

Cliff Coast Draft Destination and Experience Development Plan

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING AND NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT

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CONTENTS

1	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Background.....	1
1.2	Expertise and Qualifications	1
1.3	Legal requirement for Appropriate Assessment.....	1
1.4	Baseline data collection.....	3
2	Outline Description of the Draft Plan	5
2.1	Introduction.....	5
2.2	Vision.....	6
2.3	Strategic Objectives.....	6
2.4	Key Destination Development Projects Overview	8
3	Stage 1: Screening for Appropriate Assessment.....	11
3.1	Introduction.....	11
3.2	Potential Zone of Influence	11
3.3	Description of the Receiving Environment and the Potential Zone of Influence	12
	Illauonearaun SPA	31
	(site code 004114), within the area of study	31
3.4	Screening for Appropriate Assessment – Summary.....	72
4	Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment	73
4.1	Introduction.....	73
4.2	Potential impacts from the CCDEDP, including in-combination effects.....	74
4.3	Conservation objectives, threats and vulnerabilities of the European Sites.....	106
4.4	Mitigation measures.....	106
4.5	Summary and Conclusion	116
	Appendix 1 – Appropriate Assessment Determination	117



1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This document comprises an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS), prepared in order to support the Appropriate Assessment for the Draft Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan (hereafter referred to the 'Plan' or the 'CCDEDP') in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and Article 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended (the Habitats regulations).

The potential impacts on European sites (also known as Natura 2000 sites), both as a result of the CCDEDP and in-combination with other plans and projects, are appraised in this report.

This report should be read in conjunction with the CCDEDP and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – Environmental Report prepared by Brady Shipman Martin (2024).

1.2 Expertise and Qualifications

This Report has been prepared by Namrata Kaile, Ecologist and Environmental Consultant with Brady Shipman Martin. She holds a Bachelor's Degree (BSc) in Life Sciences from University of Delhi and a Master's Degree (MSc) with distinction in Environmental Sciences from Trinity College Dublin. She is an associate member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and has been working professionally in the field of environmental consultancy for the last four years. Namrata is experienced in drafting and reviewing AA Screening Reports, EIA Screening Reports as well as in coordination of EIARs. She is also experienced in undertaking baseline ecological surveys and preparing Ecological Impact Assessments Reports (EclA).

A technical review of this document has been completed by Senior Ecologist and Associate, Matthew Hague BSc MSc Adv. Dip. Plan. & Env. Law CEnv MCIEEM. Matthew is a highly experienced and qualified ecologist, with a master's degree in Ecosystem Conservation and Landscape Management. He has over 20 years of experience in ecological and environmental consultancy, across a wide range of sectors. Matthew is a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) and a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM). Matthew has also completed an Advanced Diploma in Planning and Environmental Law, at King's Inns and is a member of the Irish Environmental Law Association (IELA).

1.3 Legal requirement for Appropriate Assessment

European sites make up a network of sites designated for nature conservation under Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the "Habitats Directive") and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the "Birds Directive"). The requirements for Appropriate Assessment are set out under *Article 6 of the Habitats Directive*, transposed into Irish law by the *European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended)* (the "Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations") and the *Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)* (the "Planning Acts").

European sites are also known as Natura 2000 Sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)). As defined in section 177R of the Planning Acts “European site” means:

- (a) a candidate site of Community importance,
- (b) a site of Community importance,
- (ba) a candidate special area of conservation,
- (c) a special area of conservation,
- (d) a candidate special protection area and
- (e) a special protection area.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states that:

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

The first test is to establish whether, in relation to a particular plan or project, appropriate assessment is required. Article 42(1) of the Habitats Regulations requires that the AA screening test must be applied to the Plan, as follows:

42. (1) Subject to Regulation 42A, a screening for Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project for which an application for consent is received, or which a public authority wishes to undertake or adopt, and which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European Site, shall be carried out by the public authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the site, if that plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the European site.

An appropriate assessment is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the development (plan or project), individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

1.3.1 Stages in the Appropriate Assessment Process

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

1.3.1.1 Stage 1 - Screening

The stage identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan (in the absence of mitigation), either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant. Following screening, the relevant project must proceed to “Stage 2” appropriate assessment if likely significant effects cannot be excluded.

1.3.1.2 Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment

This stage considers whether the plan or project, alone or in combination with other projects or plans, will have adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, and includes any mitigation measures necessary to avoid, reduce or offset negative effects.

1.3.1.3 Stage 3 – Alternative Solutions

If required, this stage examines any alternative solutions or options that could enable the plan or project to proceed without adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site.

1.3.1.4 Stage 4 – Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)

Where no alternative solutions or options are identified at Stage 3, Stage 4 examines whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) for allowing a plan or project that will have adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site to proceed in cases where it has been established that no less damaging alternative solution exists.

1.4 Baseline data collection

This report takes the following guidance documents into account:

- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine, September 2018, updated in September 2019 (V1.1), further updated in April 2022 (V1.2)*;
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) (2010a). *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities*;
- DoEHLG (2010b). *Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10: Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*;
- European Commission (2021). *Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites- Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*;
- European Commission (2018). *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*;
- Directorate – General for Environment (European Commission), (2021). *Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community Interest under the Habitats Directive*;
- National Roads Authority (NRA)¹ (2009). *Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Road Schemes*;
- Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) (2021). *Practice Note PNO1 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*;
- National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) (2021). *Guidance for Public authorities on the Application of Articles 12 and 16 of the EU Habitats Directive to development/works undertaken by or on behalf of a Public authority*.

Information was collated from the organisations and websites listed below:

- Data on European sites and rare and protected plant and animal species contained in the following databases:

¹ Now Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

Cliff Coast Draft Destination and Experience Development Plan Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement

- The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (www.NPWS.ie);
 - The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NDBC) (www.biodiversityireland.ie);
 - BirdWatch Ireland (www.birdwatchireland.ie);
 - Bat Conservation Ireland (www.batconservationireland.org).
- Information on land-use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (<http://www.myplan.ie/en/index.html>);
 - Recent and historical OSi mapping and aerial photography, including www.geohive.ie;
 - Information on local watercourses from www.catchments.ie;
 - Information on water quality in the area (www.epa.ie);
 - Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area (www.gsi.ie);
 - Information on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (Article 17 report) (NPWS, August 2019);
 - Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2024);
 - Clare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029 and the accompanying reports;
 - Kerry County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 and the accompanying reports.

The report takes full account of the details of the CCDEDP and a detailed examination of all relevant elements was undertaken. The Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report (Brady Shipman Martin, 2024) was also reviewed in the preparation of this report.

A desk-based assessment of the receiving environment was undertaken, and this focussed on habitats and species that are listed as Qualifying Interests (QI) (in the case of SACs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCI) (in the case of SPAs) for European sites. An assessment of habitat suitability for species with links to European sites was undertaken, in order to appraise the potential for *ex-situ* effects on European sites.

2 Outline Description of the Draft Plan

2.1 Introduction

The Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan (CCDEDP) is a five-year sustainable tourism development plan for North Kerry and West Clare. It is focused on an area extending from Tralee across North Kerry to Loop Head Peninsula and Spanish Point in West Clare. The CCDEDP focuses on sustainability and responsible tourism. Over the term of the plan, it will grow the number of experiences available to visitors through a number of destination projects designed to create long term destination differentiation for the Cliff Coast.

The Plan provides an opportunity to ensure that all existing and future tourism projects and initiatives within the Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan area are planned, developed and managed in a sustainable and integrated manner. The VICE (Visitor, Industry, Community and Environment) Model for Sustainable Tourism is the approach the CCDEDP is developed from and strives to implement.

The framework for the CCDEDP has identified two unifying ideas that link a series of projects to generate a more significant economic impact for North Kerry and West Clare. The destination development themes of 'Bays and Ways of Adventure' (expanding the activity base) and 'Responsible Innovation' (sustainability at the core of all experiences) will build on investment in current and future outdoor infrastructure through sustainable tourism innovation and the area's coastal and rural built and natural heritage, tourism assets and trails. The green and blue spaces of the Cliff Coast provide the focus for tourism enterprise and experience development. The CCDEDP approach will capitalise on the opportunities provided by recent and future product investment while increasing the supply of saleable experiences for the visitor to engage with.

The CCDEDP was developed through a programme of stakeholder consultation and research, reflecting the views of visitors, the local tourism industry and the wider community. In assessing the international destination opportunity for the Cliff Coast, a programme of international benchmarking was also conducted.

The key objectives of the plan are:

- *Ensure local experiences are brought to life through the development of the optimal mix of hero and ancillary tourism products that attract visitors and retain them for longer in the destination.*
- *Unlock the economic growth potential of an area by progressing a range of key initiatives that will motivate tourists to explore the wider destination.*
- *Develop a sustainable basis for commercial tourism development centred on creating strong signature, supporting and ancillary experiences that are commoditised through the creation of saleable experiences that excite consumers and buyers alike.*
- *Create the conditions to attract leisure visitors on a year-round basis to North Kerry and West Clare to immerse themselves actively in the community, interacting with local people.*
- *Strengthen the value of tourism to the local community by providing sustainable employment opportunities.*

Furthermore, four strategic development outcomes have been identified to influence the tourism industry's product and experience development in the CCDEDP. These four development outcomes will ensure a coordinated approach to destination experience development aligned with the opportunities

identified through the plan and future product investment and experience priorities. The four outcomes are as follows:

- *Navigating Adventure - Sustainable engagement with the outdoor environment through activities and slow adventure on water and land.*
- *Coastal Heritage - Guiding Lights - Access the unique maritime heritage of the Cliff Coast, conquests and journeys across its coastline and the mouth of the estuary.*
- *Immersive Sustainability - Develop visitor experiences that exceed new expectations around responsible travel by embracing sustainability as the basis for destination and experience innovation.*
- *Restorative Tourism - Develop a distinctive form of Irish wellbeing across the Cliff Coast through sustainable rural, restorative and nature based experiences.*

2.2 Vision

The Destination Vision for CCDEDP 2033 is:

“The Cliff Coast is recognised as a leader in sustainable tourism where visitors clearly understand their role in contributing to community wellbeing and responsible tourism. The striking coastline is renowned for its cliff top walks and soul stirring views of a cliff coast brought alive through its vibrant communities and the opportunity to sample the best of local culture and traditional music. It is a leading family destination where the visitor has access to great indoor attractions and outdoor activities. The quality of the outdoor activity product and coastal tourism adventure encourages slow adventure exploration with greenways acting as the link between the land and water adventure clusters in Tralee Bay and West Clare. Visitors have access to world class coastal tourism and marine experiences from dolphin watching to water activities linking our islands and coastal communities.”

2.3 Strategic Objectives

Regional Tourism Development Plans 2023- 2027 (RTDS) have been developed for each of Fáilte Ireland’s four Regional Experience Brands (Ireland’s Ancient East, Wild Atlantic Way, Dublin and Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands). These plans provide the strategic framework for other tourism development strategies, such as, Destination and Experience Development Plans (DEDPs) and County Tourism Strategies. The CCDEDP has been developed to contribute to the overarching regional objectives for the Wild Atlantic Way.

The strategic initiatives for the Cliff Coast DEDP are based on the Strategic Objectives of the Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy (RTDS). Under each of the strategic objectives, a number of strategic initiatives have been identified to achieve the vision for the Cliff Coast and contribute to the development of the Wild Atlantic Way.

The Plan is structured around the following strategic objectives and strategic initiatives:

1. RTDS Strategic Objective 1: Grow the year-round appeal of the Wild Atlantic Way domestically and internationally ensuring we attract and disperse high value visitors into and throughout the region.

Strategic Initiatives:

- 1.1. Address the challenge of the area perceived as a transient destination in the international marketplace located between more mature tourism destinations.

- 1.2. Develop the Cliff Coast as an activity destination providing visitors with access to great land and water based experiences.
- 1.3. Maximise the potential of Tralee as a destination day and accommodation hub for the Cliff Coast.
- 1.4. Create destination clusters for water adventure activities building on the existing potential of Tralee Bay and West Clare.
- 1.5. Develop cliffs and coastal trails experiences to disperse visitors across the Cliff Coast and prepare for the future development of the Wild Atlantic Way Coastal Walk.
- 1.6. Examine how the destination will grow its volume of available accommodation stock to attract and retain visitors and ensure local economic impact from tourism.
- 1.7. Develop the opportunity for the Cliff Coast to be recognised internationally for the quality and diversity of its marine tourism activities. Leveraging unique destination opportunities such as Dolphin Watching.

2. RTDS Strategic Objective 2: Raise the international profile of the Northern half of the Wild Atlantic Way to increase visitation and revenue.

3. RTDS Strategic Objective 3: Increase tourism revenue, visitor dispersion and season extension across the Southern half of the Wild Atlantic Way

Strategic Initiatives:

- 3.1. Prepare the tourism industry and local communities for future opportunities provided by the capital investment in Greenways.
- 3.2. Examine the enhancement of existing walking and cycling trails and regenerate them to become refreshed trails experiences that enable the visitor explore the destination.
- 3.3. Develop the capacity of existing attractions to attract and disperse visitors across the Cliff Coast through enhancement of the visitor experience and repurposing of key sites to act as a catalyst for destination development.
- 3.4. Build on thematic and product linkages between North Kerry and West Clare to grow the number of saleable day time experiences available through the destination e.g. maritime, rural, food, culture and activities.
- 3.5. Grow the number of saleable visitor experiences (B2B and B2C) accessible across the destination supported by new approaches to packaging.
- 3.6. Examine how to develop authentic local community experiences to disperse visitors across the destination and meet local people through culture and heritage experiences.

4. RTDS Strategic Objective 4: Protect the authenticity and “wildness” of the Wild Atlantic Way

Strategic Initiatives:

- 4.1. Protect, sustain and enhance the natural environment of the CCDEDP area through the creation of new sustainable visitor experiences.

<p>4.2. Develop the international profile of the destination through its credibility as a responsible tourism area and the potential for ‘green’ experience innovation immersing visitors in responsible tourism experiences.</p> <p>4.3. Examine new opportunities throughout the Cliff Coast to build on world class sustainability and marine bio experiences e.g. dolphin watching.</p>
<p>5. RTDS Strategic Objective 5: Enable and assist the industry to grow its capacity and capability so that it can thrive over the period of this strategy</p>
<p>Strategic Initiatives:</p> <p>5.1. Develop the capacity of the tourism industry to develop its online presence and commercial approach to online activity.</p> <p>5.2. Develop a new tourism clusters approach building on established networks and creating new tourism networks where none exist.</p> <p>5.3. Build on the association of North Kerry as a family destination and develop the profile to attract domestic and international visitors.</p> <p>5.4. Work with the tourism industry to improve its capacity to deliver new and enhanced experiences aligned with the destination vision.</p> <p>5.5. Develop the cultural opportunity across the Cliff Coast to create vibrant evening economy hubs for visitors.</p>
<p>6. RTDS Strategic Objective 6: Foster strong coalitions of industry and stakeholders with a common purpose in creating flourishing destinations and thriving communities.</p>
<p>Strategic Initiatives:</p> <p>6.1. Work with the OPW to enhance the visitor experience at key sites within the Cliff Coast.</p> <p>6.2. Ensure tourism is integrated as a key element of future strategic development sites across North Kerry and West Clare to include future urban and rural regeneration activity.</p> <p>6.3. Grow the number of tourism enterprises operating in the destination supported by an environment that encourages new levels of tourism entrepreneurship.</p> <p>6.4. Develop sustainable transport options to engage with the Cliff Coast and new approaches to visitor management with sustainability at the core.</p>

2.4 Key Destination Development Projects Overview

Nine catalyst projects have been identified as key destination development projects. They link areas and experiences within the destination, expand the range of things to do and see and encourage visitors to explore the wider area. They each contribute to achieving the destination transformation goals for the Cliff Coast i.e. Bays & Ways of Adventure (increase the activity base) and Responsible Innovation (sustainable tourism experience development). These destination development projects will be supported through additional projects necessary to ensure the tourism industry and local communities can avail of emerging opportunities.

The catalyst projects and their objectives are as follows:

Project 1 Cliff Coast Water Adventure Hub - *A co-ordinated approach to developing the Cliff Coast as a water adventure and coastal activity hub of scale.*

Project 2 Greenways – *Maximise the investment in Greenways in North Kerry and West Clare for local communities and identify future Greenway projects to strengthen the network of trails that motivate visitors to explore new communities and local experiences.*

Project 3 Visitor Hubs – Developing Key Towns – *Develop the capacity of key destination towns to retain visitors in the area for longer by increasing the range of things to do and see during the day and evening time.*

Project 4 Beach Management & Facilities - *Employ a sustainable approach to the future management of beaches supported by the delivery of the visitor facilities that will support the outdoor activity and sustainability ambition of West Clare and North Kerry.*

Project 5 Developing the Trails Network - *Grow the network of coastal and rural trails through a sustainable development approach to create a national and international destination profile for the uniqueness of Cliff Coast trails and associated local experiences.*

Project 6 Developing the Attractions Base – *Loop Head Lighthouse, Vandeleur Walled Gardens, Scattery Island and Blennerville Heritage & Activity Centre - Maximise the capacity of existing attractions to attract and disperse visitors across the Cliff Coast through a new product and experience development approach for Loop Head Lighthouse, Vandeleur Walled Gardens, Scattery Island and the Blennerville Heritage and Activity Centre.*

Project 7 Developing Digital Capacity - *Develop the online and digital skills capacity of the Cliff Coast tourism industry.*

Project 8 Accommodation Growth - *Grow the accommodation base across West Clare and North Kerry.*

Project 9 Transport Connectivity - *Grow the sustainable transport options to attract visitors into and around the Cliff Coast destination.*

Underpinning these destination projects are a number of destination supporting projects (enablers) that will support the development of the tourism industry, local communities and other stakeholders. These are projects and supports that will enhance the destination's capacity to recover and achieve future growth. They also address the gaps that can strengthen the destination's ability to work towards achieving year-round visitor footfall. The destination supporting projects include improving industry capabilities, a focus on the family market, developing clusters and building on the rich culture of the region and its unique programme of festivals and events.

The destination supporting projects / enablers and their objectives are as follows:

Enabler 1 Family Adventures - *A destination wide approach to developing the Cliff Coast as Ireland's family destination.*

Enabler 2 Industry Development - *Increase the capacity of the tourism industry and local communities to attract visitors to the Cliff Coast through new levels of collaboration and experience development.*

Enabler 3 Unique Events - *Build on the portfolio of niche events across the Cliff Coast to create unique year round reasons to visit.*

Enabler 4 Community Tourism - *Provide the visitor with the opportunity to engage with our local communities by developing authentic heritage, cultural and local experiences to grow the value of tourism for the Cliff Coast communities as part of a sustainable tourism development approach.*

Enabler 5 Tourism Clusters - *Develop a number of clusters within the Cliff Coast linked together by themes such as outdoor activity, heritage and culture or food and drink.*

The complete list of catalyst project/actions and destination supporting projects (enablers) are summarised in **Section 4.2.4**.

3 Stage 1: Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction

The first part of the Appropriate Assessment process is the Screening phase. Screening identifies the likely effects of the CCDEDP on European sites that could arise, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and considers whether these impacts are likely to have a significant effect on the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

As per Section 1.3 and in accordance with Article 42 of the Habitats regulations, screening for appropriate assessment must be carried out. Screening must be undertaken without the inclusion of mitigation and it is in this context that this AA Screening Report is prepared.

Following screening therefore, if there is a possibility of there being a significant effect on a European site, this will generate the need for an appropriate assessment for the purposes of compliance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. This means that if the conclusions at the end of the screening exercise are that significant effects on any European sites, as a result of the CCDEDP, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, are likely, uncertain or unknown, then an Appropriate Assessment must be carried out. This is in accordance with established precedent and case law.

3.2 Potential Zone of Influence

This assessment is based on the source-pathway-receptor model, which dictates that, for an effect to occur, there must be a 'source' (such as a construction site); a 'receptor' (such as a designated site for nature conservation); and a 'pathway' between the two (such as a watercourse). A construction site or completed development may also create a barrier to movement, for example, by preventing the migration of fauna along a river corridor, or by obstructing the migration of birds.

Identification of a potential effect means that there is a possibility of ecological or environmental damage occurring, with the level and significance of the impact depending upon the nature and exposure to the potential effect and the characteristics of the receptor. Although there may be a risk of an impact, it may not necessarily occur, and if it does occur, it may not be significant.

There are no set recommended distances for projects to consider European sites as being relevant for assessment. DoEHLG (2010a, pp. 31 – 32) states that:

“The approach to screening is likely to differ somewhat for plans and projects, depending on scale and on the likely effects, but the following should be included:

1. *Any Natura 2000 sites within or adjacent to the plan or project area*
2. *Any Natura 2000 sites within the likely zone of impact of the plan or project. A distance of 15km is currently recommended in the case of plans, and derives from UK guidance (Scott Wilson et al., 2006). For projects, the distance could be much less than 15km, and in some cases less than 100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects*
3. *Natura 2000 sites that are more than 15km from the plan or project area depending on the likely impacts of the plan or project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, bearing in mind the precautionary principle. In the cases of sites with water dependent habitats or species,*

and a plan or project that could affect water quality or quantity, for example, it may be necessary to consider the full extent of the upstream and/or downstream catchment.”

The 2021 OPR guidelines, *Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*, state that the Zone of Influence “*should be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km)*” (p. 8).

Therefore, considering the nature, scale and location of the CCDEDP, and in accordance with the source-pathway-receptor model, the potential Zone of Influence for the CCDEDP includes any site to which there is a potential for impacts, as set out in the following sections.

3.3 Description of the Receiving Environment and the Potential Zone of Influence

The description of the receiving environment presented in this section has been based on a desktop study of relevant available information, as cited in the text.

The *Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028* states that:

KCDP 10-9 Facilitate and support the implementation of the Wild Atlantic Way Tourism Plans Fáilte Ireland Visitor /Destination Experience Development Plans, Heritage Town and Destination Town Plans and to support the continued collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and tourism stakeholders to ensure successful implementation and delivery of these tourism plans.

The *Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029* state that:

CDP 9.6 It is an objective of Clare County Council:

i) To work with Fáilte Ireland and other tourism stakeholders to support the successful implementation and delivery of Wild Atlantic Way Tourism Plans.

The Regional Tourism Development Strategies 2023-2027 published by Fáilte Ireland provide a framework for sustainable tourism development across Ireland and include Regional Tourism Strategies for Ireland’s Ancient East, Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands and Dublin. The Regional Tourism Development Strategies will be activated across every region through a series of local area action plans, referred to as Destination and Experience Development Plans (DEDPs). Under the Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027, there is a requirement to prepare DEDP for the Cliff Coast (North Kerry & West Clare).

Therefore, as detailed previously the study area for this report includes North Kerry and West Clare and the environmental aspects are described in the sections below.

Biodiversity plays a significant role in the provision of clean air, water, healthy soils and food as well as visually contributing to a plan area with its natural beauty and heritage. The diverse green and blue infrastructure network offer many opportunities for Tourism, Culture, Recreation and Leisure. The Landscape and Seascape also contributes to its wider setting, creating a unique sense of place.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife, including for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna. The Directive requires that ecological connectivity and areas of ecological value outside the Natura 2000 network of designated ecological sites are maintained, and it recognises the need for the management of these areas through land use planning and development policies. Ecological networks

are important in connecting areas of local biodiversity with each other and with nearby designated sites so as to prevent islands of habitat from being isolated entities. They are composed of linear features, such as treelines, hedgerows and rivers / streams which provide corridors or stepping stones for wildlife species moving within their normal range.

Ecological corridors are important for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species, particularly for mammals, bats and small birds and facilitate linkages both between and within designated ecological sites, non-designated surrounding countryside and the more urban areas within the study area.

3.3.1 Designated European Sites

Within the study area, there are a number of areas designated for protection under the Natura 2000 network. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are legally protected under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and are selected for the conservation of Annex I habitats and Annex II species. Special Protection Areas are protected under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 2009/147/EC.

All designated European Sites located within the study area are listed in **Table 3.1** below. There are further SPAs and SACs within the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the study area listed in **Table 3.2** below.

Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs have been set for the habitats and species for which the sites have been selected. Site specific detailed conservation objectives are available on the NPWS website².

Table 3.1 European sites located within the study area

Site Code	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Site Code	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
004125	Magharee Islands SPA	002263	Kerry Head Shoal
004188	Tralee Bay Complex SPA	002261	Magharee Islands SAC
004153	Dingle Peninsula SPA	002070	Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC
004189	Kerry Head SPA	000375	Mount Brandon SAC
004161	Stacks to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA	002185	Slieve Mish Mountains SAC
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	002112	BallyseedyWood SAC
004182	Mid-Clare Coast SPA	002165	Lower River Shannon SAC
004114	Illaunonearaun SPA	002351	Moanveanlagh Bog SAC
004119	Loop Head SPA	002264	Kilkee Reefs SAC
		002343	Tullaher Lough and Bog SAC

² NPWS website 2019: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives>

Cliff Coast Draft Destination and Experience Development Plan
Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement

Site Code	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Site Code	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
		002250	Carrowmore Dunes SAC
		001021	Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands SAC
		000332	Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC
		002170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC

Table 3.2 European sites located within the zone of influence of the study area

Site Code	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Site Code	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
004154	Iveragh Peninsula SPA	000343	Castlemaine Harbour SAC
004029	Castlemaine Harbour SPA	000370	Lough Yganavan and Lough Nambrackdarrig SAC
004038	Killarney National Park SPA	000365	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC
004041	Ballyallia Lough SPA	000382	Sheheree (Ardagh) Bog SAC
004220	Corofin Wetlands SPA	000036	Inagh River Estuary SAC
004005	Cliffs of Moher SPA	002279	Askeaton Fen Complex SAC
004152	Inishmore SPA	000432	Barrigone SAC
		002318	Knockanira House SAC
		002091	Newhall and Edenvale Complex SAC
		000037	Pouladatig Cave SAC
		000014	Ballyallia Lake SAC
		002247	Toonagh Estate SAC
		000032	Dromore Woods and Loughs SAC
		002245	Old Farm Buildings, Ballymacrogan SAC
		002246	Ballycullinan, Old Domestic Building SAC
		000016	Ballycullinan Lake SAC
		001926	East Burren Complex SAC
		000019	Ballyogan Lough SAC
		000054	Moneen Mountain SAC
		000020	Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex SAC
		000994	Ballyteige (Clare) SAC
		001275	Inisheer Island SAC
000212	Inishmaan Island SAC		

Site Code	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Site Code	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
		000213	Inishmore Island SAC

3.3.2 Nationally Designated Sites

Nationally Designated Sites include *Natural Heritage Areas* (NHAs) which are legally protected areas that are considered important for their habitats or which holds species of plants and animals whose habitat needs protection. *Proposed Natural Heritage Areas* (pNHAs) are also of significance for wildlife and habitats but have not yet been statutorily designated. However, under the Wildlife Amendment Act (2000) NHAs are legally protected from damage from the date they are formally proposed for designation³.

Refer to **Tables 3.3** and **3.4** and **Figure 3.2** below for the NHAs and pNHAs within the study area and within the zone of influence of the study area.

Table 3.3 Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) within the study area and zone of influence

Site Code	Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) within study area	Site Code	Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) within zone of influence
002449	Mount Eagles Bogs NHA	000333	Anna More Bog NHA
002448	Knockatarriv/Knockariddera Bogs NHA	002454	Lough Gay Bog NHA
001352	Bunnaruddee Bog NHA	002399	Carrigkerry Bogs NHA
001014	Illaunonearaun NHA	002361	Moyreen Bog NHA
002400	Cragnashingaun Bogs NHA	002421	Lough Acrow Bogs NHA
002397	Slievecallan Mountain Bog NHA	002367	Lough Naminna Bog NHA

Table 3.4 Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the study area and zone of influence

Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within study area	Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within zone of influence
001963	Gurri Island (Magharees) pNHA	001958	Smerwick Harbour Sandhills And Marshes pNHA
001965	Inishtooskert And Illaunimmil (Magharees) pNHA	001960	Burnham Inlet pNHA
001964	Illauntannig (Magharees) pNHA	001961	Emlagh East Salt Marshes pNHA
002070	Tralee Bay And Magharees Peninsula, West To Cloghane pNHA	000365	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks And Caragh River Catchment pNHA
000375	Mount Brandon pNHA	000343	Castlemaine Harbour pNHA

³ NPWS website 2019: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/nha>

Cliff Coast Draft Destination and Experience Development Plan
Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement

Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within study area	Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within zone of influence
001962	Mucklaghmore Island pNHA	000370	Lough Yganavan And Lough Nambrackdarrig pNHA
001359	Illaunabarnagh Island pNHA	000382	Sheheree (Ardagh) Bog pNHA
000332	Akeragh, Banna And Barrow Harbour pNHA	000350	Doo Loughs pNHA
001341	Church Hill, Tralee pNHA	001072	Priory Wood, Lismire pNHA
001349	Dooneen Wood pNHA	001431	Glenastar Wood pNHA
000374	Moanveanlagh Bog pNHA	000430	Ardagh Church, Newcastlewest (Disused) pNHA
001340	Cashen River Estuary pNHA	001425	Ballymorrishen Marsh pNHA
001386	Tarbert Bay pNHA	000432	Barrigone pNHA
000027	Clonderalaw Bay pNHA	000435	Inner Shannon Estuary - South Shore pNHA
000050	Derrygeeha Lough pNHA	001436	Sturamus Island pNHA
001025	St.Senan's Lough pNHA	001000	Cahiracon Wood pNHA
001332	Ballylongford Bay pNHA	002048	Fergus Estuary And Inner Shannon, North Shore pNHA
001911	Scattery Island pNHA	000035	Fort Fergus (Ballynacally) pNHA
001335	Beal Point pNHA	000062	Paradise House (Ballynacally) pNHA
000065	Poulnasherry Bay pNHA	001015	Gortglass Lough pNHA
000070	Tullaher Lough And Bog pNHA	001004	Cloonsnaghta Lough pNHA
000200	Farrihy Lough pNHA	002091	Newhall and Edenvale Complex pNHA
000045	Loop Head pNHA	001001	Cahircalla Wood pNHA
001007	White Strand/Carrowmore Marsh pNHA	000037	Pouladatig Cave pNHA
001021	Carrowmore Point To Spanish Point And Islands pNHA	000061	Newpark House pNHA
		000014	Ballyallia Lake pNHA
		001331	Lough Cleggan pNHA
		000032	Dromore Woods and Loughs pNHA
		000019	Ballyogan Lough pNHA
		000016	Ballycullinan Lake pNHA
		001926	East Burren Complex pNHA
		000054	Moneen Mountain pNHA
		000020	Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex pNHA
		000994	Ballyteige (Clare) pNHA
		000048	Lough Goller pNHA
		001024	Caherkinallia Wood pNHA

Cliff Coast Draft Destination and Experience Development Plan
Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement

Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within study area	Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within zone of influence
		000036	Inagh River Estuary pNHA
		000026	Cliffs of Moher pNHA
		001275	Inisheer Island pNHA
		000212	Inishmaan Island pNHA

Figure 3.1 European Sites within the study area and in the surrounding zone of influence

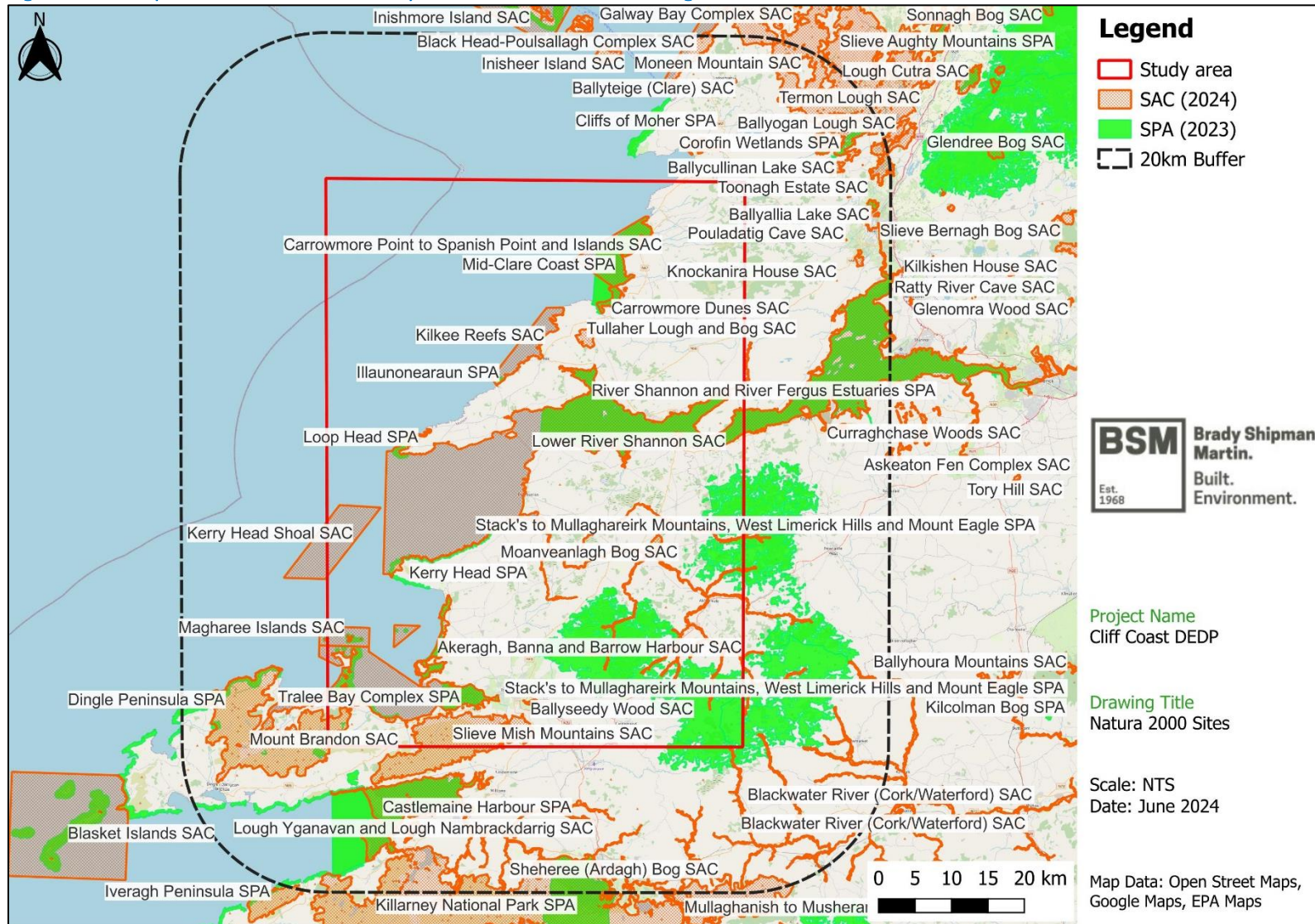
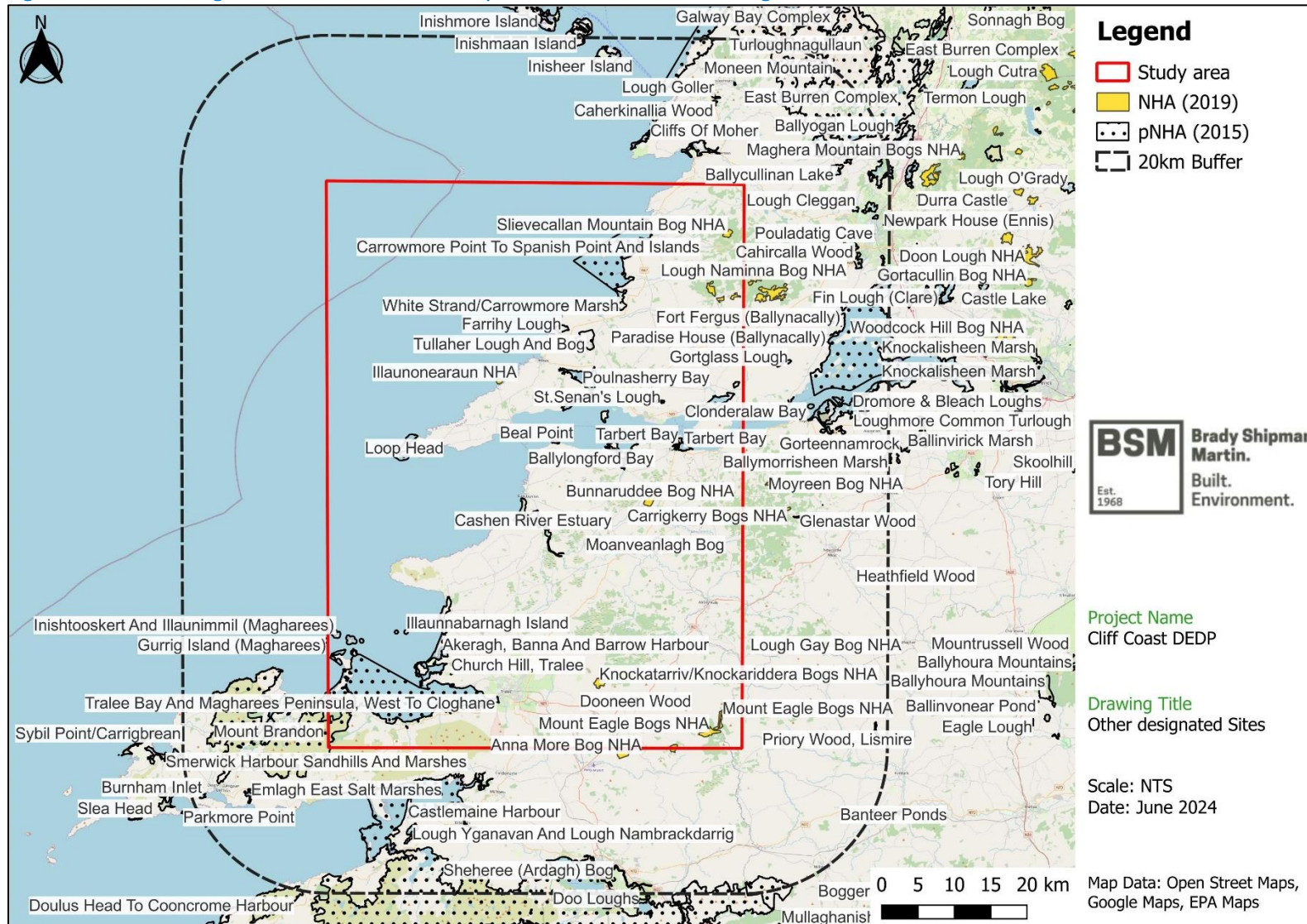


Figure 3.2 Other Designated Sites within the study area and in the surrounding zone of influence



3.3.3 Hydrology

The latest *Water Quality in Ireland* report 2016-2021 was published by the EPA in 2022. This report contains the most up-to-date and comprehensive assessment of the ecological health of Ireland’s groundwater, rivers, lakes, canals, transitional waters and coastal waters following the completion of the first six-year cycle of the WFD. The results shows that a considerable amount of work is still required to meet the environmental objectives of the WFD.

The status of the **river waterbodies** in the study area range from ‘*bad*’ to ‘*high*’, however the majority of the major river waterbodies range from ‘*poor*’ to ‘*good*’. The status of the **lake waterbodies** within the study area ranges from ‘*moderate*’ to ‘*high*’. The WFD monitored lakes within the study area include – Keagh (IE_SH_28_64 – Moderate), Doo CE (IE_S_28_82 – Moderate), Gill KY (IE_SH_23_72 – Moderate), Cam KY (IE_SH_23_74 – Moderate), Acummeen (IE_SH_23_59 – High). The status of **coastal WFD waterbodies** within the study area ranges between ‘*good*’ and ‘*high*’. The status of **transitional WFD waterbodies** within the study area ranges from ‘*poor*’ to ‘*good*’. Refer to **Figures 3.3** and **3.4**.

The study area covers the following **WFD catchments** – Mal Bay (28), Shannon Estuary North (27), Shannon Estuary South (24), Tralee Bay-Feale (23), Blackwater (Munster) (18), Laune-Maine-Dingle Bay (22).

Figure 3.3 WFD River Waterbody Status 2016-2021

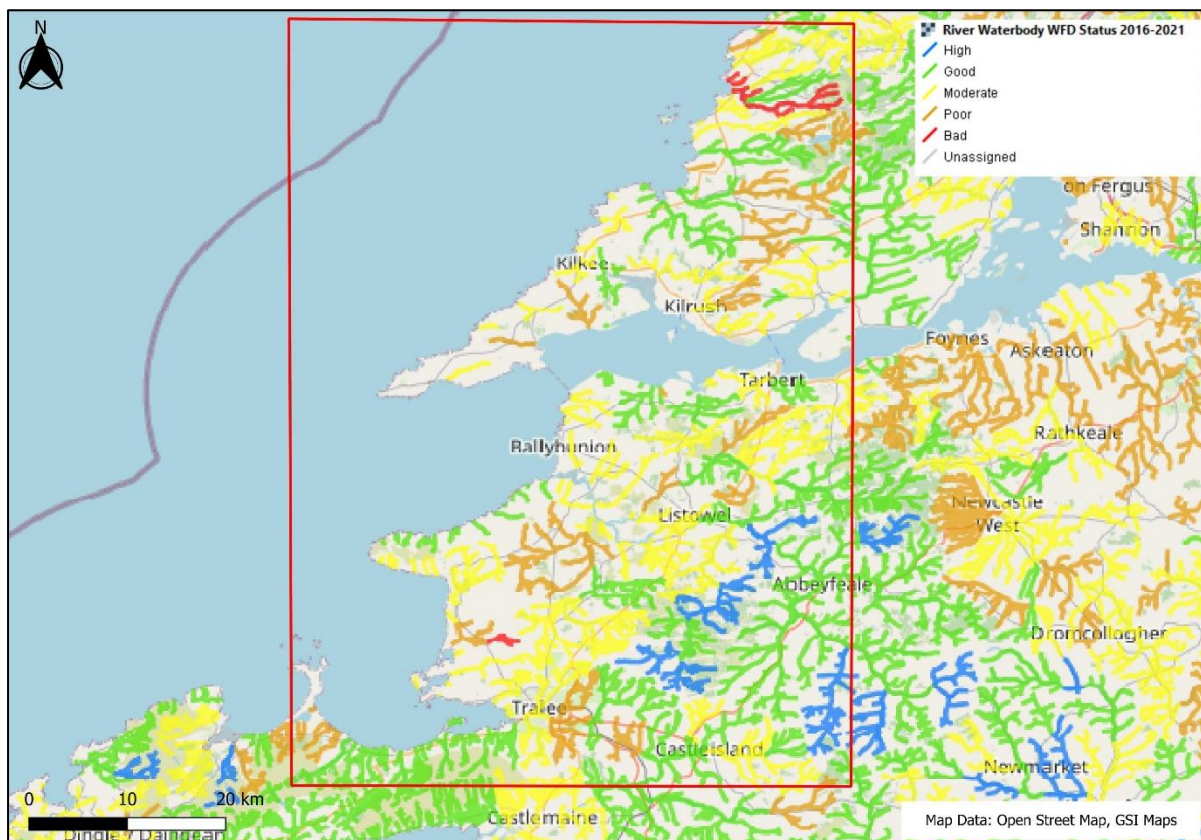
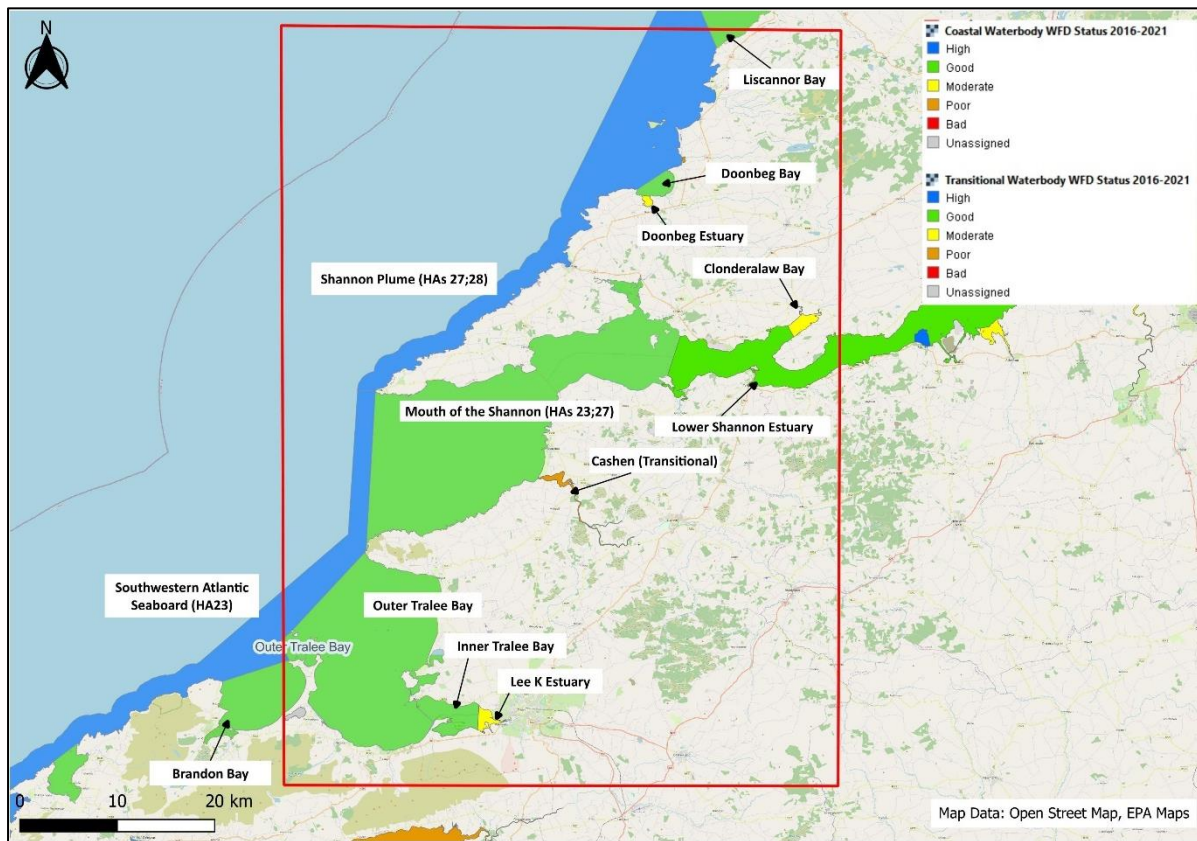


Figure 3.4 WFD Transitional and Coastal Waterbody Status 2016-2021



Groundwater Quality Status between 2016 and 2021 was generally ‘good’⁴ across the groundwater bodies within the study area. The groundwater vulnerability within the study area ranges from ‘low’ to ‘extreme’.

A number of these protected areas are present within study area and these are as follows:

- WFD RPA Nutrient Sensitive Areas (Lake, Coastal & Transitional waterbodies) – Cashen / Feale Estuary (IE_SH_060_0100), Feale Estuary Upper (IE_SH_060_0200).
- WFD RPA Nutrient Sensitive Areas (Rivers) – none within study area.
- WFD RPA Shellfish Areas – West Shannon Poulmasherry Bay (IE_SH_060_0000), West Shannon Carrigaholt (IE_SH_060_0000), West Shannon Rinevella (IE_SH_060_0000), West Shannon Ballylongford (IE_SH_060_0000), Tralee Bay (IE_SH_050_0000), Inner Bay Maharees (IE_SH_040_0000).
- Salmonid Rivers – Feale (IE_SH_23F010200), Brown Flesk (IE_SW_22B030250), Blackwater [Munster] (IE_SW_18B020075).

3.3.3.1 Designated Shellfish Waters

The *EU Shellfish Waters Directive* (2006/113/EC) aims to protect and improve shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth.

Pollution reduction programmes are in operation for these areas. The identified pressures on these designated waters include urban wastewater systems, on-site wastewater treatment systems and port

⁴ EPA Groundwater Quality Data - <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

activities. The coastal waters provide an important resource, supporting and generating employment and recreational activities and must be protected.

There are six areas of Shellfish waters within the study area - West Shannon Poulmasherry Bay (IE_SH_060_0000), West Shannon Carrigaholt (IE_SH_060_0000), West Shannon Rinevella (IE_SH_060_0000), West Shannon Ballylongford (IE_SH_060_0000), Tralee Bay (IE_SH_050_0000), Inner Bay Maharees (IE_SH_040_0000).

3.3.3.2 Salmonid Waters

The *Salmonid Regulations* (S.I. No. 293 of 1988) designate the waters capable of supporting salmon (*Salmo salar*), trout (*Salmo trutta*), char (*Salvelinus*) and whitefish (*Coregonus*) as protected. Thirty-four rivers, tributaries and lakes are listed and protected under these Regulations that prescribe quality standards for salmonid waters, sampling programmes and methods of analysis and inspection to be used by local authorities to determine compliance with the standards.

The following rivers within the study area are designated Salmonid Water under the EU Freshwater Fish Directive - Feale (IE_SH_23F010200), Brown Flesk (IE_SW_22B030250), Blackwater [Munster] (IE_SW_18B020075).

3.3.4 Other Designations

RAMSAR Sites

Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention. Wetlands are important ecosystems, which improve water quality, provide storm protection, flood mitigation, stabilise shorelines, maintain biodiversity, and provide natural products such as fish and shellfish. Ireland presently has 45no. RAMSAR sites. There is only one Ramsar site located within the study area – Tralee Bay (440). Relevant authorities are expected to manage their Ramsar Sites so as to maintain their ecological character and retain their essential functions and values for future generations.

Wildfowl Sanctuaries

Wildfowl sanctuaries are areas that have been excluded from the 'Open Season Order' so that game birds can rest and feed undisturbed. There are 68no. sanctuaries in the State⁵. Shooting of game birds is not allowed in these sanctuaries. The Lough Gill (WFS-28) wildfowl sanctuary is within the study area.

Nature Reserves

Other nature conservation designations are *Statutory Nature Reserves*, which are protected under Ministerial order.

Nature Reserves within the study area include the following:

- Tralee Bay – The site is of international importance for waterfowl especially the wintering populations of Brent geese. Pale-bellied Brent Geese spend from October to April in Ireland feeding on the Eelgrass and green seaweeds on the mudflats, and grazing in nearby fields and saltmarshes when this food is scarce. Birds of the bay include Turnstone, Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Redshank, Bar-tailed Godwit, Golden Plover and Curlew.

⁵ NPWS (2021).

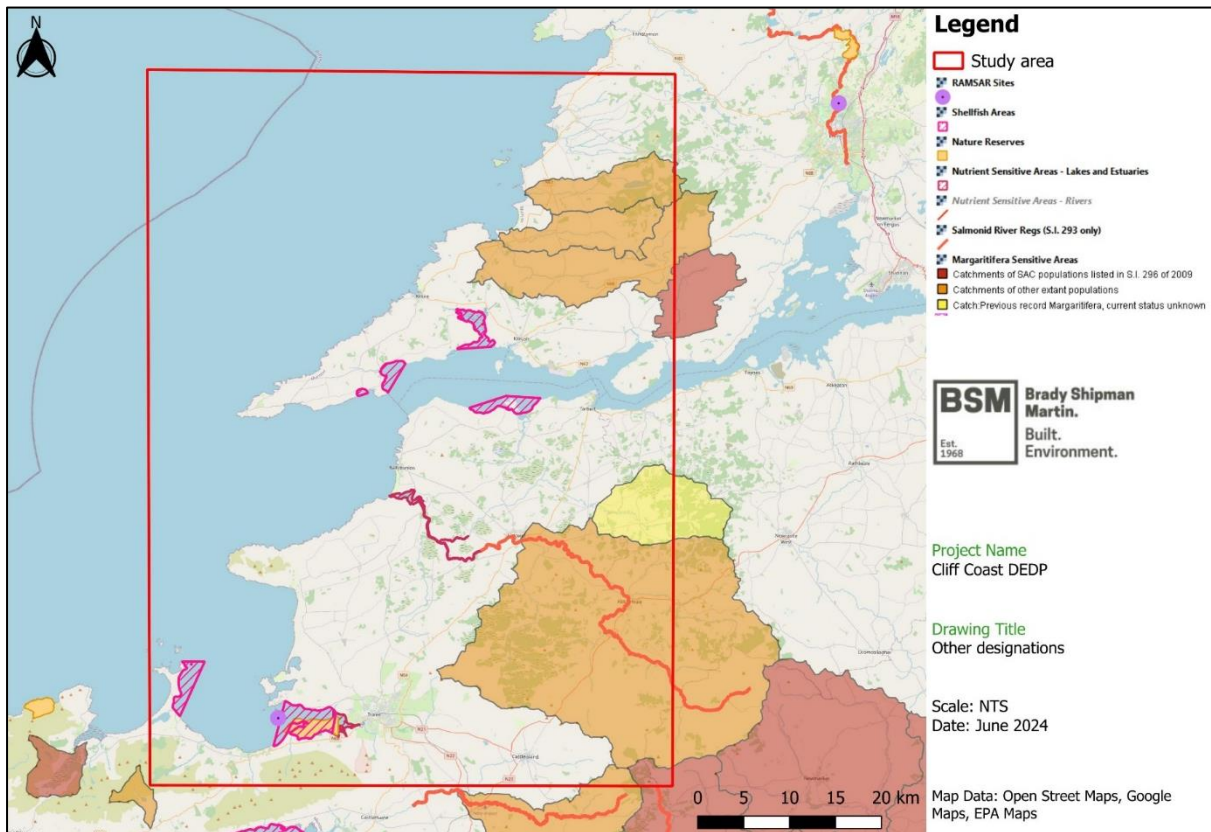
- Derrymore Island – The site includes a compound spit composed of a series of pebble beaches, one of the best spits in Ireland. It supports many rare plant communities mainly of a salt marsh type. Wigeon and Brent Geese graze the salt marsh on the eastern side of the spit. The white top of the spit is an important high tide roosting area.

Margaritifera Sensitive Area

- Freshwater pearl mussel is a globally threatened, long-lived and extremely sensitive species that can be impacted by many forms of pollution, particularly sediment and nutrient pollution and by hydrological and morphological changes, which may arise from developments, activities or changes in any part of the catchment. There are two species of freshwater pearl mussel in Ireland (*Margaritifera margaritifera* and *Margaritifera durrovensis*) and both are protected under Annex II and Annex V of the EU Habitats Directive. Within the study area the Margaritifera Sensitive Areas are found within the following – Annageeragh, Creegh, Doonbeg, Shannon-Cloon, Feale-Galey, Feale, Munster-Blackwater, Maine-BrownFlesk and Owenascaul.

Refer to **Figure 3.5**.

Figure 3.5 Other Designated Sites within study area and in the surrounding area



3.3.5 Potential for significant effects on Natura 2000 sites

The effects that could arise from the CCDEDP have been examined in the context of several factors that could potentially affect the integrity of any European site, see **Table 3.6** below.

Table 3.6 Potential for significant effects on designated sites in the potential Zone of Influence

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
European sites within the study area			
Magharee Islands SPA (site code 004125), within the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A014 Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) ■ A018 Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) ■ A045 Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) ■ A182 Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) ■ A193 Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) ■ A194 Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) ■ A195 Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12/10/2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	Yes
Tralee Bay Complex SPA (site code 004188), within the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A038 Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) ■ A046 Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) ■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) ■ A050 Wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>) ■ A052 Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) ■ A053 Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) ■ A054 Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) ■ A062 Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) ■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) ■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) ■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) ■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) ■ A142 Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) ■ A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) ■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) ■ A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) 	<p>risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) ■ A160 Curlew (<i>Numenius Arquata</i>) ■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) ■ A169 Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) ■ A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) ■ A182 Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) ■ A999 Wetlands <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 22 Apr 2014), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>		
Dingle Peninsula SPA (site code 004153), within the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A009 Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) ■ A103 Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) ■ A346 Chough (<i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12/10/2022) for each of the listed SCIs, the</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.		
Kerry Head SPA (site code 004189), within the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A009 Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) ■ A346 Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12/10/2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	Yes
Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (site code 004161), within the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A082 Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 23 Sep 2022), for each of the listed SCI's, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (site code 004077), within the study area	The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A017 Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) (breeding + wintering) ■ A038 Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) (wintering) ■ A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) (wintering) ■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) (wintering) ■ A050 Wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>) (wintering) ■ A052 Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) (wintering) ■ A054 Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) (wintering) ■ A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) (wintering) ■ A062 Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) (wintering) ■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) (wintering) ■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) (wintering) 	Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites. This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) (wintering) ■ A142 Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) (wintering) ■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) (wintering) ■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) (wintering) ■ A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) (wintering) ■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) (wintering) ■ A160 Curlew (<i>Numenius Arquata</i>) (wintering) ■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) (wintering) ■ A164 Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) (wintering) ■ A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) (wintering) ■ A999 Wetlands <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 17 September 2012), for each of the listed SCI's, the</p>		

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>		
<p>Mid-Clare Coast SPA (site code 004182), within the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A017 Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) ■ A045 Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) ■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) ■ A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) ■ A148 Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) ■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) ■ A169 Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) ■ A999 Wetlands <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 08 Sep 2014), for each of the listed SCI's, the Conservation Objective is</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.		
Illaunonearaun SPA (site code 004114), within the area of study	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A045 Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) <p>According to the first-order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12/10/2022), for each of the listed SCI's, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	Yes
Loop Head SPA (site code 004119) within the area of study	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) ■ A199 Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) <p>According to the first-order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12/10/2022), for each of the listed SCI's, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
Kerry Head Shoal SAC (site code 002263), Within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1170 Reefs <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 14 Oct 2013), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	Yes
Magharee Islands SAC (site code 002261), within the area of study	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1170 Reefs <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 13 Dec 2013), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	Yes
Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC (site code 002070), within the area of study	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1130 Estuaries ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1150 Coastal lagoons 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines ■ 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks ■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 1395 Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) ■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) ■ 2170 Dunes with <i>salix reepens ssp. argentea</i> (<i>Salix arenariae</i>) ■ 2190 Humid dune slacks ■ 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) 	<p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 11 Feb 2014), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>		
Mount Brandon SAC (site code 000375), within the study of area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1029 Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) ■ 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts ■ 1421 Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) ■ 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) ■ 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths ■ 6230 Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) ■ 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) ■ 8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) ■ 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation ■ 8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 06 Jul 2016), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>		
Slieve Mish Mountains SAC (site code 002185)	The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:	Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6985 Killarney Fern (<i>Vandenboschia speciosa</i>) ■ 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths ■ 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) ■ 8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) ■ 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation ■ 8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 17 Dec 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
<p>Ballyseedy Wood SAC (site code 002112), within the area of study</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 15 Dec 2021), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Lower River Shannon SAC (site code 002165) within the area of study</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1029 Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) ■ 1095 Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) ■ 1096 Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) ■ 1099 River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) ■ 1106 Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) (only in fresh water) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time ■ 1130 Estuaries ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1150 *Coastal lagoons ■ 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks ■ 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts ■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) ■ 1349 Bottlenose Dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) ■ 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation 		

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) ■ 91E0 *Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 07 August 2012), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>		
<p>Moanveanlagh Bog SAC (site code 002351), within the area of study</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 07 Dec 2015), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out		
Kilkee Reefs SAC (site code 002264), within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 06 Aug 2014), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	Yes
Tullagher Lough and Bog SAC (site code 002343), within the area of study	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 06 Dec 2016),</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out		
Carrowmore Dunes SAC (site code 002250), within the area of study	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1014 Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)* <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 04 March 2014), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	Yes
Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands	The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:	Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
SAC (site code 001021), within the area of study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1150 Coastal lagoons ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks ■ 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 07 Apr 2014), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	
Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC (site code 000332), within the area of study	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines ■ 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) ■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) ■ 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) ■ 2190 Humid dune slacks ■ 4030 European dry heaths <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 27 Jan 2017), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>		
<p>Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (site code 002170), within the area of study</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1029 Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) ■ 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) ■ 1095 Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) ■ 1096 Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) ■ 1099 River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) ■ 1103 Twait Shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) ■ 1106 Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) (only in fresh water) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the CCDEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1130 Estuaries ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks ■ 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) ■ 1421 Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) ■ 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation ■ 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles ■ 91E0 *Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) 		

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 91J0 *<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 31 July 2012), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>		
European sites within the zone of influence of the study area			
<p>Iveragh Peninsula SPA (site code 004154), c. 17.3 Km to the south-west of the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A009 Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) ■ A103 Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) ■ A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) ■ A199 Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) ■ A346 Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12/10/2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 17.3km to the south-west of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via Castlemaine Harbour. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
Castlemaine Harbour SPA (site code 004029) c. 3.8 km to the south-west of the study area	The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A001 Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) (wintering) ▪ A017 Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) (wintering) ▪ A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) (wintering) ▪ A050 Wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>) (wintering) ▪ A053 Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) (wintering) ▪ A054 Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) (wintering) ▪ A062 Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) (wintering) ▪ A065 Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) (wintering) 	Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites. This Natura 2000 Site is c. 3.8km to the south-west of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via Castlemaine Harbour. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) (wintering) ■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) (wintering) ■ A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) (wintering) ■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) (wintering) ■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) (wintering) ■ A164 Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) (wintering) ■ A169 Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) (wintering) ■ A346 Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) (non-breeding) ■ A999 Wetlands & Waterbirds <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 19 July 2011), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>		

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
Killarney National Park SPA (site code 004038) c. 15 Km south of the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A098 Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ■ A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12/10/2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 15km to the south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	No
Ballyallia Lough SPA (site code 004041) c. 16.2 Km to the north-east of the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A050 Wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>) ■ A051 Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) ■ A052 Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) ■ A053 Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) ■ A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) ■ A125 Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) ■ A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 16.2km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>12/10/2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>		
<p>Corofin Wetlands SPA (site code 004220) c. 10.8 Km to the north-east of the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A004 Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) ■ A038 Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) ■ A050 Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) ■ A052 Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) ■ A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12/10/2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 10.8km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Cliffs of Moher SPA (site code 004005) c. 3.5km to</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A009 Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
the north of the study area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) ■ A199 Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) ■ A200 Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) ■ A204 Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) ■ A346 Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12/10/2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed</p>	<p>risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 3.5km to the north of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via the coastal waters of Shannon Plume. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	
Inishmore SPA (site code 004152), c. 20.4km to the north of the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) ■ A194 Artic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) ■ A195 Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) ■ A199 Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12/10/2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 20.4km to the north of the study area and there is hydrological connectivity via the coastal waters of Shannon Plume. However, considering the distance to the site, significant dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur and upon reaching the sea any pollutants would be even further diluted and dissipated by the receiving waters. Therefore, there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed	objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.	
Castlemaine Harbour SAC (site code 000343) c. 3.8 km south-west of the study area	The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1095 Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) ■ 1099 River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) ■ 1106 Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) (only in fresh water) ■ 1130 Estuaries ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines ■ 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks ■ 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 1395 Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) ■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) 	Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites. This Natura 2000 Site is c. 3.8km to the south-west of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via Castlemaine Harbour. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") ■ 2130 * Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") ■ 2170 Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salix arenariae</i>) ■ 2190 Humid dune slacks ■ 91E0 * Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 19 July 2011), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>		
Lough Yganavan and Lough Nambrackdarrig SAC (site code 000370) c.	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1024 Kerry Slug (<i>Geomalacus maculosus</i>) 	Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
10.3 km to the south of the study area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2150 Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>)* ■ 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 03 Dec 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 10.3km to the south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	
Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy’s Reeks and Carragh River Catchment SAC (site code 000365) c. 15 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1024 Kerry Slug (<i>Geomalacus maculosus</i>) ■ 1029 Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) ■ 1065 Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) ■ 1095 Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) ■ 1096 Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) ■ 1099 River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 15km to the south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) ■ 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 1421 Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) ■ 1833 Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) ■ 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) ■ 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> ■ 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation ■ 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths ■ 5046 Killarney Shad <i>Alosa fallax killarnensis</i> 		

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 5130 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands ■ 6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> ■ 6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) ■ 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion ■ 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles ■ 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* ■ 91J0 <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles* <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 23 Oct 2017), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable</p>		

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out		
Sheheree (Ardagh) Bog SAC (site code 000382) c. 17.8 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 12 Nov 2015), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 17.8km to the south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	No
Askeaton Fen Complex SAC (site code 002279) c. 19.5 km to the east of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae ■ 7230 Alkaline fens <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 18 May 2018), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 19.5km to the east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out	objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.	
Barrigone SAC (site code 000432), c. 12.7 km to the east of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1065 Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) ■ 5130 <i>Juniperus Communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) ■ 8240 Limestone pavements <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 15 Feb 2019), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 12.7km to the east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	No
Knockanira House SAC (site code 002318), c.	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> 	Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
12.7 km to the east of the study area	According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 24 Jul 2018), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out	<p>risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 12.7km to the east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	
Newhall and Edenvale Complex SAC (site code 002091), c. 15.4 m to the east of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ■ 8310 Caves not open to the public <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 30 Jul 2018), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 15.4km to the east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	No
Pouladatig Cave SAC (site code 000037), c. 13.7 km to the east of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) ■ 8310 Caves not open to the public 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 24 Jul 2018), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 13.7km to the east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	
<p>Ballyallia Lake SAC (site code 000014), 16.3 km to the north-east of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 20 Nov 2017), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 16.3km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Toonagh Estate SAC (site code 002247), c. 14.1 Km to the north-east of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 31 Jul 2018), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 14.1km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out	pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.	
Dromore Woods and Loughs SAC (site code 000032), c. 17.4 Km to the north-east of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation ■ 6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels ■ 8240 Limestone pavements <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 25 Jun 2018), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 17.4km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	No
Old Farm Buildings, Ballymacrogan SAC (site code 002245), c. 16.3 Km	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) 	Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
to the north-east of the study area	According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 31 Jul 2018), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out	<p>risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 16.3km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	
Ballycullinan, Old Domestic Building SAC (site code 002246), c. 13.5 Km to the north-east of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 31 Jul 2018), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 13.5km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	No
Ballycullinan Lake SAC (site code 000016), c. 11.8 Km to the north-east of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 12 Jan 2018),</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out	This Natura 2000 Site is c. 11.8km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.	
East Burren Complex SAC (001926), c. 11.1 Km to the north-east of the study area	The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1065 Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) ■ 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. ■ 3180 Turloughs* ■ 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation ■ 4060 Alpine and Boreal Heaths ■ 5130 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands 	Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites. This Natura 2000 Site is c. 11.1km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) ■ 6510 Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) ■ 7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion <i>davallianae</i>* ■ 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)* ■ 7230 Alkaline fens ■ 8240 Limestone pavements* ■ 8310 Caves not open to the public ■ 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 18 Jan 2022), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable</p>		

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out		
Ballyogan Lough SAC (site code 000019) c.19.9 km to the north-east of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae* ■ 8240 Limestone pavements* <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 27 Feb 2024), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 19.9km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	No
Moneen Mountain SAC (site code 000054), c. 11.6 Km to the north-east of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1065 Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) ■ 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) ■ 3180 Turloughs* ■ 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths ■ 5130 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 11.6km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) ■ 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)* ■ 8240 Limestone pavements <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 20 Dec 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>		
<p>Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex SAC (site code 000020), c. 19 Km to the north of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks ■ 1395 Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) ■ 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation ■ 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 19km to the north of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 5130 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>) (*important orchid sites) ■ 6510 Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) ■ 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) ■ 8240 Limestone pavements ■ 8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 21 May 2014), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>		
Ballyteige (Clare) SAC (site code 000994), c.	The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:	Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
13.7 km to the north of the study area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 29 Oct 2021), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 13.7km to the north of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	
Inisheer Island SAC (site code 001275), c. 16.2 Km to the north of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1150 Coastal lagoons ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>) (*important orchid sites) ■ 6510 Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) ■ 8240 Limestone pavements <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 03 Sep 2014), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 16.2km to the north of the study area and there is hydrological connectivity via the coastal waters of Shannon Plume. However, considering the distance to the site, significant dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur and upon reaching the sea any pollutants would be even further diluted and dissipated by the receiving waters. Therefore, there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out		
Inishmaan Island SAC (site code 000212), c. 18.5 Km to the north of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks ■ 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts ■ 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) ■ 21A0 Machairs (* in Ireland) ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) ■ 6510 Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) ■ 8240 Limestone pavements 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 18.5km to the north of the study area and there is hydrological connectivity via the coastal waters of Shannon Plume. However, considering the distance to the site, significant dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur and upon reaching the sea any pollutants would be even further diluted and dissipated by the receiving waters. Therefore, there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 08 Dec 2014), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>		
<p>Inishmore Island SAC (site code 000213), c. 19 km to the north of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1014 Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ■ 1150 Coastal lagoons ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks ■ 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts ■ 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) ■ 2170 Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) ■ 2190 Humid dune slacks 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 19km to the north of the study area and there is hydrological connectivity via the coastal waters of Shannon Plume. However, considering the distance to the site, significant dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur and upon reaching the sea any pollutants would be even further diluted and dissipated by the receiving waters. Therefore, there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 21A0 Machairs (* in Ireland) ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) ■ 6510 Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>sanguisorba officinalis</i>) ■ 8240 Limestone pavements ■ 8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 20 Jan 2015), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>		
<p>Inagh River Estuary SAC (site code 000036) c. 3.9 km to the north of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the CCDEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of June 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 27 Jan 2017), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 3.9km to the north of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via the coastal waters of Shannon Plume and Liscannor Bay. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives & initiatives, catalyst projects, enablers and development outcome proposed under the CCDEDP.</p>	

3.4 Screening for Appropriate Assessment – Summary

According to the Guidance published by the European Commission (*Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*, 21st November 2018) the “integrity of a site” relates to the site’s conservation objectives. For example, it is possible that a plan or project will adversely affect the site only in a visual sense or only affect habitat types or species other than those listed in Annex I or Annex II. In such cases, the effects do not amount to an adverse effect for the purposes of Article 6(3). If none of the habitat types or species for which the site has been designated is significantly affected, then the site’s integrity cannot be considered to be adversely affected.

In addition, plans or projects or applications for developments which have “no appreciable effect” on the protected site are excluded from the requirement to proceed to appropriate assessment⁶ (Opinion of Advocate General Sharpston in *Sweetman*, para. 48).

In other words, if, following Screening, there is a possibility of there being a significant effect on a European site, this will generate the need for an appropriate assessment for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

European sites with no connection/pathway to the CCDEDP area can be screened out (Appropriate Assessment Screening) and they are not considered any further in this report. By virtue of their locations, and the presence of potential pathways, of the 54 European sites listed in **Table 3.1** there is the possibility of there being a significant effect on a total of 28 sites (these are listed in **Table 3.6**), and this results in a requirement for an appropriate assessment for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

There is potential for significant effects (at least, the potential for significant effects cannot be excluded) as a result of:

- Habitat loss and/or fragmentation;
- Impacts to habitat structure;
- Disturbance to species of conservation concern;
- Mortality to species (such as roadkill);
- Noise pollution;
- Emissions to air;
- Emissions to water.

Despite its positive intent there is the possibility that the implementation of certain of the actions listed in the CCDEDP could result in significant effects on 28 European sites. Applying the precautionary principle therefore, and in accordance with Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive, Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required.

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A62011CC0258>

4 Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

4.1 Introduction

As set out in Section 3.4 the implementation of the CCDEDP has the potential to impact on up to 28no. European sites. Given this conclusion, which is based on the Precautionary Principle, it is necessary to undertake Appropriate Assessment.

At this stage it is necessary to determine whether the CCDEDP would result in *significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any European site* with respect to the site's structure, function, and/or conservation objectives.

These potential adverse effects may arise either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

The CCDEDP, once implemented, will ensure that all existing and future tourism projects and initiatives for the Cliff Coast DEDP are planned, developed and managed in a sustainable and integrated manner. It is driven by local, regional, national, European and International plans and policy.

Nevertheless, as set out in the preceding sections, there is the potential that the implementation of certain elements of the CCDEDP could led to impacts on these European sites. This is particularly the case for actions that will result in construction or other development, and/or their ancillary infrastructure.

There is the possibility of reduction of habitat area, or loss of habitat within European sites in the Zone of Influence as a result of the implementation of certain actions within the CCDEDP. Any development works, no matter how minor, adjacent to watercourses (such as those associated with the River Feale, River Maine or along the coast) have the potential to cause habitat loss or a reduction in habitat / water quality, with indirect effects on the European sites themselves. Similarly works within any European sites could lead to fragmentation (breakup) of habitats, resulting in impacts on site integrity or cause degradation to, any habitats associated with any European site.

There is the possibility of disturbance to key species arising as a result of the implementation of certain actions within the CCDEDP. The Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European sites are sensitive to disturbance from noise, light, vibration and other construction activities including inappropriately timed works, as well as from recreational and amenity activity (human disturbance). Rivers and estuarine sites such as the Lower River Shannon SAC, River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA, Dingle Peninsula SPA, Kerry Head SPA, Magharee Islands SAC & SPA, Tralee Bay Complex SPA, Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC etc. are prone to contamination risk due to surface water runoff during construction. Any works near or within these sensitive sites could lead to disturbance of these species.

There is the possibility of changes to key indicators of conservation value arising as a result of the implementation of the CCDEDP. This could arise via pollution, siltation or other run-off to watercourses that could ultimately discharge to the European sites. Any pollution-related impacts on the QIs/SCIs of any European site could adversely affect the integrity of the sites.

4.2 Potential impacts from the CCDEDP, including in-combination effects

4.2.1 Is the CCDEDP necessary for the management of European sites?

As set out in the Habitats Directive (Article 6(3)), plans that are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site do not require Appropriate Assessment. Management in this context means management for nature conservation and the qualifying interests of the European site, specifically the conservation objectives – to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the habitats and species for which the site has been selected.

While the CCDEDP has been developed with sustainability as core elements its purpose is to deliver and promote enhanced tourism experience within North Kerry and West Clare. Therefore, the CCDEDP is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

4.2.2 Are there elements of the CCDEDP with potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites

The elements/actions of the CCDEDP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites during construction and operational phase. Any development of existing and new infrastructure located within the potential zone of influence of any European site has the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, for example via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water and, potentially, disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites. During the operational phase, there is potential for uncertain effects due to the new developments and their ancillary infrastructure and increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.

The CCDEDP, once implemented, is expected to enhance the visitor experience, promote tourism and support economic growth. Despite its positive intent, the CCDEDP has the potential to give rise to effects on European sites within its zone of influence under the following scenarios:

- Any Action that could directly or indirectly affect water quality, flow and/or morphology and potentially affect the European sites, protected habitats and species;
- Any Action that could directly or indirectly increase risk of flooding and potentially affect the European sites, protected habitats and species;
- Any Action that could directly or indirectly affect groundwater quality or supply and potentially affect the European sites, protected habitats and species;
- Any Action that could directly or indirectly affect air quality due to emissions and affect the European sites, protected habitats and species;
- Any risk of habitat loss, fragmentation or degradation to European sites or network supporting European sites, protected habitats and species, including via increased visitor numbers and human activity;
- Any potential for a risk of direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species, e.g. development at coastal sites /along rivers, noise disturbance due to construction, light pollution etc.;
- Any Action that could risk a reduction in ecological connectivity between European sites and/or the ecological networks supporting them.

4.2.3 Appraisal of the of the Strategic Objectives of the Cliff Coast Destination & Experience Development Plan

The finding of the environmental assessment of the overall Vision and Strategic Objectives of the CCDEDP is presented in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1 Appraisal of the Strategic Objectives of the Draft CCDEDP

Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
<p>Vision</p> <p>The Destination Vision (10 year vision) for CCDEDP is:</p> <p><i>“The Cliff Coast is recognised as a leader in sustainable tourism where visitors clearly understand their role in contributing to community wellbeing and responsible tourism. The striking coastline is renowned for its cliff top walks and soul stirring views of a cliff coast brought alive through its vibrant communities and the opportunity to sample the best of local culture and traditional music. It is a leading family destination where the visitor has access to great indoor attractions and outdoor activities. The quality of the outdoor activity product and coastal tourism adventure encourages slow adventure exploration with greenways acting as the link between the land and water adventure</i></p>	<p>This vision statement sets an overall context for destination experience and tourism in North Kerry and West Clare. This will support and underpin the local tourism economy, sustainable tourism and the quality of tourism. No specific projects are associated with the statement, and therefore no negative or uncertain environmental effects arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.</p>	<p>No</p>

Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
<p><i>clusters in Tralee Bay and West Clare. Visitors have access to world class coastal tourism and marine experiences from dolphin watching to water activities linking our islands and coastal communities."</i></p>		
<p>RTDS Strategic Objective 1: Grow the year-round appeal of the Wild Atlantic Way domestically and internationally ensuring we attract and disperse high value visitors into and throughout the region.</p>		
<p>1.1 Address the challenge of the area perceived as a transient destination in the international marketplace located between more mature tourism destinations.</p>	<p>This initiative will result in positive effects on population and human health by provision of enhanced visitor experience.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, development of any new and existing developments/ projects to address the challenge, might result in negative or uncertain environmental effect for biodiversity and Natura 2000 Sites, that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coastal/transitional waters. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management. The development could also potentially result in disturbance due to an increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>1.2 Develop the Cliff Coast as an activity destination providing visitors with access to great land and water based experiences.</p>	<p>This initiative will result in positive effects on population and human health by provision of enhanced visitor experience.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, this initiative could have the potential to result in negative or uncertain environmental effect on biodiversity and Natura 2000 Sites. The development of new and existing land and water based activities might result in negative environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
	banks of rivers and streams or along the coast/transitional waters. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.	
1.3 Maximise the potential of Tralee as a destination day and accommodation hub for the Cliff Coast.	The development of existing and new accommodation infrastructure presents potential uncertain environmental effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. This would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management which has potential to effect the receiving environment.	Yes
1.4 Create destination clusters for water adventure activities building on the existing potential of Tralee Bay and West Clare.	In the absence of mitigation, this initiative could have the potential to result in negative or uncertain effects on European sites within the Zone of Influence. The development of new and existing water based activities might result in negative environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast/transitional waters. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.	Yes
1.5 Develop cliffs and coastal trails experiences to disperse visitors across the Cliff Coast and prepare for the future development of the Wild Atlantic Way Coastal Walk.	<p>The development of new and existing greenways, trails and walking routes, has the potential to contribute to sustainable mobility, reduction in emissions and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations.</p> <p>The development of these projects, however, may result in uncertain effects on biodiversity and Natura 2000 sites that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have the potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. These works could also potentially result in disturbance due to an increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	Yes

Cliff Coast Draft Destination and Experience Development Plan
Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement

Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
1.6 Examine how the destination will grow its volume of available accommodation stock to attract and retain visitors and ensure local economic impact from tourism.	The development of existing and new accommodation infrastructure presents potential uncertain environmental effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. This would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management which has potential to effect the receiving environment.	Yes
1.7 Develop the opportunity for the Cliff Coast to be recognised internationally for the quality and diversity of its marine tourism activities. Leveraging unique destination opportunities such as Dolphin Watching.	In the absence of mitigation, the initiative could have the potential to result in negative or uncertain effects on biodiversity and Natura 2000 Sites. The development of new and existing marine tourism activities might result in negative environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure potentially will be located in ecologically and visually sensitive marine areas. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species.	Yes
RTDS Strategic Objective 2: Raise the international profile of the Northern half of the Wild Atlantic Way to increase visitation and revenue.	In the absence of mitigation, the initiative could have the potential to result in negative or uncertain effects on biodiversity and Natura 2000 Sites. Increased visitation could result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in sensitive areas. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.	Yes
RTDS Strategic Objective 3: Increase tourism revenue, visitor dispersion and season extension across the Southern half of the Wild Atlantic Way		
3.1 Prepare the tourism industry and local communities for future opportunities provided by the capital investment in Greenways.	In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	Yes

Cliff Coast Draft Destination and Experience Development Plan
Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement

Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
<p>3.2 Examine the enhancement of existing walking and cycling trails and regenerate them to become refreshed trails experiences that enable the visitor explore the destination.</p>	<p>The development of new and existing greenways, trails and walking and cycling routes, including those within and between existing destinations, has the potential to contribute to sustainable mobility, reduction in emissions and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations.</p> <p>The development of these projects, however, may result in uncertain effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>3.3 Develop the capacity of existing attractions to attract and disperse visitors across the Cliff Coast through enhancement of the visitor experience and repurposing of key sites to act as a catalyst for destination development.</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, the increase in capacity presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on European sites within the Zone of Influence to arise from the use of these spaces and/or provision of ancillary infrastructure. This would also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>3.4 Build on thematic and product linkages between North Kerry and West Clare to grow the number of saleable day time experiences available through the destination e.g. maritime, rural, food, culture and activities.</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, the new experience development presents a variety of potentially uncertain effects on European sites within the Zone of Influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Cliff Coast Draft Destination and Experience Development Plan
Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement

Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
3.5 Grow the number of saleable visitor experiences (B2B and B2C) accessible across the destination supported by new approaches to packaging.	In the absence of mitigation, the new experience development presents a variety of potentially uncertain effects on European sites within the Zone of Influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	Yes
3.6 Examine how to develop authentic local community experiences to disperse visitors across the destination and meet local people through culture and heritage experiences.	This initiative will result in positive effects on population and human health by provision of enhanced visitor experience. No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
RTDS Strategic Objective 4: Protect the authenticity and “wildness” of the Wild Atlantic Way		
4.1 Protect, sustain and enhance the natural environment of the CCDEDP area through the creation of new sustainable visitor experiences.	No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
4.2 Develop the international profile of the destination through its credibility as a responsible tourism area and the potential for ‘green’ experience innovation immersing visitors in responsible tourism experiences.	No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No

Cliff Coast Draft Destination and Experience Development Plan
Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement

Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
4.3 Examine new opportunities throughout the Cliff Coast to build on world class sustainability and marine bio experiences e.g. dolphin watching.	In the absence of mitigation, the initiative could have the potential to result in negative or uncertain effects on biodiversity and European sites within the Zone of Influence. The development of new and existing marine tourism activities might result in negative environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure potentially will be located in ecologically and visually sensitive marine areas. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species.	Yes
RTDS Strategic Objective 5: Enable and assist the industry to grow its capacity and capability so that it can thrive over the period of this strategy		
5.1 Develop the capacity of the tourism industry to develop its online presence and commercial approach to online activity.	This objective will result in positive effects on population and human health by provision of enhanced visitor experience. No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
5.2 Develop a new tourism clusters approach building on established networks and creating new tourism networks where none exist.	In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on European sites within the Zone of Influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast and could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	Yes
5.3 Build on the association of North Kerry as a family destination and develop the profile to attract domestic and international visitors.	The new future development presents potential uncertain environmental effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. This would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management which has potential to effect the receiving environment. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	Yes
5.4 Work with the tourism industry to improve its capacity to deliver new and enhanced	The development of new and existing infrastructure presents potential uncertain environmental effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. This would also require	Yes

Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
experiences aligned with the destination vision.	provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management which has potential to effect the receiving environment. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	
5.5 Develop the cultural opportunity across the Cliff Coast to create vibrant evening economy hubs for visitors.	In the absence of mitigation, the new development presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on European sites within the Zone of Influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast and could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	Yes
RTDS Strategic Objective 6: Foster strong coalitions of industry and stakeholders with a common purpose in creating flourishing destinations and thriving communities.		
6.1 Work with the OPW to enhance the visitor experience at key sites within the Cliff Coast.	This objective will promote collaboration with OPW, support efficient delivery of tourism experiences across a range of sites and have positive effect on population and human health. No specific projects are associated with the statement, and therefore no negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
6.2 Ensure tourism is integrated as a key element of future strategic development sites across North Kerry and West Clare to include future urban and rural regeneration activity.	No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
6.3 Grow the number of tourism enterprises operating in the destination supported by an environment that encourages new levels of tourism entrepreneurship.	No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No

Cliff Coast Draft Destination and Experience Development Plan
Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement

Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
6.4 Develop sustainable transport options to engage with the Cliff Coast and new approaches to visitor management with sustainability at the core.	In the absence of mitigation, the development of transport options presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on European sites within the Zone of Influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast and could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	Yes

4.2.4 Appraisal of the Catalyst Projects and Destination Enablers listed within the Cliff Coast Destination & Experience Development Plan

The CCDEDP includes a list of catalyst projects and actions which will be delivered to support the above strategic objectives and initiatives of the DEDP. The environmental assessment of the effects of the action plan and catalyst projects is detailed in **Table 4.2** below.

The projects/actions where there is a requirement for development of existing and new infrastructure might also give rise to uncertain environmental effects on other environmental themes and SEOs that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.

Where potential negative or uncertain effects on European sites have been identified appropriate mitigation has been provided. See **Section 4.4** of this Report.

Table 4.2 Appraisal of the Action Plan of the CCDEDP

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
CATALYST PROJECTS				
CATALYST PROJECT 1 : Cliff Coast Water Adventure Hub				
1	Cliff Coast Water Adventure Hubs Masterplan - Tralee Bay and West Clare	<p>Develop a masterplan approach to develop the coastal tourism and water activity opportunity for the Cliff Coast. The masterplan will identify the requirements to leverage planned investment in Tralee Bay and West Clare and establish the additional infrastructure investment requirements to establish the destination as nationally recognised centre for water adventure and coastal tourism activity. It will also establish the local industry capacity building requirements to develop the Cliff Coast activity experience clusters.</p> <p>Assess the feasibility of developing the adventure and activity tourism potential of the Tralee Bay area, in a sustainable manner and with opportunities for accessible and 'Tourism for All' initiatives. Tourism opportunities will be maximised through the delivery of the objectives of the Tralee Urban Regeneration Project (URDF), the Fenit Village Design Master Plan, Platforms for Growth, TII Greenway Strategy and other funded projects.</p> <p>Explore the potential to develop a sustainable lighthouse experience in Fenit.</p> <p>The assessment of the West Clare proposition will examine the development of a coastal tourism activity cluster maximising opportunities through Platforms for Growth, linking to future Greenway investment, enhancing existing marine tourism amenities, local activity hubs and experiences. It will also identify future investment priorities to enable coastal tourism activity e.g slipways,</p>	<p>This project will enhance tourism opportunities for the county and have positive effect on population and human health.</p> <p>In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potential uncertain effects on European sites within the Zone of Influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast and could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>	Yes

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		sea water pools and additional water access infrastructure. The immediate areas of focus will include Kilkee, Kilrush, Cappagh and Carrigaholt.		
CATALYST PROJECT 2: Greenways				
2	Greenways - Clare	<p>Maximise the tourism potential of planned and future greenway investment West Clare in a sustainable manner and examine opportunities to link the route to adjoining communities and facilities. Greenway development will be in line with DTTAS National Greenway Strategy and Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways and will be subject to fund sourcing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the next phases of the West Clare Greenway in accordance with the development timeline. This will include the progression of the concept, feasibility and option selection phases. • Develop the town based trail head experiences in Kilkee and Kilrush in preparation for the launch of initial phase of the West Clare Greenway. • Complete the Greenway route in Miltown Malbay and examine future opportunities to link the route to adjoining communities and facilities. 	<p>The development of new and existing greenways, including those within and between existing destinations, has the potential to contribute to sustainable mobility, reduction in emissions and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations.</p> <p>The development of these projects, however, might result in negative environmental effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management. The development of these projects could also potentially result in disturbance</p>	Yes
3	Greenways - Kerry	<p>Maximise the tourism potential of the county's greenways in a sustainable manner and examine opportunities to link the route to adjoining communities and facilities. Greenway development will be in line with DTTAS National Greenway Strategy and Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways and will be subject to fund sourcing.</p> <p>Maximise the marketing potential to promote the Kingdom of Kerry Greenways to both domestic and international visitors.</p>		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		<p>Complete the Abbeyfeale-Listowel route and Tralee-Fenit route of the Greenway supported by the completion of the trail head / facilities and Interpretation Plan implemented.</p> <p>Progress the concept, feasibility and option selection phases of a Tralee-Listowel Greenway. Undertake the feasibility analysis of connecting the Kerry Greenways to the Limerick Greenway.</p>	<p>due to an increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	
4	Greenway Communities Capacity Building	Undertake sustained local capacity building development programmes among the Greenways communities introducing visitors to local community experiences and prompting consideration of new associated commercial development opportunities.		
5	Greenway Visitor Experience	Undertake an Interpretation, Wayfinding and Amenities scheme for each greenway project to deliver a consistent visitor experience across the destination.		
CATALYST PROJECT 3: Developing Visitor Hubs in Key Towns				
6	Developing Tralee – Destination Town	Develop Tralee as a Destination Town and evening economy hub in a sustainable manner, to maximise its potential as an accommodation centre and exploration base for North Kerry area through the delivery of the Destination Town Tralee Project, the Tralee Urban Regeneration Project (URDF) and continued work on creating a safe and thriving location at night for all.	<p>The development of these projects might result in negative environmental effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the harbour/coast. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management. The development of</p>	<p>Yes</p>
7	Developing Tralee – Destination Town	Explore the feasibility of developing Tralee Town Square as a year-round all-weather outdoor amenity space.		
8	Developing Listowel	Prioritise activity and cultural tourism as a sustainable key economic driver and growth sector for Listowel and North Kerry through the delivery of the Listowel Rural Regeneration Project (RRDF). Maximise the potential of the Greenway in order to enhance the attractiveness of the town as a slow tourism destination. Explore the re-establishment of the Town Square as the cultural heart and economic		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		centre of Listowel and the positioning of the town as a hub for activity and cultural tourism in North Kerry.	these projects could also potentially result in disturbance due to an increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.	
9	Developing Listowel	Examine the requirements to link Listowel town centre to the town park and Greenway trailhead/ facilities, through enhanced visitor orientation.		
10	Developing Listowel	Continue to support the local business and community sector to maximise the tourism potential of the Greenway including training and marketing resources sharing.		
11	Developing Listowel	Develop the number of literary and cultural tourism experiences in Listowel that include St John's Theatre, Kerry Writers Museum and examination of the feasibility of a daytime cultural experience linked to the areas associations with renowned writers.		
12	Developing Ballybunion	Progress the actions of the Ballybunion Development Plan, work on developing the town in a sustainable manner and as a Universal Access tourism destination and deliver a shared-beach facility for water-based activities under Platforms for Growth.		
13	Developing Ballybunion	Examine the opportunity to develop a shop front scheme for Ballybunion adopting a coherent coastal town presentation approach.		
14	Developing Ballybunion	Examine the requirements to undertake remediation works to the Ballybunion Cliff Walk.		
15	Developing Ballyheigue	Assess the feasibility of developing Ballyheigue's potential as a sustainable tourism hub for North Kerry focused on coastal tourism its opportunity to develop as an exploration base for walkers and hikers, given its key location between the North Kerry Way and the Shannon Way. Examine the future requirements for a shared-beach facility for Ballyheigue Beach and explore funding opportunities.		
16	Developing Kilkee	Examine the requirements to develop extended Cliff Walks around Kilkee to Loop Head and Poulnasherry Bay, delivered in phases.		
17	Developing Kilkee	Maximise the local tourism opportunity through the development of the Platforms for Growth Facilities Centre in Kilkee as the basis for		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		developing year round outdoor recreation activity and local saleable experiences.		
18	Developing Kilkee	Develop Kilkee as a Universal Access tourism destination activated through the development of a Universal Access Tourism plan to engage the tourism industry, local community and agencies to contribute to the delivery of the vision.		
19	Developing Kilrush	Implement the priority actions in the Kilrush Sustainability Plan and Kilrush Tourism Strategy contributing to the vision to become Ireland's most sustainable town and great place to live and visit. The action plan focus will also align with the guidance of Fáilte Ireland destination town guidelines and link to the destination development focus of the DEDP.		
20	Developing Kilrush	Deliver the link between Vandeleur Gardens to the Kilrush Marina via Coillte forest lands with the further integration of existing and future walking and heritage trails around Kilrush to develop an integrated town experience and encourage further exploration of the town by visitors. A programme of local community and tourism industry capacity building will be delivered to develop saleable visitor experiences that motivate the visitor to explore the town and grow the ability of ancillary services such as retail benefit from the visitor economy.		
21	Developing Kilrush	Develop Kilrush as a cycling trail hub supported by satellite hubs such as Kilkee, Kilbaha and Miltown Malbay. This will include the development of a local business and community capacity to deliver supporting services and cycling experiences to contribute to the development of the town as a cycling town.		
22	Developing the Night-time Economy	Grow the range and quality of evening time experiences within Cliff Coast visitor hubs and local communities.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
23	Developing the Night-time Economy	Examine the feasibility of developing niche evening time events at key OPW sites across the Cliff Coast.		
CATALYST PROJECT 4: Beach Management Facilities				
24	Blue Flag Beaches	Undertake an audit of the visitor services and facilities (e.g. parking, accessibility) required in all Cliff Coast destination Blue Flag beaches as a guide for sustainable tourism planning across the destination.	The development of these projects might result in negative environmental effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the coastal and transitional waters. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management. The development of these projects could also potentially result in disturbance due to an increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.	Yes
25	Platforms for Growth	Develop the shared-beach and water-based activity centres in Ballybunion, Fenit and Kilkee under the Platforms for Growth investment. Support the development of the centres with the appropriate training and capacity building.		
CATALYST PROJECT 5: Developing Trails				
26	Cliffs and Coastal Walks	Develop a master planning approach to map the requirements to develop an integrated destination Cliffs and Coastal Walk linking accessible cliff trails and walks across North Kerry and Loop Head Peninsula aligned with the proposed Wild Atlantic Way Coastal Walk project.	The development of new and existing greenways, trails, walking and cycling routes, has the potential to contribute to sustainable mobility, reduction in emissions and a better management of	Yes

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
27	Cliffs and Coastal Walks	Examine the requirements to develop new visitor experiences linked to the Cliffs and Coastal Walks examining opportunities such as environmentally sensitive placemaking eco-art trails, wellbeing, sunset and sunrise experiences.	movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations.	
28	Destination Cycle & Walking Trails	Develop the opportunity around the Eurovelo route as the basis for growing the reach of local cycling trails and the development of cycling itineraries associated with local cycling hubs and communities.	The development of these projects, however, may result in uncertain effects on biodiversity and Natura 2000 sites that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have the potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. These works could also potentially result in disturbance due to an increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.	
29	Destination Cycle & Walking Trails	Examine the potential to repurpose the former Shannon Cycle Route in West Clare and North Kerry to create a new cycling trail across the destination.		
30	Loop Head Trail	Explore the potential to redevelop the Loop Head Trail to become a Loop Head Experience Route linking unique Loop Head experiences through slow tourism experiences and introducing visitor to the uniqueness of peninsula life.		
31	Clare Walking Trails	Review and assess the quality of existing trails in the area and examine their potential for upgrade and enhancement to provide access to a range of walking trail options to explore local communities. This will also include the examination of linking rural communities through future infrastructure investment or thematic linkages i.e. linking Doonbeg, Miltown Malbay, Cooraclare trails with Loop Head, Kilrush.		
32	Kerry Cycle & Walking Trails	Review and assess trails in the area and examine potential to upgrade and enhance existing trails including The Shannon Way and North Kerry Way.		
33	Pilgrim Way Trail	Undertake a Feasibility Study for the Pilgrim Way and the incorporation of key sites with the Cliff Coast to include sites such as Rattoo tower, Abbeydorney Abbey and Ardfert Cathedral. The study will examine potential linkages to sites in West Clare such as Scatterry Island and Holy Wells sites across the destination.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
34	Slieve Callen Trails	Examine the requirements to develop off road cycling and walkway trails at Slieve Callen.		
35	Kerry Trails Development	Support the role of the RRO/ Trails and Walks officer for North Kerry. Support the roll out of GPS mapping of walks for North Kerry and the usage of the Kerry Trails Map		
CATALYST PROJECT 6: Developing Destination Attractions				
36	Loop Head Lighthouse Masterplan	Develop and implement the masterplan for the Loop Head Lighthouse site to maximise the sites opportunity to become a catalyst for sustainable tourism development activity across the destination.	<p>This project will enhance tourism opportunities for the county and have positive effect on population and human health.</p> <p>In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potential uncertain effects on European sites within the Zone of Influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These works could also potentially result in disturbance due to an increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	Yes
37	Vandeleur Gardens Commercial Development Plan	Develop and implement a commercial plan to support the investment in Vandeleur Gardens, expansion of visitor experiences, site usage and links to other attractions in the destination.		
38	Blennerville Heritage and Activity Centre	Support the upgrade of Blennerville Windmill, maximising its potential as a sustainable tourism attraction and exploring the feasibility of connecting it to existing greenways/trails and providing facilities for users.		
39	Scattery Island	Develop the potential of Scattery Island as an exemplar sustainable visitor attraction through a new vision for the visitor experience and a planned approach to developing a compelling visitor experience integrating all aspects of the Scattery Island experience. A shared visitor experience development plan and attraction vision and roadmap will be developed linked to managed sustainable visitor growth and the identification of future investment requirements.		
40	Scattery Island	Develop a new Scattery Island interpretative plan and undertake a Biodiversity Plan in 2024 for the island.		
41	Scattery Island	Develop a Scattery Island conservation management plan. Undertake a hen harrier management plan for the island in 2023.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
42	Visitor Attractions Experience Development	Undertake an audit of commercial and community led visitor attractions in North Kerry and West Clare examining the requirements to improve the visitor experience to attract and appeal to multigenerational audiences. The audit should include training and capacity building requirements supported by a programme of training to address key gaps, together with examining the feasibility of integrating niche destination experiences into existing visitor sites e.g. potential Rose of Tralee cultural experience, Marconi Story.		
CATALYST PROJECT 7: Developing Digital Capacity				
43	Industry Digital Capacity	Undertake a digital audit of the Cliff Coast tourism industry focused on existing attractions, activities and accommodation. Identify the priority actions required to provide a training and capacity building programme and businesses for inclusion in Digital that Delivers programme activity. Work with other enterprise / training and education agencies to accelerate the digital capacity of the tourism industry and provide sustained training supports to advance their skillset.	No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
CATALYST PROJECT 8: Accommodation Growth				
44	Accommodation Development	Work on the outputs of the destination accommodation audit and identify accommodation development opportunity sites to attract private sector investment in accommodation across the Cliff Coast destination.	This project will enhance tourism opportunities for the county and have positive effect on population and human health.	Yes
45	Attracting Accommodation Investment	Develop a dedicated accommodation growth programme and advisory supports to attract and work with the private sector to invest in accommodation across North Kerry and West Clare.	In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing accommodation presents a variety of potential uncertain effects on European sites within the Zone of Influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.	
46	Accommodation Development	Undertake a review to develop camper van sites in less trafficked rural areas to disperse visitors into rural communities linked to activities such as Greenways and Blueway's.		
CATALYST PROJECT 9: Transport Connectivity				

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
47	Transport Plan	Undertake an audit and review of existing transport access into and around the destination as the basis for the creation of an initial pilot programme to increase transport connectivity.	In the absence of mitigation, the development of transport options presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on European sites within the Zone of Influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast and could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	Yes
48	Smart Plan	Examine the opportunities to link Cliff Coast communities through improved public transport using Local Link as a model for sustainable transport for visitors.		
49	Sustainable Transport	Support the development of the Tralee Mobility Project as a sustainable means of transport for visitors and locals		
50	Ferry Transport	Maintain and if feasible, sustainably improve the ferry service to incorporate an experience for visitors, without significant adverse effects on the environment of the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. This ferry service plays a critical role in connecting West Clare & North Kerry keeping the link and route along the Wild Atlantic Way and will play an important part in the future connectivity of Greenway developments in Limerick, Kerry & Clare and future developments in improving opportunities for creating cycle loops. – Maintain ferry terminal visitor facilities as the terminals represent exit and entry points and are important ‘touch-points’ in the visitor experience.		
ENABLING & DESTINATION PROJECTS				
51	Lighthouse and Coastal Lights Experience Journey	Develop a Cliff Coast Lighthouse Experience Trail accessible by water, bike and hike with the lighthouse as the core experience while introducing other sites such as castles and defence batteries linked to the core Lighthouse elements at Loop Head, Scattery Island and Fenit.	In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potential uncertain effects on European sites within the Zone of Influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.	Yes
52	Spanish Armada Story	Undertake a feasibility analysis with the Irish Armada Network to identify historically accurate visitor experiences and trails linked to the Cliff Coast, from Tralee, Banna Beach, Scattery Island, Doonbeg, Quilty, and Spanish Point. Develop a programme of seasonal experiences around the story of the Armada linked to local visitor attractions e.g. the storms of the Armada experience at Loop Head.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
53	Spanish Armada Story	Examine the potential for existing visitor attractions such as Loop Head Lighthouse to incorporate VR/AR interpretation of the Armada journey.		
54	Castle Visitor Experiences	Undertake a review of the requirements to enhance the visitor experience at Carrigafoyle Castle.		
55	Castle Visitor Experiences	Undertake a review of the requirements to enhance the visitor experience at Carrigaholt Castle		
56	Heritage Sites	Develop the capacity of key heritage sites to offer visitor experiences linked to 'viewing at heights' as a unique destination experience e.g Cliff Coast Views Trail linking castles, lighthouses combined with coastal cliffs viewing points.		
57	Maritime and Military trails	Examine the opportunity to link the Cliff Coast Battery Forts of North Kerry and West Clare as part of a maritime and military trail experience.		
58	Maritime and Military trails	Review the requirements to include North Kerry War Monuments in existing trails as a visitor experience.		
59	Heritage Sites	Examine the opportunity to cross promote experiences and develop itineraries through OPW sites across the Cliff Coast and adjoining urban areas e.g linking Scattery Island with Carrigaholt Castle.		
60	Heritage Sites	Undertake a programme of guide training to cross promote other OPW and local sites.		
61	Blueways	Assess the feasibility and requirements to link the River Feale Blueway to the Greenway.	While the overall intention is positive, resulting actions (e.g.blueways, marine experiences etc.) could have negative or uncertain effects on the Natura 2000 Sites within the Zone of Influence. The development of these projects, however, might result in negative environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise	
62	Kilrush Blueway Feasibility	Undertake a feasibility study to develop a Blueway in Kilrush.		
63	Activity Clusters	Examine the tourism enterprise development requirements to grow the levels of saleable experiences linked to the Cliff Coast coastal tourism activity clusters in Tralee Bay and West Clare. Work with local providers to increase the volume of “learn to” experiences for visitors		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		e.g. learning to surf, kayak, open water swimming, coastal adventures.	<p>from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast and could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>	
64	Marine & Eco Experiences	Examine the requirements to develop new and enhance existing saleable experiences through marine and eco boat experiences linking North Kerry through Saleen Pier and West Clare through Kilrush, Scattery Island and Carrigaholt.		
65	Distinctive Wellbeing Cluster	Examine the feasibility of developing a niche industry network of 'Signature Wellbeing Experiences' and Wellbeing exploration points across North Kerry and West Clare.		
66	Distinctive Wellbeing Cluster	Develop a Restorative Tourism pilot programme in Ballybunion and Spanish Point to create a cluster of Signature Wellbeing experiences and calendar of events.		
67	Distinctive Wellbeing Cluster	Examine the potential to develop a unique restorative tourism experience in Listowel through the development of existing community centre wellbeing activity to attract domestic and international visitors.		
68	Seaweed Experience Trail	Explore the potential to adopt the Seaweed theme as the basis for an immersive Seaweed experience trail linking all elements from foraging, bathing to food preparation.		
69	Cliff Coast Food and Drink Experiences	Grow the number of Cliff Coast food and drink experiences and examine the potential to develop a network of Agri and rural tourism partners in the creation of a series of drink and agri-food experiences and also explore the opportunity to develop ultra-lux experiences.		
70	Cliff Coast Food and Drink Experiences	Review the potential to expand the Ballybunion Relish event to become a North Kerry Relish seasonal calendar of mini food events linked to a North Kerry Taste Trail.		
71	Cliff Coast Food and Drink Experiences	Develop the Tralee Fenit Gourmet Trail linking local food and drink experiences to the Greenway.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
72	Cliff Coast Food and Drink Experiences	Explore the opportunity for the Listowel Food Hub to become the catalyst for food and agri tourism experience development across North Kerry.		
73	Cliff Coast Food and Drink Experiences	Examine the feasibility of establishing a whiskey experience in West Clare as a brand home to JJ Corry delivering a range of visitor experiences including ultra lux.		
74	Marine Life Experiences – Dolphin and Whale Watching	Undertake a visitor experience planning approach to grow the opportunities for visitors to engage with the destinations association with Dolphin and Whale Watching. Examine the requirements to develop the areas international marine observation profile through the development or enhancement of marine life observation experiences and new approaches to visitor education.		
75	Sustainable Tourism experience innovation	Develop a Cliff Coast Signature Green Tourism Experience pilot programme to deliver quality responsible tourism experiences including outdoor activities, food and accommodation providers. As part of the pilot programme an industry training programme will be developed for local industry partners to ‘Green’ their visitor experiences and grow the number of destination Signature Green Tourism Experiences.		
76	DPDZ Gateway	Develop Blennerville Windmill and Tralee Bay Wetlands Eco & Activity Park as gateway/ information hubs for the Dingle Peninsula Decarbonisation Zone.		
77	Biodiversity - Hubs of Exploration	Examine the feasibility of developing a network of Environmental and Ecology Discovery Points linking biodiversity trailways and eco experiences across the Cliff Coast.		
78	Biodiversity - Hubs of Exploration	Develop a series of ornithology experiences linked to local Cliff Coast trails as the basis for developing nature based itineraries throughout the Cliff Coast.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
79	Siamsa Tire	Examine the opportunity to further develop Siamsa Tire, the National Folk Theatre, with an expanded range of day and evening time cultural activities.		
80	Siamsa Tire	Undertake an assessment of the potential for new visitor experiences in Siamsa Tire and the examination of requirements to develop an immersive family focused experience and multi lingual day time experience.		
81	Tinteain Theatre, Ballybunion	Support the development of the Tinteain Theatre as a catalyst for generating off season visitor activity for Ballybunion and North Kerry.		
82	Blennerville Steam Railway	Explore the feasibility of restoring the Tralee- Blennerville Steam Railway.		
83	Con Houlihan Cultural Centre	Examine the feasibility of redeveloping Con Houlihan's home as a cultural/heritage centre for Castleisland.		
84	Kerry County Museum	Undertake an assessment of the requirements to upgrade the Kerry County Museum visitor experience and its capacity to orientate visitors to authentic Cliff Coast community experiences.		
85	Ratoo Round Tower	Examine the development of new ladder access from the lower level to the first floor internally and the design of external access stairs		
86	Ardfert	Review the requirements needed to enhance the footpaths in the immediate proximity to Ardfert Cathedral and link with the nearby Friary.		
87	Ardfert	Complete the installation of the glass lobby in the visitor centre		
88	Cliff Coast Music Trail	Develop a Cliff Coast music trail linking traditional music to contemporary music venues in North Kerry with West Clare		
89	Art on the Loop	Examine the requirements to develop Artists on the Loop visitor experiences introducing visitors to local art experiences.		
90	Genealogy	Develop the genealogy network within the Cliff Coast linking sites such as Kilrush and Blennerville incorporating the activities of local historical societies.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
91	Family Destination	Develop a Cliff Coast family experience cluster and develop the tourism industry's capacity to target and grow the family market through new approaches to packaging and collaboration to deliver new family experiences. Develop a North Kerry and West Clare collaborative network to deliver a Family Experience Cluster linked to the development of the activity cluster, developing the experience at visitor attractions and unique destination experiences such as Dolphin and Whale watching.	In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potential uncertain effects on European sites within the Zone of Influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast and could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.	Yes
92	Accessibility / Tourism for all	Develop a network of attractions, communities, businesses and activities based on creating accessible tourism for all experiences across the destination.		
93	Industry Training and Development	Deliver the required training and capability programmes to enable the tourism industry to grow their capacity to build on the opportunities provided by the CCDEDP. The training requirements will be identified on an annual basis in line with emerging opportunities from the CCDEDP.		
94	Wayfinding / In destination signage	Repurpose existing or derelict local tourist information signage / information points to develop a coherent destination approach to provide way finding information on local trails and routes.		
95	Smart Tourism	Develop a SMART technology based solution to map the network of trails, routes and walks for ease of communication for visitors		
96	Smart Tourism	Examine pilot sites for the incorporation of SMART tourism initiatives across the Cliff Coast.		
97	Measuring Sustainable Tourism Impact	Develop a Sustainable Tourism pilot programme for the Cliff Coast destination to measure the impact of tourism across the Cliff Coast and the creation of destination wide data to inform sustainable tourism development impact.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
98	Authentic Community Experiences	Develop a network of rural and agri tourism community experiences linked through a training development programme focused on authentic community experiences and rural hospitality.		
99	Authentic Community Experiences	Integrate authentic community 'meet the local' experiences with the network of trails and active travel resources across the destination.		
100	Authentic Community Experiences	Create a programme of Rambling House activity as part of the authentic community programming using Teach Siamsa as a focal point for Authentic Community experiences.		
101	Unique Events	Support the existing calendar of events across the Cliff Coast particularly off- peak cultural event programming and new opportunities around mass participation events and events aligned with the maritime and coastal themes.		
102	Unique Events	Examine the opportunity to develop an iconic destination event / festival focused on the CCDEDP strategic development themes.		
103	Business Tourism	Explore opportunities across the CCDEDP region for suitable venues to host conferences, seminars and events, to grow a business tourism product which offers a sustainable year-round economic contribution to local communities.		
104	Golf Tourism	Explore opportunities to grow golf tourism across the region to help minimise seasonality and extend revenue and create economic growth for tourism providers.		
105	Kerry Airport	Develop a Cliff Coast visitor orientation project with Kerry Airport promoting the range of experiences across the Cliff Coast.		
106	Cruise Tourism Opportunity	Support the implementation of the tourism development opportunities identified by the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce – Tourism Sub Group and their alignment with the vision and strategic objectives of the Cliff Coast DEDP.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
107	Gaeltacht Services Towns	Develop a shop frontage scheme to incorporate the Irish language in the Gaeltacht services town of Tralee and a scheme for Ballybunion adopting a coastal town presentation approach.		
108		Maintain and if feasible, sustainably improve the ferry service to incorporate an experience for visitors, without significant adverse effects on the environment of the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. This ferry service plays a critical role in connecting West Clare & North Kerry keeping the link and route along the Wild Atlantic Way and will play an important part in the future connectivity of Greenway developments in Limerick, Kerry & Clare and future developments in improving opportunities for creating cycle loops. – Maintain ferry terminal visitor facilities as the terminals represent exit and entry points and are important ‘touch-points’ in the visitor experience.		

4.2.5 Direct, indirect or secondary effects?

None of the Actions of the CCDEDP have any resource requirements from any European site as a result of any of the actions contained therein.

Any pollution could adversely affect the habitats and species listed as qualifying interests in any of the European sites, many of which rely on good water quality. Also, during construction works there is potential for an increase in run-off due to compaction of the soil which will in turn reduce the infiltration capacity and increase the rate and volume of surface water run-off. This can increase surface water run-off and sediment loading which has potential to impact the local drainage and in turn on the European sites.

In addition to the habitats and species associated with the European sites, bird species, may be sensitive to disturbances arising as a result of any proposed development. Construction works have the potential for indirect impacts on the Natura 2000 sites and their qualifying features of interest. Potential impacts include habitat degradation as well as disturbance to habitats, species and ecosystem dynamics due to noise, vibration, air quality, and disturbance due to human activities. In addition there is a potential risk to flora and fauna arising from dust deposition, which in extreme cases can inhibit photosynthesis in plants and can increase turbidity in watercourses.

During the operational phase, there is potential for uncertain effects due to the new developments and their ancillary infrastructure and increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.

4.2.6 In-combination / Cumulative effects with other plans and programmes

It is a requirement of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that when considering whether a plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of a European site the assessment must take into account in-combination effects with other current or reasonably foreseeable plans and projects.

If it can be clearly demonstrated that the plan or project will not result in any impact on the integrity of a European site then the plan or project should proceed without considering the in-combination test; further, if there are identified effects arising from the plan or project even if they are perceived as minor and not likely to have an impact on the integrity of a European site alone, then any such impacts must be considered 'in-combination' with the effects arising from other plans and projects.

The actions and catalyst projects listed within the CCDEDP will be required to comply with the relevant international, national and regional policies, plans and programmes and also undertaken individual environmental assessments for Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and any other relevant processes as appropriate.

The CCDEDP could have a relationship with other plans and programmes. However, these plans and programmes will also been subject to environmental assessment, including SEA and AA, for the purpose of preventing and mitigating potential negative environmental effects. **Table 4.3** lists the relevant plans and programmes that have potential for cumulative effects with the CCDEDP.

The assessment of cumulative effects above focused on national, regional and local plans, programmes, strategy and policy documents that have the potential to affect the same receiving environment that could be affected by the CCDEDP.

Cliff Coast Draft Destination and Experience Development Plan
Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement

The Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 sets out policies and objectives for land use, settlement strategy, sustainable development, transport, infrastructure, environmental protection, and management, cultural heritage, climate change, etc. for the study area. Other higher-level international, national and regional plans are integrated within the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and have been assessed as such. The CCDEDP will comply with the provisions set within the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 which itself has been subject to standalone environmental assessment (SEA, NIR, etc.).

The assessment of cumulative effects concludes that the implementation of the CCDEDP will not result in direct, indirect or cumulative impacts which would have the potential to adversely affect the environment. Indeed the implementation of the CCDEDP has the potential for positive cumulative interactions in delivering on policies and objectives of higher level plans in relation to increased economic activity and employment and greater appreciation and understanding of natural heritage, cultural heritage and landscape.

Table 4.3 Potential Cumulative Effects with other Plans and Programmes

Plan, Programme etc.	Potential Cumulative effect	Likely Cumulative Effect
National Planning Framework (NPF) Project 2040 National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2030 (<i>As part of Project Ireland 2040 the National Development Plan sets out the Government's over-arching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030</i>)	The SEA and AA processes carried out during the preparation of the National Planning Framework have ensured that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the plan have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	No
Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy	The SEA and AA processes carried out during the preparation of the RSES have ensured that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the RSES have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	No
National CFRAMS Programme South- eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study	Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Studies and their product – Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) – are at the core of national policy for flood risk management and the strategy for its implementation. These studies are required by The Floods Directive [2007/60/EC], which is being implemented in Ireland through the European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010 [S.I.122/2010]. Each FRMP is accompanied by an associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement. The SEA and AA processes	No

Cliff Coast Draft Destination and Experience Development Plan
Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement

Plan, Programme etc.	Potential Cumulative effect	Likely Cumulative Effect
	carried out during the preparation of the FRMP have ensured that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the FRMP have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	
National 4 th Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030	The Biodiversity Action notes the requirements and purposes of AA and SEA and the vision of the plan to conserve and restored for the benefit of all sectors of society.	No
National Sustainable Mobility Policy (2022)	The policy sets a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel and public transport to support Ireland’s overall requirement to achieve a 51% reduction in carbon emissions by the end of this decade. The projects which will be implemented as a result of this national policy will be subject to their individual environmental impact assessment and appropriate assessment processes (as appropriate) and hence there would be no potential adverse effects on the overall receiving environment.	No
River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for Ireland 2022-2027	The SEA and AA processes carried out during the preparation of the RBMP have ensured that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Plan have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	No
County Development Plans (Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028, Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028)	The County Development Plan (CDP) provides the principal planning strategy document for the development of a local authority area over the statutory time period of the plan. Each of the CDP within the Zone of Influence of the study area has been subject to SEA and AA processes to ensure that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Plan have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	No
Regional Tourism Development Strategies 2023-2027 – Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027	The SEA and AA processes carried out during the preparation of the Strategy have ensured that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Strategy have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	No

4.3 Conservation objectives, threats and vulnerabilities of the European Sites

A key aim of the Habitats Directive is to ‘maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest’. Site-specific conservation objectives aim to define favourable conservation condition for particular habitats or species within a European site. In the case of European sites for which site-specific conservation objectives have not yet been prepared, generic conservation objectives have been provided by NPWS.

The integrity of a site is 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.

Site specific conservation objectives for each of the 28no. European sites under appraisal in the NIS have been published by NPWS. For every SAC the conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of each of the Qualifying Interests (habitats), as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out. For every SPA the conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of each of the Special Conservation Interests (the bird species and the wetland habitat), as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.

4.4 Mitigation measures

The findings set out in **Section 4.2** of this Natura Impact Report confirm that, if unmitigated, a number of the actions of the Cliff Coast Destination & Experience Development Plan have potential for adverse effects on the integrity of a total of 28 European sites.

This Plan sits at the lower level of the hierarchy and must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions / plans. These documents include plans and programmes, which have also been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant.

The projects included in this Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with the various provisions of 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 this Plan is not part and does not contribute towards. The Plan includes requirements for environmental protection and management including the ones set out in the **Regional Tourism Development Strategies 2023-2027** especially the **Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy**.

As stated in the CCDEDP these include:

- **Infrastructure Management** - *With respect to infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, surface water, waste and transport) consideration must be given to the available capacity and the potential impact on existing infrastructure, as well as the potential environmental effects arising from the provision of new infrastructure and / or from a likely increase in tourism-related pressures. Any such environmental effects will be appropriately mitigated. The promotion of developing visitor friendly infrastructure where it is required is encouraged.*
- **Visitor Management** - *Those receiving funding will be requested to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance, including ensuring that new projects are located at a suitable setback from ecological sensitivities.*

Research by Fáilte Ireland has shown improved environmental outcomes (including improved attainment of conservation objectives) in areas operating appropriate visitor management strategies. Visitor management strategies will be required for proposed plans, programmes and projects that are to receive funding as relevant and appropriate.

- **Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services** - *Those receiving funding shall contribute towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and its ecosystem services, taking into account the output of the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services project being undertaken by the NPWS. Proposals for the development of any green infrastructure should demonstrate the synergies that can be achieved with regard to the: provision of open space amenities; sustainable management of water; the enhancement, protection and management of biodiversity; protection of cultural heritage; and protection of landscape sensitivities.*

The majority of the mitigation measures are achieved through the detailed environmental protective policies and objectives as set out in the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029. The Development Plans provide for sustainable planning and management control of all development in North Kerry and West Clare – including the delivery of Destination Experience Development Plans through continued collaboration with Fáilte Ireland.

Proposals for development within the CCDEDP area must comply as appropriate with the relevant provisions included within the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029. Given that the CCDEDP sits within and at a lower level in the planning hierarchy, the measures contained to the Development Plans, and in their Natura Impact Report (NIR), SEA Environmental Report / SEA Statement and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) are applicable to the CCDEDP.

Therefore, the key environmental protection measures included in the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029, provide for appropriate and detailed mitigation of potential uncertain environmental effects of the CCDEDP. These measures include the following selected aims / policies / objectives as detailed below.

Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 Protective Objectives are as follows:

- *KCDP 5-21 Ensure that all developments are in compliance with normal planning criteria and environmental protection considerations.*
- *KCDP 9-79 Support the protection of water quality, key habitat, and other natural resource requirements necessary to safeguard coastal, estuarine and freshwater fisheries.*
- *KCDP 9-82 Ensure that proposals for economic development associated with the marine sector are cognisant of the sensitivities of Kerry's coastal locations and that relevant environmental issues are appropriately considered.*
- *KCDP 9-84 Support the export, fisheries, marine tourism and marine economy potential of ports and harbours in the county. All development proposals will be subject to environmental assessment, implementation of mitigation measures outlined in applicable SEAs and AAs and feasibility studies to establish that any expansions can be achieved without adverse effects on any European sites and within the carrying capacity of the receiving environment of the ports.*
- *KCDP 9-88 Ensure that adequate measures are taken to protect designated shellfish areas as an important economic and employment sector.*

Cliff Coast Draft Destination and Experience Development Plan
Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement

- *KCDP 11-1 Ensure that the requirements of relevant EU and national legislation, are complied with by the Council in undertaking its functions, including the requirements of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives.*
- *KCDP 11-2 Maintain the nature conservation value and integrity of Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs). This shall include any other sites that may be designated at national level during the lifetime of the plan in co-operation with relevant state agencies.*
- *KCDP 11-3 Work with all stakeholders in order to conserve, manage and where possible enhance the County's natural heritage including all habitats, species, landscapes and geological heritage of conservation interest and to promote increased understanding and awareness of the natural heritage of the County.*
- *KCDP 11-4 Promote nature-based solutions to meet national objectives towards achieving a carbon neutral economy by 2050.*
- *KCDP 11-5 Support and facilitate the actions in the National Biodiversity Action Plan and Kerry County Councils Biodiversity Action Plan 2022 – 2028.*
- *KCDP 11-11 Work with NPWS and other partners to support the Kerry UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and the implementation of initiatives contained in the Periodic Review 2017.*
- *KCDP 11-13 Support the sustainable use of wetlands, including our Ramsar sites, for educational, recreational and or tourism uses where appropriate and compatible with environmental protection designations.*
- *KCDP 11-16 Ensure invasive species are managed in compliance with the provisions of the EC (Birds and Habitats) Regulations (SI 477 of 2011), as amended, particularly Sections 49, 50 and the Third Schedule. Best practices, as produced and updated by relevant authorities, are to be adhered to in the management of invasive species particularly on sites proposed for development.*
- *KCDP 11-29 Work with stakeholders to protect and sustainably enhance the biodiversity and where appropriate the landscape and recreational interests of woodlands in the County.*
- *KCDP 11-42 Require proposals for development that include the provision of external lighting, to clearly demonstrate that the lighting scheme is the minimum needed for security and working purposes and also to ensure that external lighting and lighting schemes are designed so that the incidence of light spillage is minimised ensuring that the amenities of adjoining properties, wildlife and the surrounding environment are protected.*
- *KCDP 11-43 Support the Kerry International Dark-Sky Reserve and ensure that all new external lights comply with the objectives of the Kerry International Dark Sky Reserve.*
- *KCDP 11-46 Take an ecosystems-based approach to the assessment of the potential impact of development proposals on coastal and maritime areas. Proposals will be required to demonstrate that there will be no likely significant adverse impact on key environmental attributes.*
- *KCDP 11-47 Support and implement the objectives of the National Marine Planning Framework 2021 (NMPF).*
- *KCDP 11-48 Ensure alignment, and consistency between land use and ocean-based planning, and to ensure co-ordination, which supports the protection of the marine environment and the growth of the marine economy.*
- *KCDP 11-56 Prohibit the removal of beach material, aggregates, sand and gravel, including the removal of material from sand dune ecosystems.*

- *KCDP 11-57 Protect the sand dunes of the County, (which include annexed habitats), and prohibit any development that would damage the integrity (ecological and visual) of these areas.*
- *KCDP 13-1 Ensure compliance with the Water Framework Directive.*
- *KCDP 13-2 Achieve water quality targets by implementing the national River Basin Management Plan (and associated programmes of measures).*
- *KCDP 13-5 Ensure that planning applications are assessed with regard to the Groundwater Protection Scheme and the potential impacts the development may have on groundwater quality.*
- *KCDP 13-7 Protect existing and potential water resources for the county, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the current National River Basin Management Plan and any amending or replacement version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the provisions of the Groundwater Protection Scheme for the county and any other protection plans for water supply sources, with an aim to improving all water quality.*
- *KCDP 13-8 Protect rivers, streams and other watercourses and where applicable ensure developments follow guidelines outlined in the IFI's Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment, 2020.*

Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 Protective Objectives are as follows:

- *CDP 3.3 It is an objective of the Clare County Council:
 - a) *To require compliance with the objectives and requirements of the Habitats Directive, specifically Article 6(3) and where necessary 6(4), Birds, Water Framework, and all other relevant EU Directives and all relevant transposing national legislation;*
 - b) *To require project planning to be fully informed by ecological and environmental constraints at the earliest stage of project development and any necessary assessment to be undertaken, including assessments of disturbance to species, where required together with the preparation of both statutory and non-Statutory Ecological Impact Assessments (EclA);*
 - c) *To protect, manage and enhance ecological connectivity and improve the coherence of the Natura 2000 Network;*
 - d) *To require all proposals to ensure there is 'no net loss' of biodiversity within developments;*
 - e) *To ensure that European sites and Natural Heritage Areas (designated proposed NHAs) are appropriately protected;*
 - f) *To require the preparation and assessment of all plans and projects to have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report contained in Volume 10 of this development plan; and*
 - g) *To require compliance with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and support the implementation of the 3rd Cycle River Basin Management Plan (and any other iteration during the lifetime of the plan).**
- *CDP 9.4 It is an objective of Clare County Council:
 - c) *To ensure that development of new or enhanced tourism infrastructure and facilities include an assessment of the environmental sensitivities of the area including an Environmental Impact**

Assessment (EIA); Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) if required in order to avoid adverse impacts on the receiving environment;

- *CDP 9.8 It is an objective of Clare County Council:*

f) To ensure that development of new or enhanced tourism infrastructure and facilities includes an assessment of the environmental sensitivities of the area including and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) if required in order to avoid adverse impacts on the receiving environment.

- *CDP 9.13 It is an objective of Clare County Council:*

a) To support the development of tourism activities in lakeland areas and along waterways subject to normal planning and environmental requirements. All proposed developments shall be in accordance the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EC Directives.

- *CDP 11.15 It is an objective of Clare County Council:*

p) To ensure that all mitigation measures set out in the NIR and SEA contained in Volumes 10(a) and 10(b) of this Plan are complied with;

- *CDP 11.21 It is an objective of Clare County Council:*

e) To ensure the development/enhancement of infrastructure facilitating water-borne transport is in compliance with the environmental requirements of objective CDP 3.3 of this plan.

- *CDP 11.42 It is an objective of Clare County Council:*

a) To require proposals for development that include the provision of external lighting, to clearly demonstrate that the lighting scheme is the minimum needed for security and working purposes;

b) To ensure that external lighting and lighting schemes are designed so that the incidence of light spillage is minimised ensuring that the amenities of adjoining properties, wildlife and the surrounding environment are protected; and,

c) To require that external lighting is designed taking the Bat Conservation Ireland Guidance Notes, Bats and Lighting Guidance Notes for Planners, Engineers, Architects and Developers, into consideration, together with EUROBATS Guidelines for consideration of bats in lighting projects.

- *CDP 13.8 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To work with local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.*

- *CDP 13.10 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To facilitate the sustainable development of marinas and associated amenities at appropriate locations along the Atlantic coastline, ensuring that such developments shall not adversely affect species and habitats designated by the Birds and Habitats Directives and is in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation as outlined in Objective CDP3.1 of this plan.*

- *CDP 13.13 It is an objective of the Development Plan:*

a) To permit maritime development on sites either on or adjacent to any beach area, only where such developments would not significantly interfere with the recreational use of the area or would not cause damage or degradation of the beaches or sand dune system;

b) To assist all relevant stakeholders to proactively monitor and manage the dune systems in the County in full compliance with the EU Habitats Directive; and

c) To protect the structure and function of sand dunes within the County, (which include Annex I habitats and Annex II species), and to ensure that any permitted development would support the integrity (ecological and visual) of these areas and comply with the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directive.

■ CDP 13.15 It is an objective of Clare County Council:

a) To support and facilitate infrastructure, and access/landing facilities, and development proposals that will contribute to the long-term social, heritage, ecological and cultural development of the islands;

b) To have regard to any environmental and/or heritage related designation in the assessment of all applications for development on the islands;

c) To preserve appropriate and sustainable access to all islands, including uninhabited ones;

d) To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation as outlined in Objective CDP3.1 of this plan.

■ CDP 15.1 It is an objective of Clare County Council:

a) To implement the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025, the EU A Farm to Fork Strategy 2020, the County Clare Heritage Plan 2017-2023 and the County Clare Biodiversity Plan 2017-2023, or any subsequent plans, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders;

b) To review the Clare County Heritage Plan 2017-2023 and to prepare a new plan, which will be set within the context of the National Heritage Plan "Heritage Ireland 2030", upon the expiry of the existing adopted Plan;

c) To support National Biodiversity Week and events such as Bioblitz in order to increase awareness of biodiversity and its benefits to the community;

d) To ensure that features of importance to local biodiversity are retained as part of developments and projects being undertaken in the County;

e) To identify ecological buffer zones, where appropriate, in the Plan area; and

f) To support current and future projects with the aim of restoration/rehabilitation of natural habitats and species.

■ CDP 15.3 It is an objective of Clare County Council:

a) To afford the highest level of protection to all designated European sites in accordance with the relevant Directives and legislation on such matters;

b) To require all planning applications for development that may have (or cannot rule out) likely significant effects on European Sites in view of the site's Conservation Objectives, either in isolation or in combination with other plans or projects, to submit a Natura Impact Statement in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive and the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended); and

c) To recognise and afford appropriate protection to any new or modified SPAs or SACs that are identified during the lifetime of this Development Plan through the planning application process bearing in mind proposals for development outside of a European site may also have an indirect effect.

■ *CDP 15.4 It is an objective of Clare County Council:*

a) To implement Article 6(3) and where necessary 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and to ensure that Appropriate Assessment is carried out in relation to works, plans and projects likely to impact on European sites (SACs and SPAs), whether directly or indirectly or in combination with any other plan(s) or project(s); and

b) To have regard to Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 or any updated version.

■ *CDP 15.5 It is an objective of Clare County Council:*

a) To actively promote the conservation and protection of areas designated as NHA's (including proposed sites) and to only consider proposals for development within or affecting an NHA where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposed development will not have a significant adverse effect on the NHA or pNHA; and

b) To identify and afford appropriate protection to any new, proposed or modified NHA's identified during the lifetime of the Development Plan;

■ *CDP 15.8 It is an objective of Clare County Council:*

a) To ensure the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological networks/corridors of biodiversity value outside of designated sites throughout the County and to require an ecological assessment to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species;

b) To ensure that available habitat mapping is taken into consideration in any ecological assessment undertaken;

c) To complete the Habitat Mapping of the County (in accordance with A Guide to Habitats in Ireland - The Heritage Council 2000) in order to identify and record the natural habitats of the County at a detailed level and afford appropriate protection to areas of importance as required; and

d) To implement and monitor the actions as set out in the Clare Biodiversity Action Plan and the National Biodiversity Action Plan.

■ *CDP 15.9 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To be responsive to environmental challenges and to ensure the protection of natural heritage when considering proposed service infrastructure and proposed road works (both realignments and new roads) located in, in close proximity to, or nearby protected species or sites of importance in terms of biodiversity.*

■ *CDP 15.10 It is an objective of the Development Plan:*

a) To implement the EIA Directive, ensuring that all elements/stages or components of the project are included in one overall assessment and all reasonable alternatives are taken into consideration in choosing the option with the least environmental impact;

b) To have regard to “Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments (2018) when considering proposals for which an EIA is required; and

c) To ensure full compliance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive, SEA Directive and associated legislation/regulations, including the associated European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) regulations 2004-2011, and the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989 – 2011 (or any updated/superseding legislation).

■ CDP 15.12 It is an objective of Clare County Council:

a) To protect and promote the sustainable management of the natural heritage, flora and fauna of the County both within protected areas and in the general landscape through the promotion of biodiversity, the conservation of natural habitats, the enhancement of new and existing habitats, and through the integration of Green Infrastructure (GI), Blue Infrastructure and ecosystem services including landscape, heritage, biodiversity and management of invasive and alien species into the Development Plan;

b) To promote the conservation of biodiversity through the protection of sites of biodiversity importance and wildlife corridors, both within and between the designated sites and the wider Plan area;

c) To support the implementation of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, National Biodiversity Action Plan and National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan;

d) To ensure there is no net loss of potential Lesser Horseshoe Bat feeding habitats, treelines and hedgerows within 2.5km of known roosts;

e) To implement and monitor the actions as set out in the Clare County Biodiversity Plan; and

f) To promote biodiversity net gain in any new plans/projects/policies to promote development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before.

■ CDP 15.13 It is an objective of Clare County Council:

a) To encourage and, where appropriate, enhance the provision of biodiversity features in urban areas through the preparation of local areas plans/settlement plans, green infrastructure strategies, ecosystem services, and through the development management process;

b) To support investment in the on-going maintenance and enhancement of facilities in existing green infrastructure and to support the provision of new public parks, green space corridors and other public open spaces in tandem with projected population growth to create green, healthy settlements throughout the County;

c) To ensure that plans for new public parks and associated facilities are informed by environmental assessment and green infrastructure objectives;

d) To ensure that any new lighting proposals and upgrades to existing lighting infrastructure are designed in a manner which considers any sensitive species within the area, such as bats and their roosts; and

e) To encourage (where appropriate) swift nesting areas in new or retrofitted urban buildings and to protect existing nesting locations.

■ *CDP 15.14 It is an objective of Clare County Council:*

(a) To ensure that development proposals support and enhance the connectivity and integrity of habitats in the Plan area by incorporating natural features into the design of development proposals.

(b) To ensure that the potential impacts upon the migratory routes of fauna including birds and bats and the movement of species between European Sites are fully considered within the relevant ecological assessment. These assessments shall fully consider flight collision risks, habitat fragmentation and barrier risk as required.

■ *CDP 15.17 It is an objective of the Development Plan:*

a) To have regard to the potential impacts of developments within or in close proximity to the Cloon River freshwater pearl mussel catchment including impacts arising downstream within the Shannon Estuary and Clonderlaw Bay;

b) To have regard to the Cloon Freshwater Pearl Mussel SubBasin Management Plan in the assessment of planning applications;

c) To ensure careful consideration is given to all proposed developments within the Doonbeg, Shannon – Graney/Scarriff and the Shannon – Woodford Freshwater Pearl Mussel sensitive areas; and

d) To ensure full compliance with Objective CDP3.3 in relation to any future developments in close proximity to a freshwater pearl mussel catchment or sensitive area.

■ *CDP 15.18 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To protect and enhance the valuable peatland resource in County Clare including protecting the heritage and environmental value of these peatland areas.*

■ *CDP 15.19 It is an objective of Clare County Council:*

a) To preserve and conserve individual or groups of trees identified in Volume 2 of this Plan as ‘Trees for Preservation’ which will enhance the character and appearance of an area;

b) To carry out tree survey work during the lifetime of this Plan to identify future trees of importance in the County and facilitate their future protection;

c) To protect individual or groups of trees within the Plan area which are important for environmental, recreational, historical, biodiversity and/or aesthetic reasons or by reason of contribution to sense of place, including groups of trees which correspond with protected habitats, or which support protected species, under the Habitats Directive;

d) To work with landowners, local communities and other relevant groups to promote the retention and conservation of existing trees and hedgerows and encourage development proposals that enhance the landscape through positive management and additional planting/sensitive replanting of native tree species;

e) To protect woodlands and hedgerows from damage and/or degradation and to prevent disruption of the connectivity of woodlands and hedgerows of the County;

f) To ensure, where required, applications for development include proposals for planting / leave a suitable ecological buffer zone, between the development works and areas/features of ecological importance;

g) Where hedgerows are required to be removed in the interests of traffic safety or where breaches to hedgerows occur due to river drainage/maintenance works and flood repair, to require the applicant/developer to reinstate the hedgerows with a suitable replacement of native species to the satisfaction of the Council;

h) To require each green space in new residential developments to have at least one native oak tree, or other naturalised tree species of similar stature and lifespan, integrated into the agreed planting/landscaping scheme; and

i) To require, where possible, that all trees felled as a result of development proposals be replaced at a minimum ratio of 10 new native species per 1 tree felled.

- CDP 15.22 It is an objective of the Development Plan: To manage, enhance and protect the wetlands in County Clare having regard to the County Clare Wetlands Survey (2008), the map of Irish Wetlands (www.wetlandsurveyireland.com), the Irish Wetland Types – An Identification Guide and Field Survey Manual, EPA 2018, the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and ‘Drainage and Reclamation of Wetlands – Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2011’ and any subsequent guidance documents.

- CDP 15.29 It is an objective of the Development Plan:

a) To raise awareness of the threat of alien invasive species and how they can spread, and take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of non-native invasive species and noxious weeds in the Plan area, including requiring landowners, developers and boat operators to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to their control;

b) To require all development proposals to address the presence of invasive alien species on the proposed development site and to require an Invasive Species Management Plan where such species are present;

c) To carry out surveys of invasive species across the County;

d) To implement the requirements of EU Regulations 1143/2014 on the Prevention and Management of the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Alien Species and to manage invasive hydrological connectivity issues to European Sites to prevent the spread of invasive species to sensitive sites; and

e) To facilitate the work of agencies addressing the issue of terrestrial and aquatic invasive alien species.

- CDP 16.6 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To protect habitats and species when considering proposed works to buildings which are likely to impact on protected ecological sites and protected species and to ensure that decision-making on heritage related projects and developments is informed by an appropriate level of environmental assessment.

- CDP 11.26 It is an objective of Clare County Council:

- a) *To facilitate the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 and any subsequent plan for ground, surface, estuarine, coastal and transitional waters in the Plan area as part of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive;*
 - b) *To protect groundwater and surface water resources in accordance with the statutory requirements and specific measures as set out in the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027, and any subsequent management plans;*
 - c) *To achieve and maintain at least good water quality status for all water bodies except where more stringent obligations are required such as Blue Dot/High Status Objective Water Bodies;*
 - d) *To consider development proposals where it can be clearly demonstrated that the development will meet the requirements of the River Basin Management Plan; and,*
 - e) *To work with and support LAWPRO and support improvements/recommendations within Priority Areas for Action, Blue Dot/High Status Objective catchments and any additional areas identified within subsequent River Basin Management Plans.*
- *CDP 12.10 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To support and facilitate the sustainable use of the Estuary by the cruise ship industry by maintaining and safeguarding critical navigational channels, anchorage and berthing facilities. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive, Invasive Alien Species Regulations and Shellfish Waters Directive, Floods Directive and EIA Directive.*
 - *CDP 12.16 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To facilitate the sustainable development of marinas and associated amenities at appropriate locations along the Shannon Estuary ensuring that all such developments shall not adversely affect species and habitats designated by the Birds and Habitats Directives and is in compliance with all relevant environmental objectives.*

4.5 Summary and Conclusion

This Natura Impact Statement has considered the potential impacts of the implementation of the Cliff Coast Destination & Experience Development Plan on the integrity of the relevant European sites.

This report concludes on the best scientific evidence that it can be clearly demonstrated that no elements of the CCDEDP will result in any impact on the integrity or Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests of any relevant European site, either on their own or in-combination with other plans or projects, in light of their conservation objectives, provided mitigation measures are implemented.

Refer to Appendix 1 for the Appropriate Assessment Determination.

Appendix 1 – Appropriate Assessment Determination

Ancillary AA determination

further to the main AA Natura Impact Statement

under the
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)
for the
Draft Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan

Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening

This ancillary determination is ancillary to both:

- Fáilte Ireland's AA Natura Impact Statement; and
- Fáilte Ireland's AA determination that is made in advance of finalisation of the Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan.

In making the determination that AA is required, the information on the potential effects on European Sites arising from the Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan is taken into account (this information is reproduced in the AA Natura Impact Statement).

That information has been carefully considered and its reasoning and conclusion agreed with and adopted – allowing the AA Natura Impact Statement to conclude at the end of Section 3 "Screening for Appropriate Assessment" of the Natura Impact Statement that Stage 2 AA is required. It has been determined that the Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan may have effects on a number of European Sites - therefore, Stage 2 AA (including the preparation of the Natura Impact Statement) is required for the Plan (see Natura Impact Statement subsection 3.5 "AA Screening Conclusion").

Signatory:



Date: May 2024

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