsequent replacements); and
- Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme Appendix 6 "Environmental Management for Local Authorities and Others" (and any subsequent replacements).

2.2 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

The Draft Plan sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use development, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management. These documents have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and form the decision-making and consent-granting framework.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the next 22 years. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSE for the Southern Region sets out objectives relating to tourism development that have been subject to environmental assessment, including those relating to: enhancing provision of tourism and leisure amenity; promoting tourism activity; developing a road network and public transport services, facilitating improved visitor access and longer dwell times; developing walking and cycling trails, opening greater accessibility to the marine and countryside environment by sustainable modes; and facilitating appropriate tourism development, including that relating to greenways, blueways and peatlands. When adopted, the RSEs will inform the review of existing, assessed Development Plans and Local Area Plans, which already include various provisions relating to land use, tourism and infrastructure. Such reviews will also be subject to environmental assessments.

Implementation of the Plan shall be consistent with and conform with the NPF, RSEs and lower-tier land use plans, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents including through SEA and AA processes. In order to be realised, projects included in the Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Plan is not part and does not contribute towards.

Section 3 The Environmental Baseline

3.1 Introduction

The summary of the environmental baseline of the Dingle Peninsula² is described in this section. This baseline together with the Strategic Environmental Objectives, which are identified in Section 3.11, is used in order to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Draft Plan and in order to determine appropriate monitoring measures.

3.2 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of the Draft Plan

The likely evolution of the environment in the absence of a plan would resemble the environmental effects that are described for Alternative 1 (Business as Usual).

3.3 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

Key ecological sensitivities comprise:

- Upland areas stretching from the Slieve Mish range to Mount Brandon - these support populations of many rare plant species such as Betony and Cornish Moneywort (endemic to the Dingle Peninsula);
- Aquatic and riverine ecology associated with the peninsula's various streams, rivers (such as Garfinny River Owenascaul, Emlagh, Feohanagh and Groin) and lakes (such as Gill, Cruite, Anascaul-Scail and Geal); and
- Coastal areas and marine waters and associated aquatic ecology.

The two most dominant CORINE land cover types for the Dingle Peninsula area are pastures and peat bogs (as shown on Figure 3.2).

A significant portion of the area to which the Plan relates, its coastline and its surrounding waters are designated as European Sites (mapped on Figure 3.1). European Sites in the area to which the Plan relates occur in the greatest concentrations along the coastline and in upland areas. European Sites comprise:

- Special Areas of Conservation³ (SACs), including candidate SACs; and
- Special Protection Areas⁴ (SPAs).

There are number of SACs designated within and adjacent to the Peninsula including Mount Brandon SAC, Castlemaine Harbour SAC, Tralee Bay and Magharee Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC, Blasket Islands SAC and Slieve Mish Mountains SAC. There are number of SPAs designated within and adjacent to the Peninsula including Dingle Peninsula SPA, Magharee Islands SPA, Castlemaine Harbour SPA, Tralee Bay Complex SPA and Blasket Islands SPA.

Other ecological designations occur within and adjacent to the Plan area and these are detailed in the main SEA Environmental Report.

² The area to which the Plan relates covers part of the Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry.

³ SACs have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union. The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with the SPAs designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats)(Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union (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.

⁴ SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the EU.

Existing Fáilte Ireland Environmental Monitoring

Fáilte Ireland regularly engages with environmental research that is used to make informed management decisions and produce robust guidelines to facilitate the protection of the environment. From its inception in 2014, the Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) Operational Programme Monitoring Programme (undertaken to date by CAAS on behalf of Fáilte Ireland guided by relevant stakeholders) has been conducting research into the impacts of tourism on the receiving environment. To date the surveys have covered 43 sites and monitored the activities and effects of over 20,000 visitors to WAW discovery points.

This extensive database demonstrates that over 85% of visitors observed at WAW discovery points are having low or no effects on the ecological features or processes at these sites.

3.4 Population and Human Health

Using the 2016 Census data, the population of the Dingle Peninsula to which the Plan relates was estimated to be 10,350 persons and population of Daingean Uí Chúis, the biggest settlement on the Peninsula was 2,050 persons.

Human health has the potential to be impacted upon by environmental vectors (i.e. environmental components such as air, water or soil through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings). Hazards or nuisances to human health can arise as a result of exposure to these vectors arising from incompatible adjacent land uses for example. These factors have been considered with regard to the description of: the baseline of each environmental component; and the identification and evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

The greatest health risk from radiation in Ireland is caused by radon. The presence of radon gas, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that originates from the decay of uranium in rocks and soils, occurs across the country. The number of homes within the area to which the Plan relates with radon levels above the reference level is within the normal range experienced in other locations across the country.

3.5 Soil

Rain fed peat soils and brown podzols are the two most dominant soils across the Peninsula. Much of the peat soils areas are subject to ecological designations. Outcropping rock is identified in a number of upland locations.

There are number of County Geological Sites across the area to which the Plan relates. The greatest concentrations of County Geological Sites across the Peninsula occur in upland and coastal areas.

The Peninsula has several locations with a history of multiple landslide events. These events occur in upland areas and in areas along the Peninsula's south coast and include Kinard West (2016), Dun Chaoín (2007), Ballymacdoyle Hill (c. 2000) and Ardrinane (c. 1999). The GSI have identified various upland and coastal areas across the Peninsula that are of high and moderately high levels of landslide susceptibility.

More details on soils and geology across the area to which the Plan relates are available in the main SEA Environmental Report.

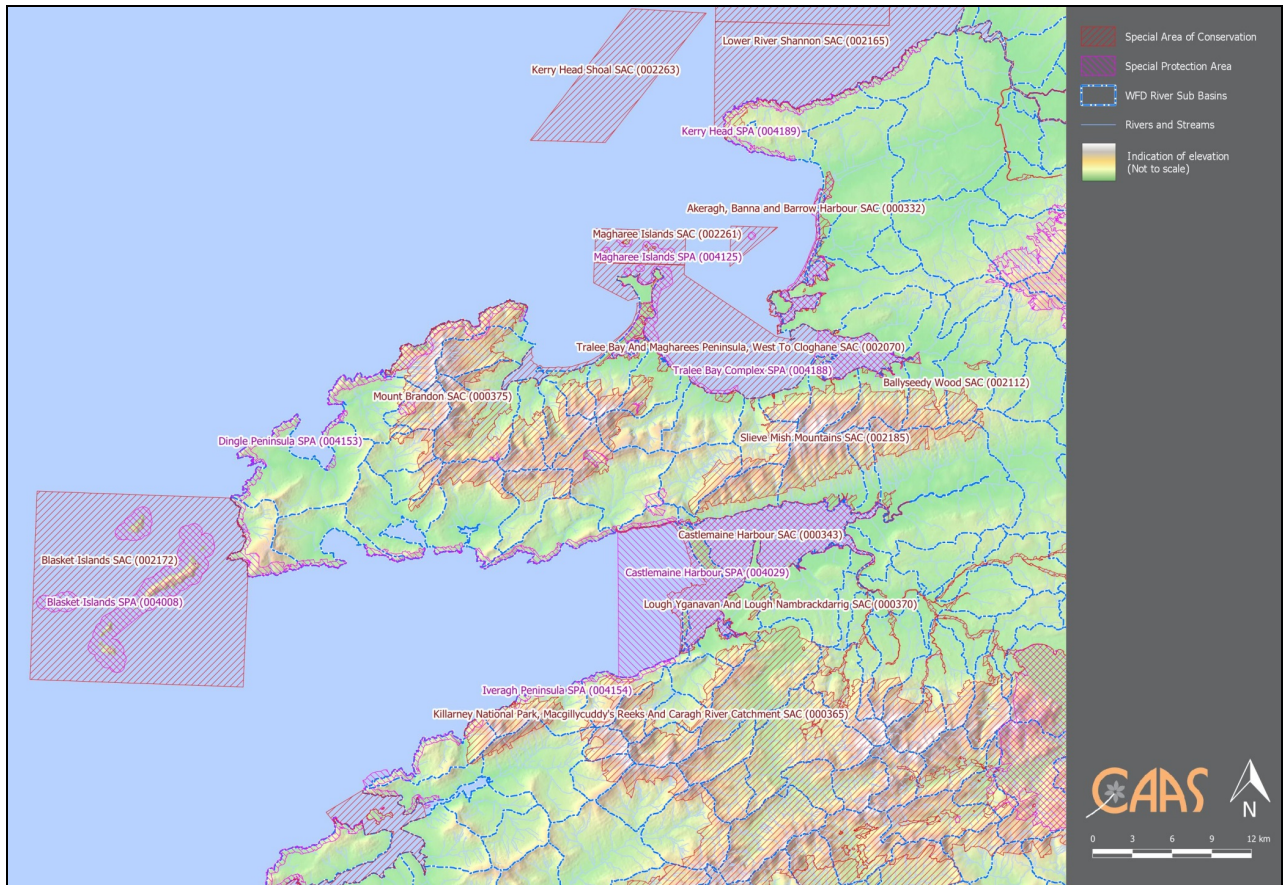


Figure 3.1 European Sites within and adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates

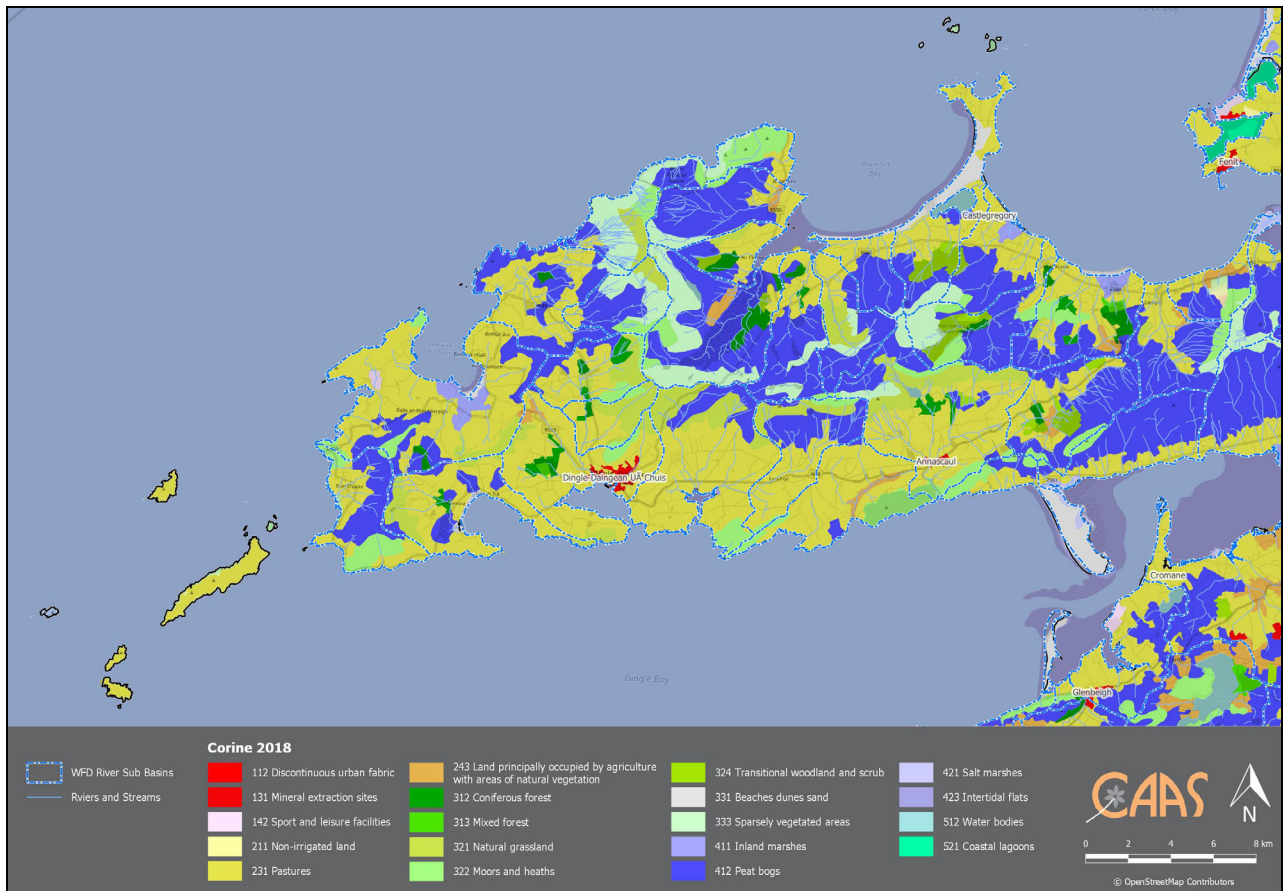


Figure 3.2 CORINE Land Cover Mapping 2018

3.6 Water

Surface and Ground Water Status

The main rivers in the area are the Milltown River, Feohanagh River, Garfinny River, Owenanscaul River and the Owenalondrig River. The surface water from the area drains into two catchments (shown on Figure 3.3): Tralee Bay-Feale to the north of the Peninsula and Laune-Maine-Dingle Bay to the south. Rivers are generally of *high* or *good* status. However the Milltown, Oweanafeanna and Glennahoo. Rivers and their tributaries are identified as being of *poor* status Owenmore River and its tributaries are identified as being of *moderate* status. Lough Gill in the north of the Peninsula is identified as being of *poor* status. In addition, there are a number of *unassigned* rivers and lakes across the Peninsula. To the north of the Peninsula, the status of the coastal water in Tralee Bay is identified as *moderate* (Inner Bay) and *good* (Outer Bay), and *poor* status (Lough Gill; transitional waterbody). To the south of the Peninsula coastal waters are identified as *unassigned* while the transitional waters of Castlemaine Harbour are identified as being of *good* status. The WFD surface water status (2010-2015) of rivers, lakes, coastal and transitional waters, within and surrounding the area to which the Plan relates is shown on Figure 3.3.

The WFD status (2010-2015) of all groundwater underlying the area to which the Plan relates is identified as being of *good* status, meeting the objectives of the WFD.

Aquifer Vulnerability and Productivity

The area to which the Plan relates is underlain by a poor bedrock aquifer (unproductive except for local zones). The aquifers underlying most the area to which the Plan relates are generally classified as being of *high vulnerability* and *extreme vulnerability* and *rock at or near surface or Karst*.

Bathing Waters

The most recent available data from the EPA shows that all bathing waters within the Peninsula reported on are of *excellent* water quality. The Peninsula bathing locations at Inch, Ventry and Magherabeg were awarded with the Blue Flag in 2019.

Flooding

Certain areas across the Peninsula are at risk from coastal and fluvial flooding. Historical flooding is documented at Murreagh, An Daingean, Lios Póil, Clóghane and Castlegregory.

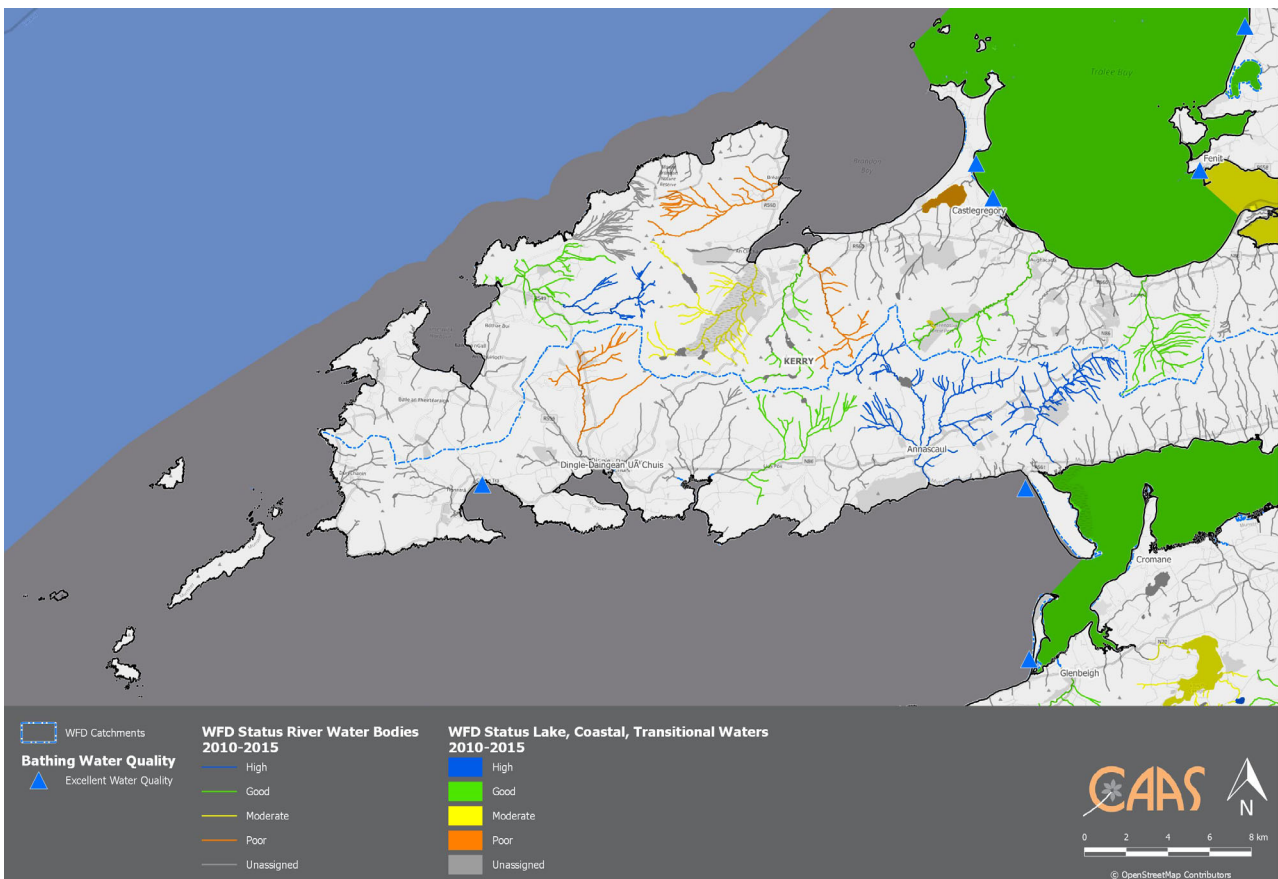


Figure 3.3 Surface Water Status (2010-2015)

3.7 Air and Climatic Factors

Various provisions relating to climatic factors have been integrated into the Plan, compliance with which will need to be demonstrated by those seeking or maintaining funding from Fáilte Ireland. Such measures include those relating to:

- Walking and cycling; and
- Contribution towards European and national objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation, taking into account a wide range of detailed measures including those relating to resilience.

Interactions with climatic factors are also present with other environmental components including water/flooding (see Section 3.6).

Total emissions of greenhouse gases by humans come from various sectors including transport, agriculture, energy industries, manufacturing combustion, industrial processes, residential developments, commercial services developments, waste management processes and fluorinated gases equipment (such as refrigeration and fire protection systems). Ireland's National Policy position is to reduce CO₂ emissions in 2050 by 80% on 1990 levels across the Energy Generation, Built Environment and Transport sectors, with a goal of Climate neutrality in the Agriculture and Land-Use sector. The 2016 emissions for all of these sectors are rising, making achievement of long-term goals more difficult.

The National Mitigation Plan (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, 2017), represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the level of decarbonisation required. It is a whole-of-Government Plan, reflecting in particular the central roles of the key Ministers responsible for the sectors covered by the Plan – Electricity Generation, the Built Environment, Transport and Agriculture, as well as drawing on the perspectives and responsibilities of a range of other Government Departments. The National Adaptation Framework (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, 2018), sets out the national strategy to reduce the vulnerability of the country to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of positive impacts. The National Adaptation Framework outlines a whole of government and society approach to climate adaptation. Under the Framework, a number of Government Departments will be required to prepare sectoral adaptation plans in relation to a priority area that they are responsible for.

In order to apply with European Directives relating to air quality, the EPA manages the National Ambient Air Quality Network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants at locations across the country. The current⁵ air quality in the Rural West Air Quality Region is identified by the EPA as being *good*.

3.8 Material Assets

Waste Water

Settlements and rural areas across the Peninsula are served by a combined sewer network, including septic tanks and sewerage treatment schemes serving agglomerations under 500 P.E. (including Cloghane, Feohanagh, Murreagh, Ballyferriter, Ventry, Cloghane and Anascaul).

There are four urban areas in County Kerry listed currently as priority areas (Abbeydorney, Castleisland, Kilgarvan and Tralee), where improvements are required to resolve urgent environmental issues. The most recent EPA's report on Waste Water Discharge Licence Audit for Dingle Waste Water Treatment Plant (Licence No. D0185-01) shows that facility's operation and environmental performance are satisfactory and in compliance with the discharge licence limit values.

Since 2015, Irish Water, working in partnership with Kerry County Council, has upgraded the waste water treatment plants in Ballylongford, Tarbert, Kilgarvan and Ardfert. Significant improvements have also been made at Dingle, Cahersiveen, Killarney and Tralee, with further improvements also planned for Tralee and Kenmare. Capacity improvements will help to support new development in these areas, including tourism related development.

⁵ 13/06/2019 (<http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>)
CAAS for Fáilte Ireland

Water Supply

Drinking water supply in the area to which the Plan relates is provided by domestic water wells and private/public water supply schemes (including the Dingle Public Water Supply). The most recent EPA Remedial Action List (Q2 of 2019) does not list the Dingle Public Water Supply as being in need of improvement.

Public Assets and Infrastructure

Dingle is the largest settlement on the Peninsula and is designated a District Centre by the Kerry County Development Plan. Dingle Peninsula is served by rail, bus and regional and strategic roads, linking the Peninsula with Tralee-Killarney Hub. The Peninsula is also served by the Port at Dingle Town and Kerry International Airport (KIA) at Farranfore. The port and harbour have many functions including fishing, marine leisure and tourism.

Waste Management

Waste management across the Peninsula is guided by the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021. The Southern Waste Region comprises the 10 local authority areas of Carlow, Clare, Cork County, Cork City, Limerick City and County, Kerry, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford City and County and Wexford.

3.9 Cultural Heritage

Archaeological Heritage

Archaeological heritage is protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004), Natural Cultural Institutions Act 1997 and the Planning Acts. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is an inventory, put on a statutory basis by amendment to the National Monuments Act 1994, of sites and areas of archaeological significance, numbered and mapped.

The archaeology of the Dingle Peninsula includes 44 National Monuments of which 36 are in state ownership, 2 are in state guardianship and 6 are subject to preservation orders. These monuments are mapped on Figure 3.4.

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sceilg Mhichíl is an example of an early religious settlement deliberately sited on a pyramidal rock in the ocean. Sceilg Mhichíl is also designated a National Monument in State ownership.

More details on archaeological heritage across the area to which the Plan relates are available in the main SEA Environmental Report.

Architectural Heritage

Records of Protected Structures are legislated for under Section 12 and Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Protected structures are defined in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended as structures, or parts of structures that are of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view.

Clusters of these are concentrated within already developed villages, urban and suburban areas such as district town of Daingean Uí Chúis or smaller settlements of Annascaul, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh and Ceann Trá. Protected structures designated across the Peninsula are mapped on Figure 3.4.

In addition to Protected Structures, the Planning and Development Act, 2000 provides the legislative basis for the protection of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). The ACA designation requires that planning permission must be obtained before significant works can be carried out to the exterior of a structure in the ACA that might alter the character of the structure or the ACA.

There are three ACAs designated on the Peninsula, one at Dingle, covering non-contiguous parts of the town centre and two in the rural townlands in Ardamore and Kildurrihy.

3.10 Landscape

Topography

The Peninsula comprises an area of varied landscape/seascape with rivers, lakes, pastures and mountains, stretching into the Atlantic Ocean on Ireland's south-west coast. The Peninsula is dominated by the range of mountains that forms its spine, running from the Slieve Mish range to Mount Brandon, Ireland's second highest peak. The coastline consists of steep sea cliffs, broken by sandy beaches, with two large sand spits at Inch in the south and the Maharees in the north. The Blasket Islands lie to the west of the Peninsula.

Landscape Character Assessment

The area to which the Plan relates is identified as being situated within seven Landscape Character Areas as listed below:

- LCA 31: Mount Eagle and Blasket Islands;
- LCA 30: Ventry and Dingle Harbours;
- LCA 32: Smerwick Harbour and Brandon Highlands;
- LCA 28: Brandon Bay;
- LCA 29: Gartinny Valley;
- LCA 27: Tralee Bay and North Slieve Mish Mountains; and
- LCA 33: Owenascaul Valley.

There are four archaeological landscapes designated within/partially within these Landscape Character Areas as mapped on Figure 3.5 and listed below:

- Mount Brandon;
- Lough Adoon/Kilmore/Ballyhoneen;
- Caherconree/Beheenagh/ Curracullenagh; and
- Coumeenoole North and South/ Fahan/Glanfahan.

Protected Views and Prospects

The following landscape designations provided for by the Kerry County Development Plan are considered when assessing planning applications and are mapped on Figure 3.5:

- Prime Special Amenity Area;
- Secondary Special Amenity Area; and
- Views and Prospects.

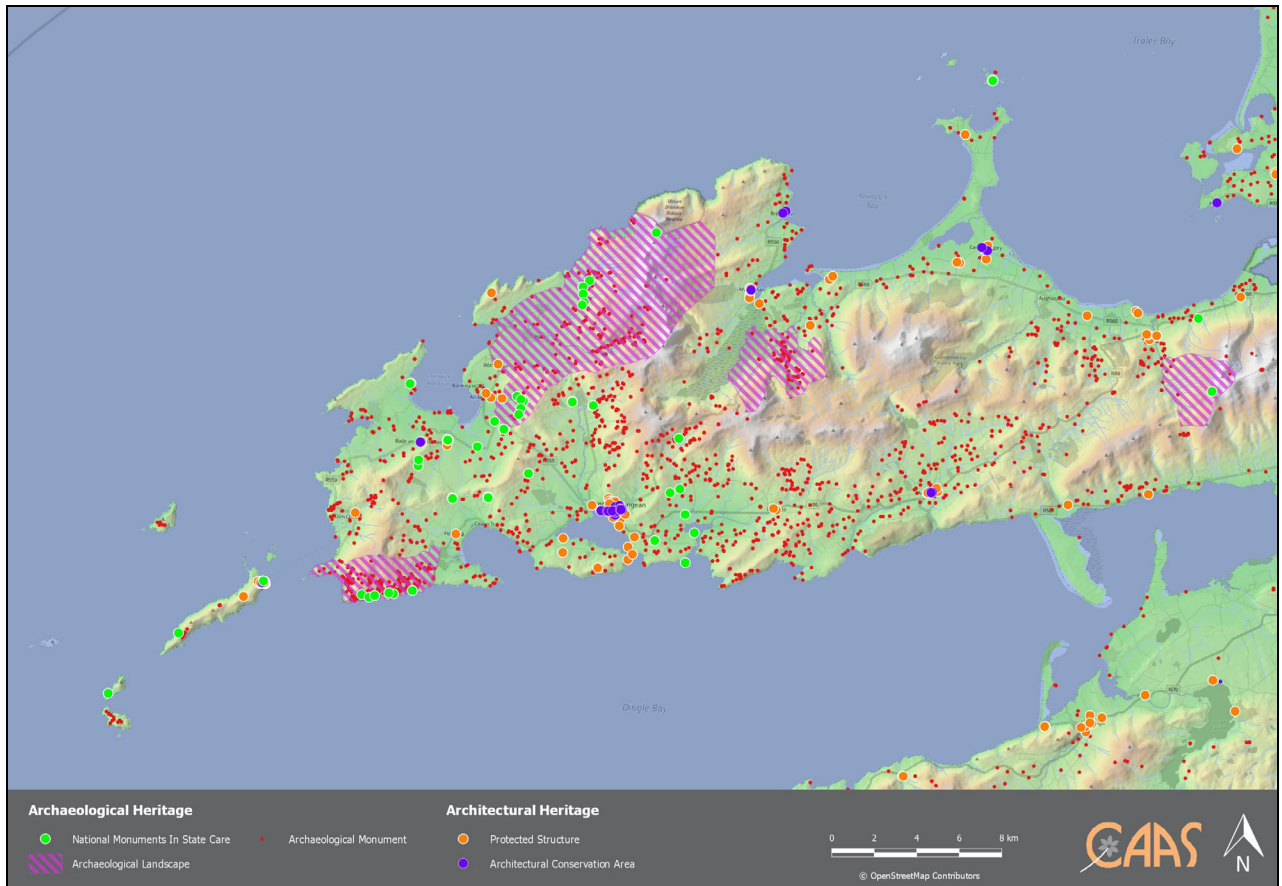


Figure 3.4 Archaeological and Architectural Heritage

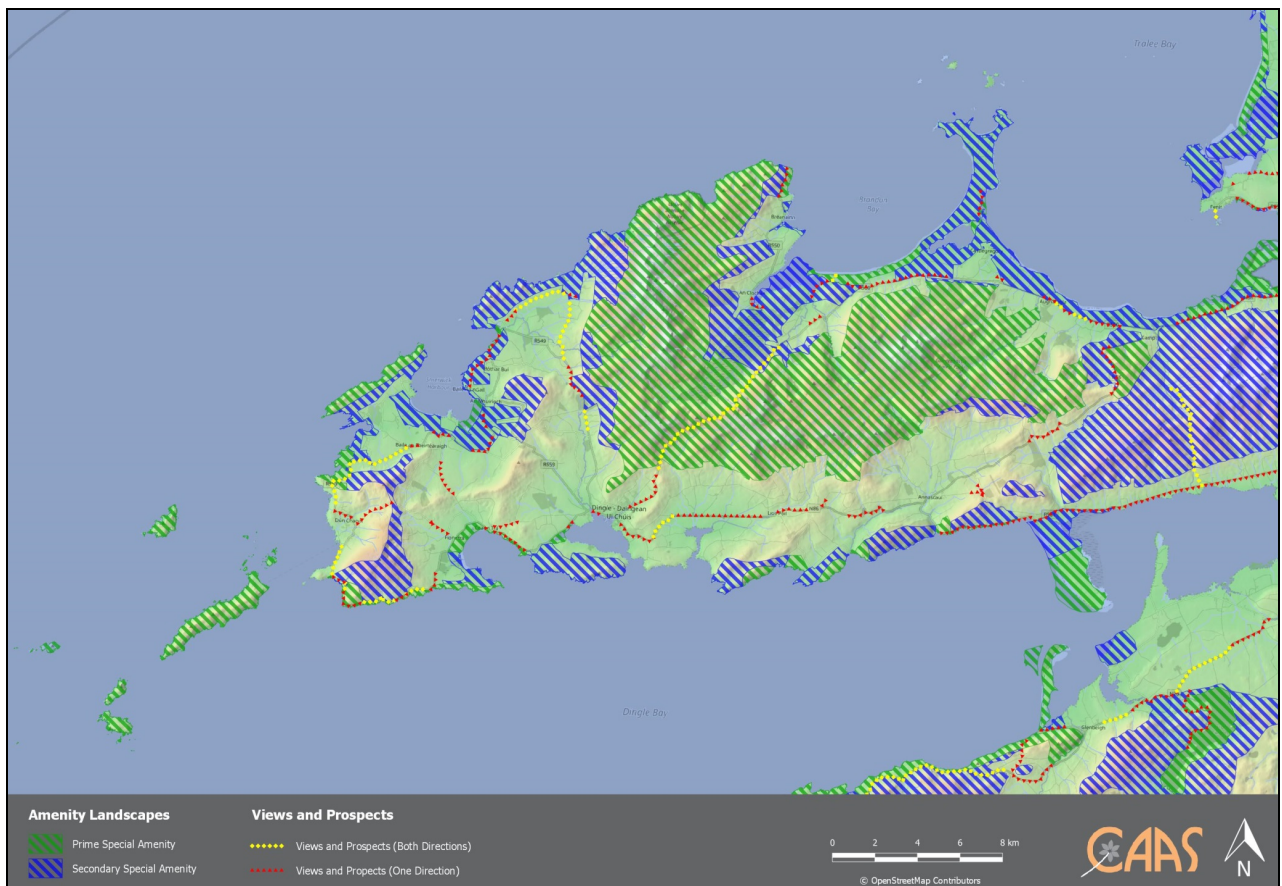


Figure 3.5 Landscape Designations

3.11 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies that generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level e.g. the environmental protection objectives of various European Directives that have been transposed into Irish law and that are required to be implemented. The SEOs are set out under a range of topics and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Draft Plan and the alternatives are evaluated in order to help identify which provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and where such effects would be likely to occur, if - in the case of adverse effects - unmitigated.

Table 3.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Component	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	B1: To contribute towards compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species ⁶
	B2: To contribute towards compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function act as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
	B3: To contribute towards avoidance of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites ⁷ and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the principal Act
Population and Human Health	PHH1: To contribute towards the protection of populations and human health from exposure to incompatible landuses
Soil	S1: To minimise land take and loss to extent of soil resource
Water	W1: To contribute towards the maintenance and improvement, where possible, of the quality and status of surface waters
	W2: To contribute towards maintaining and improving, where possible, the chemical and quantitative status of groundwaters
	W3: To contribute towards compliance with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines
Air and Climatic Factors	AC1: To contribute towards climate adaptation and mitigation
Material Assets	M1: For development to be served with adequate and appropriate critical infrastructure with sufficient capacity (drinking water, waste water, waste and transport) that does not present a danger to human health
	M2: To contribute towards the protection of public assets and infrastructure, including that relating to recreation and leisure, transport, utilities and marine areas and fisheries
	M3: To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse
Cultural Heritage	CH1: To contribute towards the protection of archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context
	CH2: To contribute towards the protection of architectural heritage including entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context
Landscape	L1: To avoid conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in the land use plans of Kerry County Council

⁶ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

⁷ The definition of a 'wildlife site' provided by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, includes Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed NHAs.

Section 4 Alternatives

4.1 Description of Alternatives

Alternative 1: Business as Usual

With respect to reputation and volume, the Dingle Peninsula is high-performing destination. In tourism terms however, the area suffers from being seen as:

- Highly seasonal;
- High volume, low-value;
- Dominated by a mature area within the destination (hot spots - Dingle Town) juxtaposed with emerging destinations across the destinations not benefiting from tourism to the same level; and
- Functioning as a microcosm of the island of Ireland with 30% of the landmass holding 70% of the traffic.

The potential socio-economic benefits of tourism are not currently being realised and it is widely regarded that tourism on the Dingle Peninsula is at a crossroads. The volume of tourists is the cause of intense pressure on the local culture, community and environment, compromising the experience itself.

There is also concern that the nature of tourism demand and tourist behaviour is resulting in a sub-optimal economy with a lower than acceptable level of tourist spending and retained economic impact in the community.

Despite the association of high volumes of visitor traffic to the Dingle Peninsula, it is key pockets of the destination that experience this level of visitor pressure while surrounding areas continue to have capacity for development.

This current situation presents **Alternative 1 (Business as Usual)** to be considered by the SEA. Numbers of visitors would continue to increase under this scenario – consistent with the development of tourism over many decades. The most popular locations on the Peninsula would see the largest increases in visitors, which would occur during the peak season.

Prepare a Plan (Alternatives 2A and 2B: Prepare a Plan)

The challenges posed by the current situation (see Alternative 1 above) establish a potential need for a plan that seeks to better manage tourism on the Peninsula; facilitating, promoting, supporting and coordinating stakeholders (including local authorities, other government agencies, tourism operators, communities and visitors) in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans that have been subject to environmental assessment. Such a plan would not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent (such frameworks fall under the remit of other public authorities). Any projects would continue to be required to comply, as relevant, with the various provisions of documents that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

Features of such a Plan (in combination with the wider and extensive policy and wider and extensive policy and planning framework) would include:

- Addressing issues of seasonality and regionality while realising increased socio-economic benefits;
- Creating new and improve existing visitor experiences, and communicate cohesive and unified stories to the visitor;
- Motivating international tourists to visit and stay in the local communities across the Peninsula and increasing the economic dividend generated by international visitors to the area; and
- Supporting the ongoing tourism development of the Dingle Peninsula, evolving from visitor attraction to a year-round tourism destination.
- Simulating increased dispersion of visitors across the Dingle Peninsula throughout the year.

Under Alternative 2 there are two separate alternatives:

Alternative 2A: A Plan with Additional Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management

Fáilte Ireland provides funding sustainable tourism projects including land use and infrastructural development and land use activities. In order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, **Alternative 2A** would require Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders to demonstrate compliance with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

- Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme Appendix 5 "*Site Maintenance Guidelines*" and other relevant measures from the Fáilte Ireland visitor and habitat management guidelines series (and any subsequent replacements); and
- Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme Appendix 6 "*Environmental Management for Local Authorities and Others*" (and any subsequent replacements).

In order to be realised, projects included in the Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) would have to demonstrate compliance, as relevant, with various provisions of legislation, policies, plans and programmes that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Plan is not part and does not contribute towards.

Further environmental requirements would be integrated into the Plan under Alternative 2A, relating to infrastructure capacity, visitor management and green infrastructure and ecosystem services.

Alternative 2B: A Plan without Additional Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management

Alternative 2B would not include the requirements for environmental protection and management described under Alternative 2A. Projects would continue to be required to comply, as relevant, with the various provisions of documents that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

4.2 Detailed Consideration of Alternatives

Alternative 1: Business as Usual

Sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection under Alternative 1 is provided through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. These measures would contribute towards positive effects on the protection and management of all environmental components.

Tourism related development would continue to be planned for and consented through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. Potential adverse effects would continue to be mitigated through that process.

In the absence of a Plan, there would continue to be an increase in tourist numbers – consistent with the development of tourism over many decades. The most popular locations on the Peninsula would see the largest increases in visitors, which would occur during the peak season. This would give rise to greater concentration of tourists during peak seasons and in the most popular locations thereby increasing potential environmental effects on all components and peak load additions on various infrastructure in particular locations/at particular times.

Contributions towards an increase in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, including from aviation, would not occur as a result of a Plan that seeks to lengthen dwell time and grow visitor numbers however increases in tourist numbers would occur. Similarly, the positive mitigatory

effects as a result of provisions of a Plan, such as those relating to sustainable mobility, traffic management and compliance with climate adaptation and management plans/strategies would not be provided for.

There would be one layer of mitigation under Alternative, through the existing statutory planning and consent framework.

Alternative 2A: A Plan with Additional Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management

In addition to the measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, environmental management, which are provided under all alternatives, and measures relating to seasonality and regionality, provided for by this alternative and Alternative 2B, this alternative would provide additional requirements for environmental protection and management, including those taken from the Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme and those relating to infrastructure capacity, visitor management and green infrastructure and ecosystem services. In order to be realised, projects included in the Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) would have to demonstrate compliance, as relevant, with various provisions of legislation, policies, plans and programmes that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Plan is not part and does not contribute towards.

Tourism related development would continue to be planned for and consented through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. Potential adverse effects would continue be mitigated through that process.

Although a Plan would help to improve the seasonal and geographic spread of visitors, a Plan's objective would be to increase the number of visitors to the Peninsula. Although this would be likely to happen without a Plan, a Plan would have the potential to increase numbers of tourists – and associated potential adverse effects – to a greater degree than would be the case if there was no Plan.

This would be likely to contribute towards in an increase in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, including from aviation. These increases will be mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable mobility and compliance with the Climate Action Plan 2019, the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions) and the National Mitigation Plan (2017 and any subsequent versions).

A Plan would also help to promote new experiences – including those relating to land use activities and developments. These would also have the potential to increase adverse effects.

Notwithstanding this, there would be three layers of mitigation, through:

- The existing statutory planning and consent framework;
- Visitor management strategies; and
- Additional environmental requirements for environmental protection and management, under this alternative.

Alternative 2B: A Plan without Additional Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management

In addition to the measures relating to sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection, which are provided under all alternatives, this Alternative (2B) would provide measures to improve seasonality and regionality – Alternative 2A would provide this also. Seasonality and regionality provide a greater spread of tourists throughout the year and across the Peninsula thereby reducing potential environmental effects and peak load additions on various infrastructure in particular locations/at particular times.

Tourism related development would continue to be planned for and consented through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. Potential adverse effects would continue be mitigated through that process.

Although a Plan would help to improve the seasonal and geographic spread of visitors, a Plan's objective would be to increase the number of visitors to the Peninsula. Although this would be likely

to happen without a Plan, a Plan would have the potential to increase numbers of tourists – and associated potential adverse effects – to a greater degree than would be the case if there was no Plan. This would be likely to contribute towards an increase in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, including from aviation. These increases would be mitigated by the wider planning framework.

A Plan would also help to promote new experiences – including those relating to land use activities and developments. These would also have the potential to increase adverse effects.

Notwithstanding this, there would be one layer of mitigation, through the existing statutory planning and consent framework.

Table 4.1 below provides a comparative evaluation of alternatives against SEOs (for detailed SEOs please refer to Table 3.1).

Table 4.1 Comparative Evaluation of Alternatives against SEOs

	Likely to Improve status of SEO			Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated by complying with other measures included within the Plan		Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be fully mitigated
	to the Greatest degree	to Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree	
Alternative 1: Business as Usual			✓		✓	
Alternative 2A: A Plan with Additional Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management	✓			✓		
Alternative 2B: A Plan without Additional Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management		✓			✓	

4.3 Selected Alternative for the Plan

Taking into account the environmental effects detailed above and the challenges and opportunities present for tourism across the Peninsula, Fáilte Ireland have proceeded with Alternative 2A “A Plan with Additional Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management”.

Section 5 Summary of Effects arising from Plan

Table 5.1 Overall Findings – Environmental Effects arising from Draft Plan Provisions

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the existing statutory planning/decision-making and consent-granting framework ⁸			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potential Significant Adverse Effect, if unmitigated	Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection and management of biodiversity and flora and fauna (in designated sites, including European Sites and Wildlife Sites, and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats) including through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor management strategies; and VEDP requirements for environmental protection and management. Contributes towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and its ecosystem services. Contribution towards protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna as a result of contributing towards the protection of environmental vectors, air, water and soil. 	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of tourism related development/activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces arising from projects consented through the statutory planning/consent-granting framework. Losses or damage to ecology (these would be: in compliance with relevant legislation; and mitigated as projects would demonstrate compliance with various environmental protection and management measures) 	B1 B2 B3
Population and human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of human health including through VEDP requirements for environmental protection and management. Contribution towards the protection of human health as a result of not directing additional tourists towards specific locations in instances where significant problems with critical infrastructure (drinking water, waste water, waste and transport) have been identified. Contribution towards the protection amenity usage and access. Contribution towards the sustainable growth of tourism and associated sustenance and growth of communities in Dingle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water are not mitigated. Potential interactions if additional tourists are directed towards specific locations in instances where significant problems with critical infrastructure (drinking water, waste water, waste and transport) have been identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors. This has been mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management. 	PHH1

⁸ Effects include in-combination effects – those arising from services, infrastructure and other development (to service development, including tourism) that are planned for and consented through the statutory framework including the NPF, RSES and lower-tier land use plans. Examples may include developments/operation of developments relating to water services, transport, access or accommodation. Mitigation includes that which has been integrated into the Plan – please refer to Section 9 of this report.

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the existing statutory planning/decision-making and consent-granting framework ⁸			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potential Significant Adverse Effect, if unmitigated	Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various provisions (e.g. relating to maintaining the wildness of areas that have not yet been developed) help to minimise land-take and loss of extent of soil resource. Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination. Contributes towards protection of designated sites of geological heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverse impacts upon the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource. Adverse effects on designated geological heritage sites. Potential for increase in coastal /river bank erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces and from sea level rise/coastal erosion. 	S1
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water resources (including the status of surface and groundwaters), bathing water quality and water based designations including through integrating requirements for environmental protection and management into the Plan. Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased loadings as a result of development to comply with River Basin Management Plan. Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by: measures that have been integrated into the Plan; and the statutory planning/consent-granting framework. 	W1 W2 W3
Air and climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards climate adaptation and mitigation through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking and cycling; and Contribution towards European and national objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation, taking into account a wide range of detailed measures including those relating to resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflict, in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors including transport and land use planning, between increases in visitors (which is likely to result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions to air, including from aviation, with associated interactions with climatic factors) and local, national and European objectives to reduce carbon emissions. Potential conflicts between transport movements, including car movements, and air quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, including from aviation. This has been mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable mobility and compliance with the Climate Action Plan 2019, the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions) and the National Mitigation Plan (2017 and any subsequent versions). Risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to climate and interactions with issues including flooding and material assets. 	AC1
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection and allows for continued use of public assets and infrastructure. Contains clear objectives around seasonality and regionality which look not only to spread the benefits of tourism but also the potential impacts/ load associated with tourism. Helps to minimise likelihood of exceeding capacity in material assets as a result of not directing additional tourists towards specific locations in instances where significant problems with critical infrastructure (drinking water, waste water, waste and transport) have been identified. Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of visitors have the potential to increase traffic levels. The need to provide adequate and appropriate water services (it is the function of Irish Water to provide for such needs). Increases in waste levels and residual wastes from visitors and construction of developments. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher level waste management policies. Increased loading on critical infrastructure (drinking water, waste water, waste and transport) where no significant problems have been identified with this infrastructure. Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however such risks will be mitigated by: measures that have been integrated into the Plan; and the statutory planning/consent-granting framework. Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework. 	M1 M2 M3

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the existing statutory planning/decision-making and consent-granting framework ⁸			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potential Significant Adverse Effect, if unmitigated	Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the long-term protection of archaeological and architectural heritage by encouraging greater levels of awareness and appreciation through, use, interpretation and access, in line with the requirements relating to the protection of cultural heritage including: entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context; and entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on designated and unknown archaeological heritage. Potential effects on architectural heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential alteration to the context and setting of architectural heritage however, these will occur in compliance with legislation. Potential alteration to the context and setting of archaeological heritage however, this will occur in compliance with legislation. Potential loss of unknown archaeology however, this loss will be mitigated by measures integrated into the Plan. 	CH1 CH2
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of landscape designations as a result of: facilitating compliance with relevant plans; and maintaining the wildness of areas that have not yet been developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts, especially in marine, island and ridge areas where, and conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape. Changes in the appearance of the landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residual visual effects (these would comply with landscape designation provisions). 	L1

Section 6 Mitigation and Monitoring Measures

6.1 Mitigation

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the Plan. Various environmental sensitivities and issues have been communicated to Fáilte Ireland through the SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes.

By integrating all SEA and AA recommendations into the Plan, Fáilte Ireland is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

Mitigation was achieved through the following:

- Establishing the status of the Plan and its interrelationship with the Statutory Decision-Making and Consent-Granting Framework; and
- Integrating Requirements for Environmental Compliance into the Plan.

The SEA and AA team worked with the Plan-preparation team at Fáilte Ireland in order to integrate requirements for environmental protection and management into the Plan.

Fáilte Ireland provides funding for sustainable tourism projects that emerge as part of specific, competitive, themed and time-bound grant schemes or as part of wider strategic partnerships. These include projects relating to land use, infrastructural development and land use activities and attractions. Reference made to such projects included in the Plan does not guarantee funding. While funding is provided to certain projects, Fáilte Ireland is not the developer.

In order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance⁹ with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

- Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme Appendix 5 "*Site Maintenance Guidelines*" and other relevant measures from the Fáilte Ireland visitor and habitat management guidelines series (and any subsequent replacements); and
- Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme Appendix 6 "*Environmental Management for Local Authorities and Others*" (and any subsequent replacements).

In order to be realised, projects included in the VEDP (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the VEDP is not part and does not contribute towards. Such legislation, policies, plans and programmes include:

- Requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment, including EIA and AA;
- The Kerry County Development Plan, including various provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management; and
- The Climate Action Plan 2019, the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions) and the National Mitigation Plan (2017 and any subsequent versions).

⁹ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

Further measures relating to infrastructure capacity, visitor management, green infrastructure and ecosystem services have been integrated into the Plan.

6.2 Monitoring

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. Monitoring is based around indicators that allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified at Table 3.1 and used in the evaluation.

Sources

Confirmation of compliance with relevant environmental measures) will be a source of information for the Monitoring Programme. This documentation may include monitoring undertaken by beneficiaries to demonstrate compliance with the environmental requirements.

Other existing monitoring sources will be used, including:

- Information gathered through existing Fáilte Ireland environmental monitoring programmes (and any subsequent replacements), including the Monitoring Programme for the Wild Atlantic Way, a sub-programme of which will be extended to/reported on for the Dingle Peninsula VEDP area in order to monitor any effects of visitors;
- Sources maintained by Kerry County Council (such as those arising from the SEA of land use plans) and the relevant authorities e.g. the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Central Statistics Office; and
- Lower-tier environmental assessment and decision making – including a review of project approvals granted and associated documents – will also be utilised as part of the Monitoring Programme.

Reporting and Responsibility

Reporting on environmental monitoring will address the indicators set out below. Fáilte Ireland is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action, in combination with the relevant authorities.

Environmental monitoring for the VEDP and other existing/future Fáilte Ireland plans, programmes, etc. may be undertaken and reported on at the same time. The findings of monitoring will be reported on periodically with frequencies to be determined during implementation.

Table 6.1 overleaf shows the current indicators and targets that have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing relevant Fáilte Ireland Plans, Programmes, etc. These monitoring measures are updated on an ongoing basis.

Table 6.1 Selected Indicators, Targets and Monitoring Sources

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Source and (where available) Frequency
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive	B1: Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under National and International legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Plan ¹⁰	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with "Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management" – see Section 6.1 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years) • Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's National Monitoring Report for the Birds Directive under Article 12 (every 3 years) • Consultations with the NPWS • CORINE mapping resurvey (every c. 5 years) • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes
	B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity without remediation resulting from Plan	B2: No significant ecological networks or parts thereof which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation resulting from the Plan	
	B3i: Number of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from the Plan B3ii: Number of significant impacts on the protection of listed species	B3i: Avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from the Plan B3ii: No significant impacts on the protection of listed species resulting from the Plan	
Population and Human Health	PHH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors resulting from the Plan, as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency	PHH1: No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with "Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management" – see Section 6.1 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Consultations with the HSE and EPA • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes
Soil	S1: Artificial surfaces land cover extent	S1: Contribute towards the target of the National Planning Framework's SEA (2018) to "Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4%."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with "Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management" – see Section 6.1 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • CORINE mapping resurvey (every c. 5 years) • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes

¹⁰ 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 programme to proceed; and (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

SEA Environmental Report Appendix III: Non-Technical Summary

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Source and (where available) Frequency
Water	<p>W1i: Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009)</p> <p>W1ii: Mandatory and Guide values as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008)</p> <p>W2: Interactions with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC resulting from development adhering to the Plan</p> <p>W3: Compliance of relevant lower tier assessments and decision making with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines</p>	<p>W1i: No deterioration in the status of any surface water or adverse effect upon the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' as a result of the Plan</p> <p>W1ii: No deterioration in the value of bathing waters or adverse effect upon the ability of any bathing water to achieve Mandatory values and, where possible, Guide values as a result of the Plan</p> <p>W2: Not to affect the ability of groundwaters to comply with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC, subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD</p> <p>W3: For lower tier assessments and decision making to comply with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with "Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management" – see Section 6.1 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • Data issued under the Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme for Ireland (multi-annual) • EPA <i>The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland</i> reports • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes
Air and Climatic Factors	<p>AC1: Demonstration of compliance with provisions relating to climate adaptation and mitigation have been integrated into the Plan.</p>	<p>C1: To maximise the amount of measures relating to climate adaptation and mitigation being implemented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with "Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management" – see Section 6.1 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes
Material Assets	<p>M1: Number of instances whereby additional tourists are directed by beneficiaries of funding towards areas in the Plan area where adequate and appropriate critical infrastructure with sufficient capacity is unavailable</p> <p>M2: Number of significant adverse effects on the use of or access to public assets and infrastructure</p> <p>M3: Preparation and implementation of construction and environmental management plans</p>	<p>M1: No instances whereby additional tourists are directed by beneficiaries of funding towards areas in the Plan area where adequate and appropriate critical infrastructure with sufficient capacity that does not present a danger to human health are unavailable</p> <p>M2: No significant adverse effects on the use of or access to public assets and infrastructure</p> <p>M3: For construction and environmental management plans to be prepared and implemented for relevant projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with "Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management" – see Section 6.1 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Consultations with the partners such as the EPA, Irish Water and/or Kerry County Council • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes

SEA Environmental Report Appendix III: Non-Technical Summary

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Source and (where available) Frequency
Cultural Heritage	CH1: Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places protected from significant adverse effects arising from the Plan	CH1: No unauthorised adverse effects on archaeological heritage resulting from implementation of the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with "Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management" – see Section 6.1 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes
	CH2: Percentage of entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from the Plan	CH2: No unauthorised adverse effects on architectural heritage resulting from implementation of the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with "Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management" – see Section 6.1 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes
Landscape	L1: Number of unmitigated conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in the land use plans of Kerry County Council	L1: No unmitigated conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in the land use plans of Kerry County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with "Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management" – see Section 6.1 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes