

# CONSOLIDATED NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT

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IN SUPPORT OF THE  
**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

FOR THE

## **SLIGO DESTINATION EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**for:**

**Fáilte Ireland**

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# Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Sligo Destination and Experience Development Plan (the Plan)<sup>1</sup> in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the “Habitats Directive”).

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

In carrying out AA and in preparing this consolidated NIS, Fáilte Ireland takes into account matters including the following:

- The Natura Impact Statement prepared for the Draft Plan (an earlier version of this consolidated document);
- Screening for AA for minor modifications to the Plan;
- Written submissions made during the Plan preparation process; and
- Ongoing advice on AA from Fáilte Ireland’s agents.

## 1.2 Legislative Context

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

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

## 1.3 Approach

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and ecological expertise, and is supported by desktop research on national databases including the National Biodiversity Data Centre<sup>2</sup>, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)<sup>3</sup> and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)<sup>4</sup> mapping websites (including data collected for the most recent Article 12 and 17 conservation status reporting cycle, 2019).

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> Incorporating: the Draft Plan that was placed on display; and all minor modifications to the Draft Plan following public display.

<sup>2</sup> Available at: <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/>

<sup>3</sup> Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> and

<https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba>

<sup>4</sup> Available at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

- Review of the NPWS site synopsis and conservation objectives for European sites with identification of potential pathways from the Plan area; and
- Examination of available information on protected species.

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

**Stage One: Screening**

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

**Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment**

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

**Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**

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

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

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

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

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model<sup>5</sup>, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

In the interest of this report, receptors are the ecological features that are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the Plan provision that is known to interact with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the Plan.

The AA exercise has been prepared taking into account legislation including the aforementioned legislation and guidance including the following:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plan's and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009;
- "Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018;
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission, 2000;

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<sup>5</sup> Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off from proposed works; Pathway(s) – e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European Sites.

- Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive, European Commission October 2021; and
- Assessment of Plan's 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 September 2021.

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

### 2.1 Overview

The Sligo DEDP represents a five-year plan aligned with a ten year vision that will transform tourism in the North West and how visitors will engage with the northern region of the Wild Atlantic Way. The destination development approach mapped out within the Sligo DEDP will have a significant influence on regional visitor dispersion and the future importance of Sligo as an attractor for the North West region.

Achieving the goals of the Wild Atlantic Way regional tourism development approach requires many elements combining together. The transformation of Sligo as an international tourism destination will fulfil a dual purpose. It will grow the value of tourism for the county and become the stimulus for how visitors will engage with the North West. It will connect with the activity of other DEDPs such as North Mayo, Inishowen, Upper Shannon, Shannon Erne and Borders. The approach will leverage its geographic advantage as the closest Wild Atlantic Way destination from the Dublin market.

The Plan's **Vision** is: *"A year round adventure filled destination where the quality of the outdoor experience has put Sligo on the international stage. Spectacular coastal walks, long distance trails and greenways combined with epic off road biking experiences deliver anew blend of adventure and wellbeing experiences. It is recognised globally as a world class surfing destination where dabblers and enthusiasts share the waves with international surfers. Sligo town has developed into one of the country's in demand visitor destinations. The vibrant urban hotspot is brought alive by the animation of its innovative placemaking investment, festivals, events and cultural experiences. The appeal of Sligo among international and domestic visitors has been central to the transformation of the northern half of the Wild Atlantic Way. The quality of the Sligo destination experience has disrupted regional visitor flows linking the destination with other regions and cross border opportunities. Sligo has an always on destination vibe that has changed the mix of visitors, attracted by year round events, new attractions and ease of access to connected communities."*

The Sligo DEDP represents an overarching destination development framework linking existing and new projects with new opportunities for consideration. It builds on the ambition of the Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy (RTDS) and will be key to growing the value of tourism in the northern half of the region. This requires a collective stakeholder approach integrating all elements of the visitor experience to develop Sligo as a distinctive visitor destination.

The overarching objective is to ensure Sligo is a great place to live and great place to visit. This requires a focus on the products and experiences with the capacity to grow the value of tourism for local communities and ensure the economic benefits will be dispersed across the county. The destination and experience development approach places a priority emphasis on sustainability and climate action, highlighting the interdependency between all agencies and stakeholders to work together towards a shared vision for sustainable tourism in Sligo.

The key objectives of the Sligo DEDP are:

- Ensure the Sligo visitor experience is brought to life through the development of a mix of tourism products and experiences that will attract visitors and retain them for longer.
- Unlock the economic potential of tourism in Sligo by progressing a range of key initiatives that will disperse tourists across the wider destination.
- Strengthen the value of tourism to the local community by providing sustainable employment opportunities.

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<sup>6</sup> Draft Sligo DEDP (December 2023)

- Develop a sustainable basis for commercial tourism development by enhancing and creating strong destination experiences that excite consumers and buyers alike.
- Create the conditions to attract leisure visitors on a year round basis to Sligo and immerse themselves actively in the community while providing the opportunity to interact with local people as part of the Sligo experience.
- Develop the role of Sligo as a key enabler for regional tourism development and transform how visitors engage with the northern half of the Wild Atlantic Way.

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

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

In order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance<sup>7</sup> with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

The strategic initiatives for the Sligo DEDP are based on the Strategic Objectives of the Wild Atlantic Way RTDS. Under each of the strategic objectives, a number of strategic initiatives have been identified to achieve the vision for Sligo and contribute to the ongoing sustainable development of the Wild Atlantic Way.

Ten destination catalysts projects have been identified for the Sligo DEDP based on the opportunity they provide to achieve our tourism development objectives. A number of enabling projects have been identified to leverage the catalyst projects and provide additional supports in areas of destination development that will have a sustained impact on the Sligo tourism economy. They include a focus on new experience development, maximising the opportunity for community tourism and exploring year round opportunities through events and festivals.

The Plan is supported by Appendices relating to implementation plan and environmental considerations.

## **2.2 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes**

The Sligo DEDP is situated alongside a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use development, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management. These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and form the decision-making and consent-granting framework.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the years 2018-2040. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower-tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSEs set out various objectives relating

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<sup>7</sup> Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

tourism development and activities that have been subject to environmental assessment. The RSEs have informed, and continue to inform, the preparation of lower-tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans, which also set out various objectives relating to tourism development and activities that have been subject to environmental assessment.

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



## Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

### 3.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any potential significant affects to European sites from a project or Plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or Plan's.

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the "Conservation Objectives", "Qualifying Interests" (QIs) and/ or "Special Conservation Interests" (SCIs) of European sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each European Site has been designated and afforded protection. SCIs are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that the threats to the ecological / environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs are considered as part of the assessment.

The following NPWS First Order Site-Specific Conservation Objectives have been considered in the screening:

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

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat<sup>8</sup> or species<sup>9</sup> at that site have been considered.

### 3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

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

Details of European sites that occur within 15 km Pathway Consideration Zone of the Plan boundary are provided in Table 3.1. Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) have been considered by both the AA screening assessment (provided under this section) and Stage 2 AA (provided under Section 4). The Conservation Objectives of the European sites that have been considered by the assessment, were sourced from the following NPWS documents:

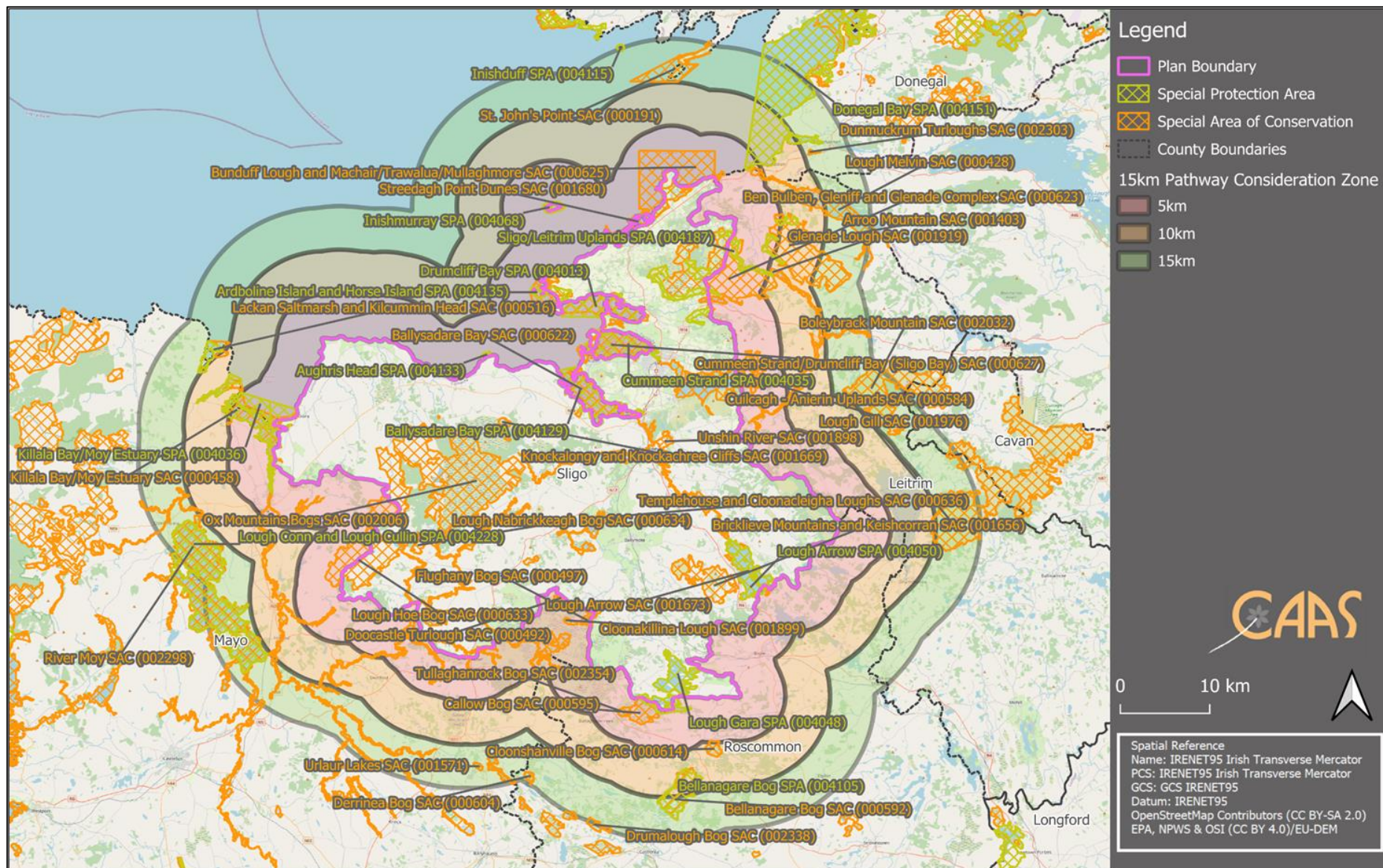
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC [IE0000458] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Doocastle Turlough SAC [IE0000492] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Flughany Bog SAC [IE0000497] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Callow Bog SAC [IE0000595] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Ballysadare Bay SAC [IE0000622] Version 1.

<sup>8</sup> Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

<sup>9</sup> The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

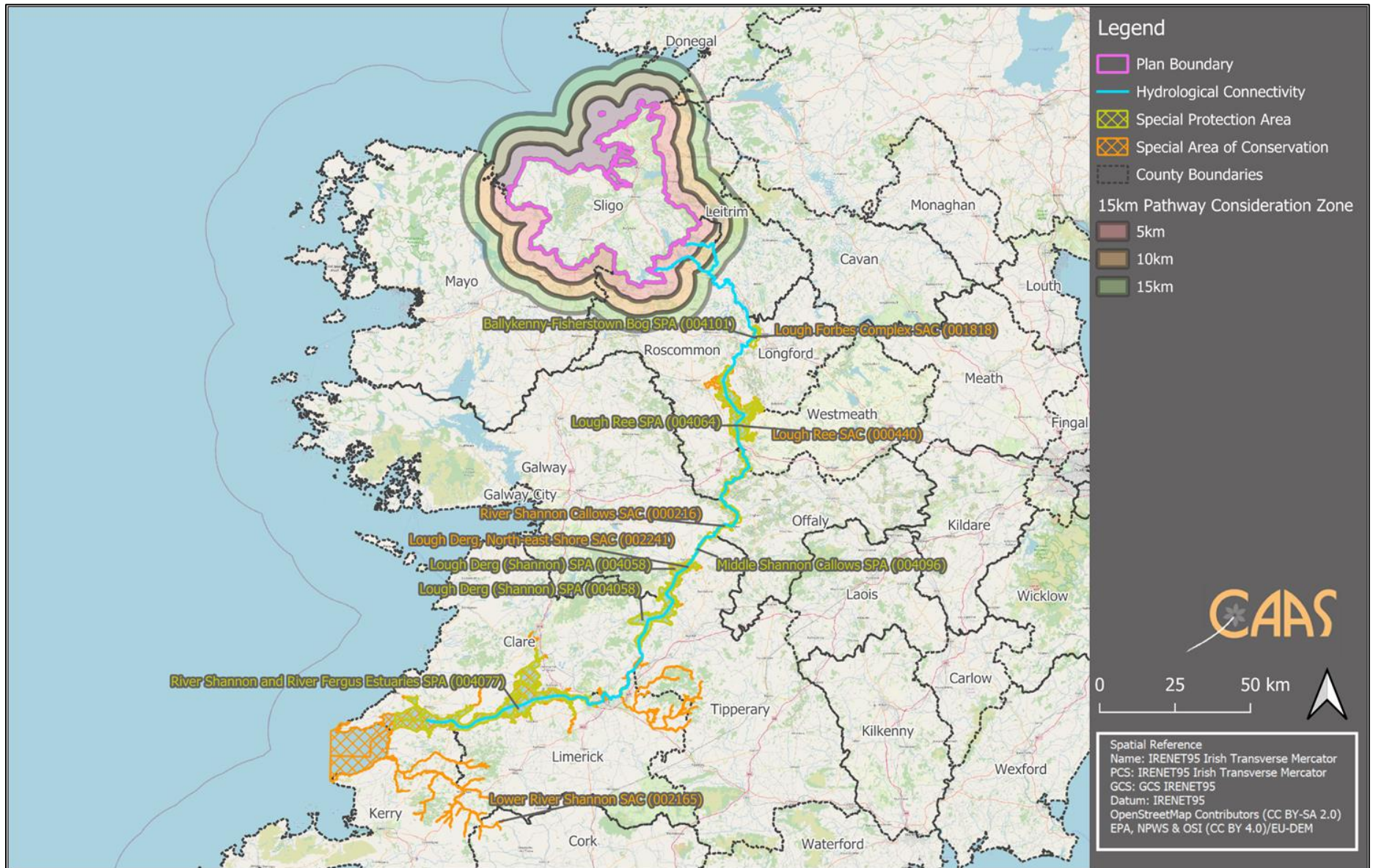
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC [IE0000627] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Lough Hoe Bog SAC [IE0000633] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog SAC [IE0000634] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Turloughmore (Sligo) SAC [IE0000637] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Union Wood SAC [IE0000638] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Bricklieve Mountains & Keishcorran SAC [IE0001656] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Knockalongy and Knockachree Cliffs SAC [IE0001669] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Arrow SAC [IE0001673] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Streedagh Point Dunes SAC [IE0001680] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Unshin River SAC [IE0001898] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Gill SAC [IE0001976] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Ox Mountains Bogs SAC [IE0002006] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for River Moy SAC [IE0002298] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Drumcliff Bay SPA [IE0004013] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Cummeen Strand SPA [IE0004035] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA [IE0004036] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Lough Gara SPA [IE0004048] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Lough Arrow SPA [IE0004050] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Inishmurray SPA [IE0004068] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Ballysadare Bay SPA [IE0004129] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Aughris Head SPA [IE0004133] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA [IE0004135] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA [IE0004187] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA [IE0004234] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Tullaghanrock Bog SAC [IE0002354] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Cloonakillina Lough SAC [IE0001899] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Donegal Bay SPA [IE0004151] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Melvin SAC [IE0000428] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Arroo Mountain SAC [IE0001403] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Cloonshanville Bog SAC [IE0000614] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Glenade Lough SAC [IE0001919] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Bellanagare Bog SPA [IE0004105] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Bellanagare Bog SAC [IE0000592] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Lackan Saltmarsh and Kilcummin Head SAC [IE0000516] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Culcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC [IE0000584] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Boleybrack Mountain SAC [IE0002032] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for St. John's Point SAC [IE0000191] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA [IE0004228] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC [IE0002303] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Urlaur Lakes SAC [IE0001571] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Derrinea Bog SAC [IE0000604] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Drumalough Bog SAC [IE0002338] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Inishduff SPA [IE0004115] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Errit Lough SAC [IE0000607] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC [IE0001626] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Mullygollan Turlough SAC [IE0000612] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Balla Turlough SAC [IE0000463] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Lough Forbes Complex SAC [IE0001818] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA [IE0004101] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Lough Ree SAC [IE0000440] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Lough Ree SPA [IE0004064] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Middle Shannon Callows SPA [IE0004096] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for River Shannon Callows SAC [IE0000216] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC [IE0002241] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA [IE0004058] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Lower River Shannon SAC [IE0002165] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA [IE0004077] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC [IE0000636] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC [IE0000625] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC [IE0000623] Version 1.

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



**Figure 3.1 European sites and Pathway Consideration Zones up to 15 km from the Plan area<sup>10</sup>**

<sup>10</sup> Source: NPWS datasets. Accessed: July 2023



**Figure 3.2 European sites with surface hydrological connectivity<sup>11</sup> to the Plan area**

<sup>11</sup> Source: EPA datasets (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>). Accessed: July 2023

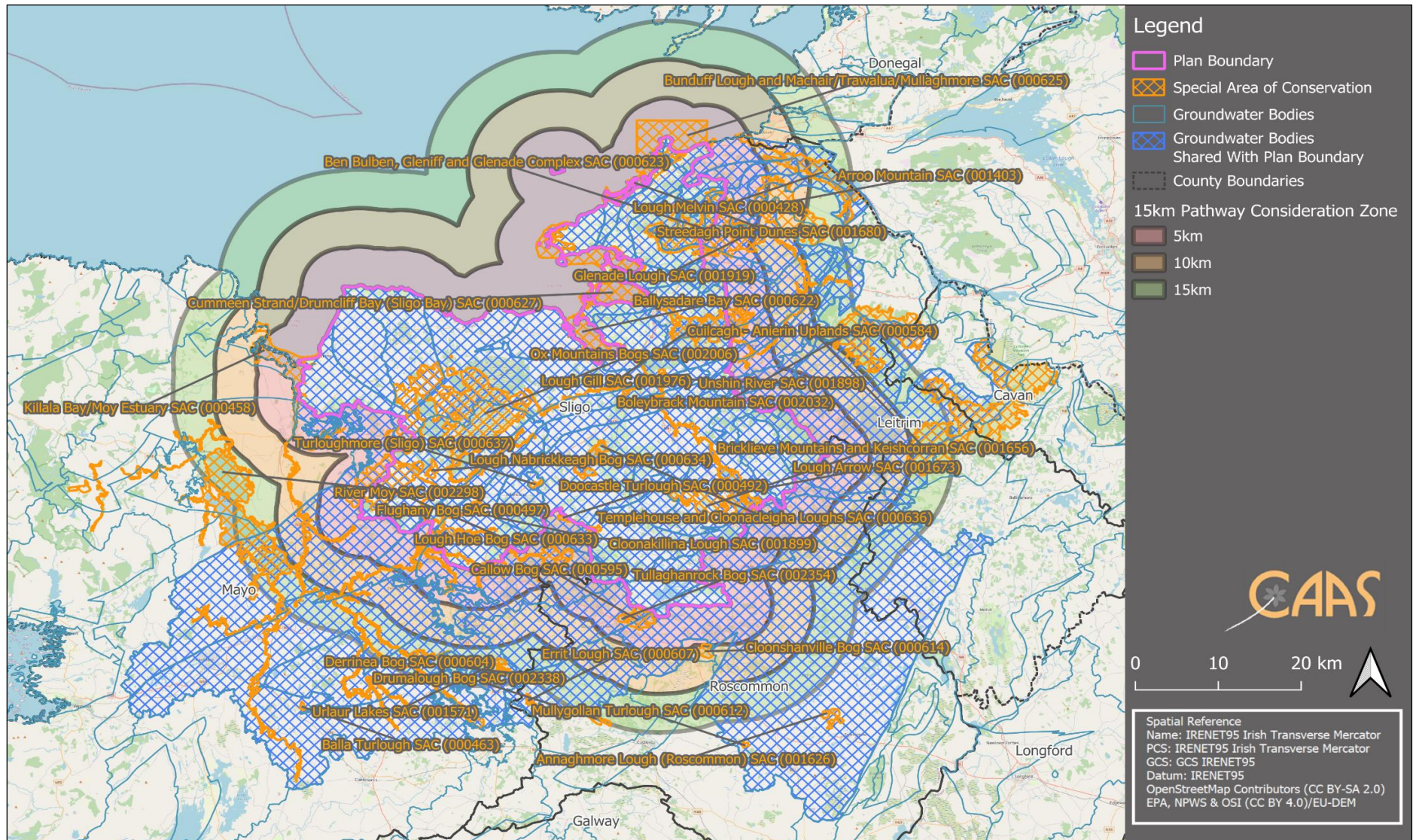


Figure 3.3 European sites<sup>12</sup> within the same groundwater bodies<sup>13</sup> as the Plan area

<sup>12</sup> Special Areas of Conservation with groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests

<sup>13</sup> Source: EPA datasets (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>). Accessed: July 2023

### 3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

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

The overarching objective of the Plan is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to create Plan with the aim to assist local businesses, tourism groups/ tourism-related agencies, community organisations, and the general public, to support the ongoing tourism development of the Sligo area by developing compelling experiences encompassing Sligo as a 'must do' destination along the Wild Atlantic Way.

Therefore, the Plan is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites.

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

The focus of the Plan is to motivate international tourists to visit and stay in the local communities across the Sligo area and to increase the economic dividend generated by international visitors to the area, while extending the season. Its overarching objective is to support the ongoing tourism development of the Sligo area, evolving from visitor attraction to a year-round tourism destination. In order to be realised, projects included in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with the various provisions of legislation, policies, Plan's and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier AA) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Plan is not part and does not contribute towards.

The key objectives of the Sligo Destination Experience Development Plan are:

- Ensure the Sligo visitor experience is brought to life through the development of a mix of tourism products and experiences that will attract visitors and retain them for longer.
- Unlock the economic potential of tourism in Sligo by progressing a range of key initiatives that will disperse tourists across the wider destination.
- Strengthen the value of tourism to the local community by providing sustainable employment opportunities.
- Develop a sustainable basis for commercial tourism development by enhancing and creating strong destination experiences that excite consumers and buyers alike.
- Create the conditions to attract leisure visitors on a year-round basis to Sligo and immerse themselves actively in the community while providing the opportunity to interact with local people as part of the Sligo experience.
- Develop the role of Sligo as a key enabler for regional tourism development and transform how visitors engage with the northern half of the Wild Atlantic Way.

In line with contributing to the Strategic Objectives of the Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy (2023 - 2027), the Plan is comprised of three overarching Strategic Development Pillars: "Outdoor Adventures / Outdoor Wellbeing", "Destination Axis Town", and "Sligo Experiences – Cultural Rythm" - under ten Catalyst Projects have been identified that will contribute to the creation of a series of Destination Enabling Projects for tourism growth. The Catalyst Projects reflect the identified objectives opportunities for the area that provide the development focus over the next five years. The ten Catalyst Projects for the Plan are:

1. National Outdoor Activity Centres
2. SLNCR (Sligo, Leitrim and Northern Counties Railway) Greenway
3. Mullaghmore to Bundoran Coastal Trail
4. Iconic Hiking Trails
5. Industry Development
6. Attraction of Scale – Hazelwood Demesne
7. Sligo Town Experience
8. World Class Golf
9. Access
10. Accommodation

Each of the above Catalyst Projects, are underpinned by eight Destination Enabling Projects, which have corresponding objectives and actions:

1. Wellbeing Hubs

2. Coastal Tourism Experiences
3. Culture of Literature
4. Rural Community Tourism
5. Big Houses Experiences
6. Festivals and Events
7. Experience Clusters
8. Evening Economy

As a result of these Catalyst Projects and Destination Enabling Projects, new or intensified land uses and/or activities could lead to increased visitor numbers, an increased dwell time and a broader seasonal spread each have the potential to encourage visitors to unmanaged or mismanaged European sites that may be vulnerable to increased recreational activity and amenity use has the potential to encouraged visitors to these sites and introduce effects.

The nature and scale of these effects vary depending on the nature of the tourist enterprise and the location of their operation. Increased levels of tourism may lead to development such as renovation work to existing structures or construction of new infrastructure such as carparks etc. Increased visitor numbers to the Sligo area have the potential to also influence capacities associated with wastewater and drinking water services.

However, the Plan does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent.

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

### **3.3.3 Characterising Visitor Interactions at Tourist Destinations**

Fáilte Ireland regularly engages with environmental research that is used to make informed management decisions and produce robust guidelines to facilitate the protection of the environment. From its inception in 2014, the Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) Operational Programme Monitoring Programme (undertaken to date by CAAS on behalf of Fáilte Ireland, guided by relevant stakeholders) has been conducting research into the impacts of tourism on the receiving environment; guided by an independent working group including the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

This data was reviewed to inform the AA process to identify and characterise potential effects and interactions from tourists along the WAW. It is assumed that current visitor interactions within the Plan's area's receiving environment will be consistent with the trends, activities and effects recorded in this dataset.

On site observational surveys and ecological assessments have covered 57 locations and monitored the activities and effects of over 26,000 visitors. The findings, published in the form of Visitor Observation Reports and Ecological Impact Reports, show that visitors cause low levels of effects and that relatively higher levels of effects are predominantly caused by the mismanagement of sites – or the lack of management. Effectively managed sites have been identified where visitor movements are facilitated alongside protection of environmental receptors such as Derrynane House, County Kerry. The research has shown that the protection of sites does not have to rely on infrastructure or visitor restrictions to avoid environmental effects. The monitoring has shown that that activity dynamics are key drivers of both impact occurrence and impact severity. Therefore, it is fundamental that management practices identify and appropriately manage the activities available at nature-based destinations. From the

monitoring work it was seen that 75% of all visitor observations resulted in no identifiable effects; which highlights the feasibility of 'no impact tourism' being an achievable target.

As well as the site-specific data being collected, the Monitoring Programme collates and interprets existing national environmental indicator data, compiling the results into annual Macro-Monitoring Reports.

The findings of the Monitoring Programme are circulated to the local authorities with host sites and to site management teams at sites not under the management of local authorities. This ensures that the research can be harnessed on site by those responsible while contributing towards informed management plans and guidelines created by Fáilte Ireland.

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

- Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;
- Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;
- Disturbance of wildlife;
- Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;
- Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;
- Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;
- Fishing activities;
- Removal and throwing of large rocks; and
- Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.

Thus far, the Monitoring Programme has identified that dunes, machair, maritime grasslands and habitats such as heathlands are the most sensitive/vulnerable to visitor effects. Therefore, the management of visitor movements within these habitats is key for the avoidance of potential effects.

In 2014, Fáilte Ireland published the WAW Site Maintenance Guidelines that provide details of the works that may be required to meet a minimum standard of presentation at WAW Discovery Points. The 2014 Guidelines include an Ecological Method Statement which sets out the ecological standards and procedures that must be complied with by local authorities in implementing any works.

Fáilte Ireland are currently preparing guidance for the WAW in order to facilitate the identification of available and effective management options and the championing of concepts like 'keeping it wild'.

Furthermore, Fáilte Ireland is preparing guidelines to facilitate broad scale identification and understanding of the habitats present at Nature based tourism destinations – including details relating to known sensitivities of the habitats. As well as these, Fáilte Ireland have produced a suite of guidelines giving detailed design guidelines and considerations for developing tourism projects at sensitive sites.

### **3.3.4 Screening of Sites**

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

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



**Table 3.1 Screening of European Sites**

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature	Known Threats and Pressures	Analysis of Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
004135	Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA	Within	Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Barnacle goose ( <i>Branta leucopsis</i> ) [A045]	Trampling, overuse [G05.01], Scuba diving, snorkelling [G01.07], Non intensive cattle grazing [A04.02.01], Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02], Hand collection [F04.02.02], Off-road motorized driving [G01.03.02]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
004133	Aughris Head SPA	Within	Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188]	Predation [K03.04], Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing [A04.03], Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general [J02.01], Trampling, overuse [G05.01], Intensive grazing [A04.01], Hunting [F03.01], Removal of hedges and copses or scrub [A10.01], Paths, tracks, cycling tracks [D01.01], Mechanical removal of peat [C01.03.02], Forestry clearance [B02.02], Modifying structures of inland water courses [J02.05.02], Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals [A07], Non intensive mixed animal grazing [A04.02.05], Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities [G01], Abandonment or lack of mowing [A03.03], Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits [J02.11], Flooding [J02.04.01], Grazing in forests or woodland [B06], Modification of hydrographic functioning, general [J02.05], Fertilisation [A08], Mowing or cutting of grassland [A03]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes

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004234	Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA	Within	Barnacle goose ( <i>Branta leucopsis</i> ) [A045]	Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities [H01.05], Forest and plantation management & use [B02], Fertilisation [A08], Removal of hedges and copses or scrub [A10.01], Grazing [A04], Invasive non-native species [I01]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000622	Ballysadare Bay SAC	Within	Humid dune slacks [2190], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ) [1014], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120]	Flooding modifications [J02.04], Inundation (natural processes) [L08], Diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities [H02.06], Fertilisation [A08], Invasive non-native species [I01], Antagonism arising from introduction of species [K03.05], Dispersed habitation [E01.03], Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters [H01.08], Leisure fishing [F02.03], Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02], Forest and plantation management & use [B02], Other siltation rate changes [J02.11.02], Piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers [D03.01.02], Wildlife watching [G02.09], Nautical sports [G01.01], Grazing [A04], Hunting [F03.01], Thermal heating of water bodies [H06.03], Abandonment or lack of mowing [A03.03]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
004129	Ballysadare Bay SPA	Within	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162]	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02], Skiing complex [G02.02], Flooding and rising precipitations [M01.03], Flooding modifications [J02.04], Urbanised areas, human habitation [E01], Camping and caravans [G02.08], Leisure fishing [F02.03], Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters [H01.08]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes

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001656	Bricklieve Mountains & Keishcorran SAC	Within	Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Turloughs [3180], White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092], Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels ( <i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i> ) [8120], Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ) [1065], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> )* important orchid sites [6210]	Hunting [F03.01], Grazing [A04], Fertilisation [A08]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
004035	Cummeen Strand SPA	Within	Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674]	Peat extraction [C01.03], Fertilisation [A08], Grazing [A04], Roads, motorways [D01.02], Restructuring agricultural land holding [A10], Improved access to site [D05]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000627	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC	Within	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Estuaries [1130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ) [1014], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> )* important orchid sites [6210], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220]	Erosion [K01.01], Removal of beach materials [C01.01.02], Motorised vehicles [G01.03], Flooding modifications [J02.04]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes

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000492	Doocastle Turlough SAC	Within	Turloughs [3180]	Cultivation [A01], Problematic native species [I02], Fire and fire suppression [J01], Non intensive horse grazing [A04.02.03], Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures [G05.07], Artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees) [B01.02], Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities [H01.05], Fences, fencing [G05.09], Intensive horse grazing [A04.01.03], Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02], Sylviculture, forestry [B], Roads, motorways [D01.02], Taking from nest [E.g., falcons) [F03.02.02], Trampling, overuse [G05.01], Garbage and solid waste [H05.01], Intensive sheep grazing [A04.01.02], Erosion [K01.01], Forest replanting [B02.01], Off-road motorized driving [G01.03.02], Paths, tracks, cycling tracks [D01.01], Peat extraction [C01.03], Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals [A07]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
004013	Drumcliff Bay SPA	Within	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157]	Disposal of household or recreational facility waste [E03.01], Modification of hydrographic functioning, general [J02.05], Invasive non-native species [I01], Mechanical removal of peat [C01.03.02]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000497	Flughany Bog SAC	Within	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions [J02.15], Mechanical removal of peat [C01.03.02], Flooding modifications [J02.04], Burning down [J01.01], Sylviculture, forestry [B]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
004068	Inishmurray SPA	Within	Barnacle goose ( <i>Branta leucopsis</i> ) [A045], Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018], Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184]	Invasive non-native species [I01], Disposal of household or recreational facility waste [E03.01], Grazing [A04], Modification of hydrographic functioning, general [J02.05]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes

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000458	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC	Within	Humid dune slacks [2190], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i> ) [1330], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ) [1014], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Estuaries [1130], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	Other human intrusions and disturbances [G05]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
004036	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA	Within	Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137]	Grazing [A04], Hunting [F03.01], Fertilisation [A08]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
001669	Knockalongy and Knockachree Cliffs SAC	Within	Killarney fern ( <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> ) [1421]	Mechanical removal of peat [C01.03.02], Flooding modifications [J02.04], Sylviculture, forestry [B]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes

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001673	Lough Arrow SAC	Within	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	Invasive non-native species [I01], Sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages [J02.12.01], Erosion [K01.01], Golf course [G02.01], Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02], Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh [J02.01.02], Discontinuous urbanisation [E01.02], Bottom culture [F01.03], Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing [A04.03], Trampling, overuse [G05.01], Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources [F02]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
004050	Lough Arrow SPA	Within	Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ) [A004], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Golf course [G02.01], Dispersed habitation [E01.03], Burning down [J01.01], Trampling, overuse [G05.01], Wildlife watching [G02.09], Sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages [J02.12.01], Port areas [D03.01], Disposal of inert materials [E03.03], Intensive fish farming, intensification [F01.01], Invasive non-native species [I01], Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02], Dumping, depositing of dredged deposits [J02.11.01], Agricultural intensification [A02.01], Camping and caravans [G02.08], Off-road motorized driving [G01.03.02], Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions [D03]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
004048	Lough Gara SPA	Within	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038]	Burning down [J01.01], Wind energy production [C03.03], Forest planting on open ground [B01], Mechanical removal of peat [C01.03.02], Grazing [A04]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes

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001976	Lough Gill SAC	Within	White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0]	Fertilisation [A08], Forest and plantation management & use [B02], Hand cutting of peat [C01.03.01], Hunting [F03.01], Agricultural intensification [A02.01], Abandonment or lack of mowing [A03.03], Fire and fire suppression [J01], Paths, tracks, cycling tracks [D01.01], Dispersed habitation [E01.03]	is Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000633	Lough Hoe Bog SAC	Within	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110], White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Geyer`s whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013]	Forest replanting [B02.01], Agricultural intensification [A02.01], Biocenotic evolution, succession [K02]	is Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000634	Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog SAC	Within	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	Forestry clearance [B02.02], Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02], Fences, fencing [G05.09], Grazing in forests or woodland [B06], Forest replanting (native trees) [B02.01.01], Invasive non-native species [I01]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes

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002006	Ox Mountains Bogs SAC	Within	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Marsh saxifrage ( <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> ) [1528], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Geyer's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], European dry heaths [4030], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110]	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks [D01.01], Off-road motorized driving [G01.03.02], Forest and plantation management & use [B02], Collapse of terrain, landslide [L05], Erosion [K01.01], Sand and gravel quarries [C01.01.01], Burning down [J01.01], Invasive non-native species [I01], Hand cutting of peat [C01.03.01], Mechanical removal of peat [C01.03.02], Non intensive sheep grazing [A04.02.02]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
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000623	Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC	Within	<p>Geyer`s whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1013], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolij</i>) [8120], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], European dry heaths [4030], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Alkaline fens [7230], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]</p>	<p>Invasive non-native species [X<sub>r</sub>], collapse of terrain, landslide [I01], mechanical removal of peat [L05], abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing [C01.03.02], erosion [K01.01], intensive sheep grazing [A04.03], paths [A04.01.02], tracks [D01.01], cycling tracks, off-road motorized driving [G01.03.02]</p>	<p>This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.</p>	Yes	Yes
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000625	Bunduff Lough and Machair/Traw alua/Mullaghmore SAC	Within	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> )* important orchid sites [6210], Machairs * in Ireland [21A0], Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ) [1065], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Humid dune slacks [2190], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> ) [1395], Alkaline fens [7230], Reefs [1170]	Non-intensive sheep grazing [A04.02.02], removal of hedges and coppice or scrub [A10.01], stock feeding [A05.02], walking [G01.02], horse riding and non-motorised vehicles [K01.01], erosion [J02.01.03], infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits [A08], fertilization [A04.01.01], intensive cattle grazing [A02.01], agricultural intensification [F03.02.04], predator control, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages [J02.12.01]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000636	Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC	Within	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	Forest and plantation management & use [B02], species composition change (succession) [K02.01], mechanical removal of peat [C01.03.02], non-intensive cattle grazing [A04.02.01], invasive non-native species [I01], dredging or removal of limnic sediments [J02.02.01]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes

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002298	River Moy SAC	Within	Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Alkaline fens [7230], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]	Roads, motorways [D01.02], Dispersed habitation [E01.03], Grazing [A04], Disposal of household or recreational facility waste [E03.01], Leisure fishing [F02.03], Fertilisation [A08], Mechanical removal of peat [C01.03.02], Hand cutting of peat [C01.03.01], Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions [J02]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
004187	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA	Within	Peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103], Chough ( <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> ) [A346]	Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing [A04.03], Modification of cultivation practices [A02], Non intensive cattle grazing [A04.02.01], Fire and fire suppression [J01]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
001680	Streedagh Point Dunes SAC	Within	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ) [1014], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Agricultural intensification [A02.01], Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above [F06], Removal of hedges and copses or scrub [A10.01], Burning down [J01.01], Non intensive cattle grazing [A04.02.01], Restructuring agricultural land holding [A10], Intensive sheep grazing [A04.01.02], Paths, tracks, cycling tracks [D01.01], Mechanical removal of peat [C01.03.02]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes

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000637	Turloughmore (Sligo) SAC	Within	Turloughs [3180]	Underground or submerged electricity and phone lines [D02.01.02], Erosion [K01.01], Forest and plantation management & use [B02], Hunting [F03.01], Intensive sheep grazing [A04.01.02]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000638	Union Wood SAC	Within	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	Piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers [D03.01.02], Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits [J02.01.03], Sport and leisure structures [G02], Invasive non-native species [I01], Removal of hedges and copses or scrub [A10.01]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
001898	Unshin River SAC	Within	Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caerulea</i> ) [6410], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210]	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02], Off-road motorized driving [G01.03.02], Nautical sports [G01.01], Sand and gravel quarries [C01.01.01], Camping and caravans [G02.08], Trampling, overuse [G05.01]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists within the Plan boundary, therefore, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000595	Callow Bog SAC	0.01	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	Fertilisation [A08], Hunting [F03.01], Grazing [A04]	This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area, developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to direct land use management effects, disturbance effects, and hydrological interactions. Due to this SAC's location adjacent to the Plan boundary, and the existence of a hydrological connection along the border of County Sligo, there are pathways for potential effects to the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes

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002354	Tullaghanrock Bog SAC	1.15	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110]	Leisure fishing [F02.03], Invasive non-native species [I01], Groundwater abstractions for public water supply [J02.07.02], Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions [J02.15], Non intensive mowing [A03.02], Hunting [F03.01], Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing [A04.03], Abandonment or lack of mowing [A03.03], Wildlife watching [G02.09], Diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities [H02.06]	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 1.15 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>There is no direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site. In addition, this site is hydrologically isolated from the Plan boundary as raised bog habitats are domed and primarily rainwater fed (ombrotrophic) and isolated from groundwater.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
001899	Cloonakillina Lough SAC	1.41	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes [J02.10], Invasive non-native species [I01], Forest and plantation management & use [B02], Agricultural intensification [A02.01], Non intensive sheep grazing [A04.02.02]	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Wild Atlantic Way area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 1.41 km outside of the Plan boundary. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Plan Boundary and this European site.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, there are no potential sources for direct land use management effects identified as the site is outside of the Plan boundary. However, there are potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan; and a hydrological pathway for potential effects to the SAC and its QI habitat has been identified via a shared catchment with the Plan boundary and the SAC.</p> <p>Thus, there is potential for significant effects to this site and, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.</p>	Yes	Yes
004151	Donegal Bay SPA	3.41	Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Grazing [A04], Leisure fishing [F02.03], Mowing or cutting of grassland [A03], Sylviculture, forestry [B], Fire and fire suppression [J01]	<p>This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. It exists 3.41 km outside of the Plan boundary. This site is hydrologically isolated from the Plan boundary.</p> <p>SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for disturbance effects identified.</p> <p>These SCI species are highly vagile and therefore may utilise ex-situ ecological resources which may have interactions with the Plan; however, at this scale landscape characteristics and the availability of alternate resources ensure the local scale interactions with ex-situ resources are not likely to have significant effects on the SPA.</p>	No	No

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					<p>Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources for effects identified from the Plan that have pathways for effects to the SPA or its SCI species.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>		
000428	Lough Melvin SAC	3.44	<p>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caeruleae</i>) [6410], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130]</p>	<p>Forestry clearance [B02.02], Invasive non-native species [I01], Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals [Forestry] [B04]</p>	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 3.44 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary. There is no direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
001403	Arroo Mountain SAC	3.48	<p>European dry heaths [4030], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>) [8120], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]</p>	<p>Modifying structures of inland water courses [J02.05.02], Invasive non-native species [I01], Sylviculture, forestry [B], Continuous urbanisation [E01.01], Removal of hedges and copses or scrub [A10.01], Grazing in forests or woodland [B06], Dispersed habitation [E01.03], Motorized nautical sports [G01.01.01], Paths, tracks, cycling tracks [D01.01], Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes [J02.10], Disposal of inert materials [E03.03],</p>	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to direct land use management effects and groundwater interactions. This site exists 3.48 km outside of the Plan boundary and is not managed by the Plan.</p> <p>Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics<sup>14</sup>, and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams<sup>15</sup>. It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water<sup>16</sup>. The QI is sensitive to direct land use management effects and hydrological interactions. Considering the distance between the Plan area and the groundwater sensitive features of the SAC, there is considerable dilution effect, and therefore no significant effects to the QI are identified.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
000614	Cloonshanville Bog SAC	4.85	<p>Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Bog woodland [91D0]</p>	<p>Forest planting on open ground [B01], Fire (natural) [L09], Wind energy production [C03.03], Hand cutting of peat [C01.03S.01], Mechanical removal of peat [C01.03.02], Improved access to site [D05], Roads, motorways [D01.02], Grazing [A04]</p>	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 4.85 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p>	No	No

<sup>14</sup> Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

<sup>15</sup> Silva, A.C.F. et al. 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

<sup>16</sup> Lasagna, M. et al. 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.

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					<p>There is no direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site. In addition, this site is hydrologically isolated from the Plan boundary as raised bog habitats are domed and primarily rainwater fed (ombrotrophic) and isolated from groundwater.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>		
001919	Glenade Lough SAC	5.21	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Slender naiad ( <i>Najas flexilis</i> ) [1833], White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092]	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02], Mechanical removal of peat [C01.03.02], Roads, paths and railroads [D01], Surface water abstractions for public water supply [J02.06.02], Wind energy production [C03.03], Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing [A04.03], Burning down [J01.01], Problematic native species [I02], Intensive sheep grazing [A04.01.02], Sylviculture, forestry [B], Non intensive cattle grazing [A04.02.01], Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals [A07], Restructuring agricultural land holding [A10], Predator control [F03.02.04], Parasitism [Fauna] [K03.02], Forest planting on open ground [B01], Pipe lines [D02.02], Forest and plantation management & use [B02], Non intensive sheep grazing [A04.02.02], Taking from nest [E.g., falcons] [F03.02.02], Sand and gravel quarries [C01.01.01]	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 5.14 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary. There is no direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No

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004105	Bellanagare Bog SPA	6.93	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	Marine and freshwater aquaculture [F01], Discharges [E03], Nautical sports [G01.01], Urbanised areas, human habitation [E01], Hunting [F03.01], Eutrophication (natural) [K02.03], Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh [J02.01.02], Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes [J02.10], Grazing [A04], Sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages [J02.12.01], Removal of beach materials [C01.01.02], Fertilisation [A08], Paths, tracks, cycling tracks [D01.01], Invasive non-native species [I01], Air pollution, air-borne pollutants [H04], Polderisation [J02.01.01], Leisure fishing [F02.03], Sylviculture, forestry [B], Hand cutting of peat [C01.03.01]	<p>This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. It exists 6.93 km outside of the Plan boundary. This site is hydrologically isolated from the Plan boundary.</p> <p>SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for disturbance effects identified.</p> <p>These SCI species are highly vagile and therefore may utilise ex-situ ecological resources which may have interactions with the Plan; however, at this scale landscape characteristics and the availability of alternate resources ensure the local scale interactions with ex-situ resources are not likely to have significant effects on the SPA.</p> <p>Considering the SCI of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources for effects identified from the Plan that have pathways for effects to the SPA or its SCI species.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
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000592	Bellanagare Bog SAC	7.08	Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters [H01.08], Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits [J02.01.03], Mining and quarrying [C01], Paths, tracks, cycling tracks [D01.01], Intensive grazing [A04.01], Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes [J02.10], Temperature changes [E.g., rise of temperature & extremes] [M01.01], Eutrophication (natural) [K02.03], Pollution to surface waters [Limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish] [H01], Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions [J02], Flooding and rising precipitations [M01.03], Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities [G01], Piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers [D03.01.02], Forest replanting (native trees) [B02.01.01], Wildlife watching [G02.09], Species composition change (succession) [K02.01], Problematic native species [I02], Invasive non-native species [I01], Non intensive mixed animal grazing [A04.02.05], Fertilisation [A08], Removal of hedges and copses or scrub [A10.01], Droughts and less precipitations [M01.02]	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 7.08km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>There is no direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site. In addition, this site is hydrologically isolated from the Plan boundary as raised bog habitats are domed and primarily rainwater fed (ombrotrophic) and isolated from groundwater.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
000516	Lackan Saltmarsh and Kilcummin Head SAC	9.35	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ) [1330]	Use of fertilizers [Forestry] [B05], Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities [H01.05], Invasive non-native species [I01], Predator control [F03.02.04], Aerodrome, heliport [D04.02], Taking and removal of animals (terrestrial) [F03.02], Flooding modifications [J02.04], Agricultural intensification [A02.01], Peat extraction [C01.03], Forest planting on open ground [B01], Leisure fishing [F02.03]	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 9.35 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary. There is no direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No

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000584	Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC	9.46	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Slender green feather-moss ( <i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i> ) [6216], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], European dry heaths [4030], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8110], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]	Biocenotic evolution, succession [K02], Fertilisation [A08], Removal of hedges and copses or scrub [A10.01], Agricultural intensification [A02.01]	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 9.46 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary. There is no direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
002032	Boleybrack Mountain SAC	9.66	European dry heaths [4030], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410]	Invasive non-native species [I01], Disposal of household or recreational facility waste [E03.01], Modification of hydrographic functioning, general [J02.05]	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 9.66 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary. There is no direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No

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000191	St. John's Point SAC	10.04	Reefs [1170], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Alkaline fens [7230], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> )* important orchid sites [6210], Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Limestone pavements [8240], Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ) [1065]	Flooding modifications [J02.04], Non intensive cattle grazing [A04.02.01], Sylviculture, forestry [B],	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 10.04 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary. There is no direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
004228	Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA	10.19	Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Marine and freshwater aquaculture [F01], Fertilisation [A08], Grazing [A04], Dispersed habitation [E01.03], Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02]	<p>This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. It exists 10.19 km outside of the Plan boundary. This site is hydrologically isolated from the Plan boundary.</p> <p>SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for disturbance effects identified.</p> <p>These SCI species are highly vagile and therefore may utilise ex-situ ecological resources which may have interactions with the Plan; however, at this scale landscape characteristics and the availability of alternate resources ensure the local scale interactions with ex-situ resources are not likely to have significant effects on the SPA.</p> <p>Considering the SCI of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources for effects identified from the Plan that have pathways for effects to the SPA or its SCI species.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
002303	Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC	10.41	Turloughs [3180]	Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh [J02.01.02], Industrial or commercial areas [E02], Fertilisation [A08], Leisure fishing [F02.03], Roads, motorways [D01.02], Urbanised areas, human habitation [E01], Pollution [H], Marine and freshwater aquaculture [F01], Shipping lanes [D03.02]	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to direct land use management effects and groundwater interactions. This site exists 10.41 km outside of the Plan boundary and is not managed by the Plan.</p>	No	No

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					<p>Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics<sup>17</sup>, and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams<sup>18</sup>. It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water<sup>19</sup>. The QI is sensitive to direct land use management effects and hydrological interactions. Considering the distance between the Plan area and the groundwater sensitive features of the SAC, there is considerable dilution effect, and therefore no significant effects to the QI are identified.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>		
001571	Urlaur Lakes SAC	11.54	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	Fertilisation [A08], Leisure fishing [F02.03], Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02], Urbanised areas, human habitation [E01]	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 11.54 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary. There is no direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
000604	Derrinea Bog SAC	13.63	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110]	Fertilisation [A08], Sylviculture, forestry [B],	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 13.63 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>There is no direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site. In addition, this site is hydrologically isolated from the Plan boundary as raised bog habitats are domed and primarily rainwater fed (ombrotrophic) and isolated from groundwater.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
002338	Drumalough Bog SAC	14.58	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	Leisure fishing [F02.03], Fertilisation [A08]	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 14.58 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p>	No	No

<sup>17</sup> Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

<sup>18</sup> Silva, A.C.F. *et al.* 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

<sup>19</sup> Lasagna, M. *et al.* 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.

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					<p>There is no direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site. In addition, this site is hydrologically isolated from the Plan boundary as raised bog habitats are domed and primarily rainwater fed (ombrotrophic) and isolated from groundwater.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>		
004115	Inishduff SPA	14.68	Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018]	Hunting [F03.01], Fertilisation [A08], Nautical sports [G01.01], Leisure fishing [F02.03]	<p>This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. It exists 14.68 km outside of the Plan boundary. This site is hydrologically isolated from the Plan boundary.</p> <p>SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for disturbance effects identified.</p> <p>These SCI species are highly vagile and therefore may utilise ex-situ ecological resources which may have interactions with the Plan; however, at this scale landscape characteristics and the availability of alternate resources ensure the local scale interactions with ex-situ resources are not likely to have significant effects on the SPA.</p> <p>Considering the SCI of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources for effects identified from the Plan that have pathways for effects to the SPA or its SCI species.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
<b>Hydrologically connected European sites beyond 15km</b>							
000607	Errit Lough SAC	16.66	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	Grazing [A04], Sylviculture, forestry [B], Invasive non-native species [I01], Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02], Hunting [F03.01], Nautical sports [G01.01], Leisure fishing [F02.03], Fertilisation [A08]	<p>The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions.</p> <p>There are no potential sources for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site.</p>	No	No

					<p>A shared groundwater body between this European site and the Plan boundary has been identified. Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics<sup>20</sup>, and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams<sup>21</sup>. It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water<sup>22</sup>. Considering the distance between the Plan area and the groundwater sensitive features of the SAC of over 5km, there is considerable dilution effect, and as a result no pathway with a likelihood for potential significant effects has been identified.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, their sensitivities, pressures, and Conservation Objectives, and given the nature of the Plan, and the distances involved, there are no potential pathways for direct land use management effects, groundwater interactions or surface hydrological interactions identified. Thus, there are no sources with pathways with a likelihood of potential significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>		
001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC	17.74	Geyer`s whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013], Alkaline fens [7230]	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02]	<p>The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and hydrological and groundwater interactions.</p> <p>There are no potential sources for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site.</p> <p>A shared groundwater body between this European site and the Plan boundary has been identified. Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics<sup>23</sup>, and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams<sup>24</sup>. It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water<sup>25</sup>. Considering the distance between the Plan area and the groundwater sensitive features of the SAC of over 5km, there is considerable dilution effect, and as a result no pathway with a likelihood for potential significant effects has been identified.</p>	No	No

<sup>20</sup> Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

<sup>21</sup> Silva, A.C.F. *et al.* 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

<sup>22</sup> Lasagna, M. *et al.* 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.

<sup>23</sup> Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

<sup>24</sup> Silva, A.C.F. *et al.* 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

<sup>25</sup> Lasagna, M. *et al.* 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.

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					In considering the QIs of this SAC, their sensitivities, pressures, and Conservation Objectives, and given the nature of the Plan, and the distances involved, there are no potential pathways for direct land use management effects, groundwater interactions or surface hydrological interactions identified. Thus, there are no sources with pathways with a likelihood of potential significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.		
000612	Mullygollan Turlough SAC	17.80	Turloughs [3180]	Marine and freshwater aquaculture [F01], Shipping lanes [D03.02], Urbanised areas, human habitation [E01], Fertilisation [A08], Nautical sports [G01.01], Industrial or commercial areas [E02], Discharges [E03]	<p>The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to hydrological interactions, direct land use management activities and groundwater interactions.</p> <p>There are no potential sources for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site.</p> <p>A shared groundwater body between this European site and the Plan boundary has been identified. Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics<sup>26</sup>, and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams<sup>27</sup>. It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water<sup>28</sup>. Considering the distance between the Plan area and the groundwater sensitive features of the SAC of over 5km, there is considerable dilution effect, and as a result no pathway with a likelihood for potential significant effects has been identified.</p> <p>In considering the QI of this SAC, its sensitivities, pressures, and Conservation Objectives, and given the nature of the Plan, and the distances involved, there are no potential pathways for direct land use management effects, groundwater interactions or surface hydrological interactions identified. Thus, there are no sources with pathways with a likelihood of potential significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
000463	Balla Turlough SAC	24.81	Turloughs [3180]	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks [D01.01], Bridge, viaduct [D01.05], Grazing [A04], Mowing or cutting of grassland [A03], Nautical sports [G01.01], Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02], Leisure fishing [F02.03], Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing [A04.03], Fertilisation [A08], Hunting [F03.01], Urbanised areas, human habitation [E01]	<p>The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and hydrological and groundwater interactions.</p> <p>There are no potential sources for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site.</p>	No	No

<sup>26</sup> Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

<sup>27</sup> Silva, A.C.F. *et al.* 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

<sup>28</sup> Lasagna, M. *et al.* 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.

					<p>A shared groundwater body between this European site and the Plan boundary has been identified. Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics<sup>29</sup>, and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams<sup>30</sup>. It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water<sup>31</sup>. Considering the distance between the Plan area and the groundwater sensitive features of the SAC of over 5km, there is considerable dilution effect, and as a result no pathway with a likelihood for potential significant effects has been identified.</p> <p>In considering the QI of this SAC, its sensitivities, pressures, and Conservation Objectives, and given the nature of the Plan, and the distances involved, there are no potential pathways for direct land use management effects, groundwater interactions or surface hydrological interactions identified. Thus, there are no sources with pathways with a likelihood of potential significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>		
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	32.27	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharitum - type vegetation [3150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0]	Mowing or cutting of grassland [A03], Fertilisation [A08], Grazing [A04], Leisure fishing [F02.03], Dispersed habitation [E01.03], Nautical sports [G01.01], Sylviculture, forestry [B], Hunting [F03.01]	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 32.27 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>There is a direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site. However, considering the distances involved, the nature of the Plan, and the dilution factor, there is no potential for significant effects foreseen due to the Plan. In addition, this site is hydrologically isolated from the Plan boundary as raised bog habitats are domed and primarily rainwater fed (ombrotrophic) and isolated from groundwater.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	32.28	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	Leisure fishing [F02.03], Hunting [F03.01], Grazing [A04], Nautical sports [G01.01], Sylviculture, forestry [B]	<p>This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. It exists 32.28 km outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>There is a direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site. However, considering the distances involved, the nature of the Plan, and the dilution factor, there is no potential for significant effects foreseen due to the Plan.</p>	No	No

<sup>29</sup> Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

<sup>30</sup> Silva, A.C.F. *et al.* 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

<sup>31</sup> Lasagna, M. *et al.* 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.



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					<p>SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for disturbance effects identified.</p> <p>These SCI species are highly vagile and therefore may utilise ex-situ ecological resources which may have interactions with the Plan; however, at this scale landscape characteristics and the availability of alternate resources ensure the local scale interactions with ex-situ resources are not likely to have significant effects on the SPA.</p> <p>Considering the SCI of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources for effects identified from the Plan that have pathways for effects to the SPA or its SCI species.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>		
000440	Lough Ree SAC	34.73	<p>Limestone pavements [8240], Bog woodland [91D0], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Alkaline fens [7230], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)* important orchid sites [6210], Active raised bogs [7110]</p>	<p>Roads, motorways [D01.02], Modifying structures of inland water courses [J02.05.02], Peat extraction [C01.03], Grazing [A04], Forest planting on open ground [B01]</p>	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 34.73 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>There is a direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site. However, considering the distances involved, the nature of the Plan, and the dilution factor, there is no potential for significant effects foreseen due to the Plan. In addition, this site is hydrologically isolated from the Plan boundary as raised bog habitats are domed and primarily rainwater fed (ombrotrophic) and isolated from groundwater.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No

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004064	Lough Ree SPA	34.81	Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ) [A004], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140]	Grazing, silviculture, forestry, invasive non-native species, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, hunting, nautical sports, leisure fishing, fertilisation	<p>This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. It exists 34.81 km outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>There is a direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site. However, considering the distances involved, the nature of the Plan, and the dilution factor, there is no potential for significant effects foreseen due to the Plan.</p> <p>SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for disturbance effects identified.</p> <p>These SCI species are highly vagile and therefore may utilise ex-situ ecological resources which may have interactions with the Plan; however, at this scale landscape characteristics and the availability of alternate resources ensure the local scale interactions with ex-situ resources are not likely to have significant effects on the SPA.</p> <p>Considering the SCI of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources for effects identified from the Plan that have pathways for effects to the SPA or its SCI species.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	61.94	Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Corncrake ( <i>Crex crex</i> ) [A122], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, bridge, viaduct, grazing, mowing or cutting of grassland, nautical sports, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, leisure fishing, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, fertilisation, hunting, urbanised areas, human habitation	<p>This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. It exists 61.94 km outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>There is a direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site. However, considering the distances involved, the nature of the Plan, and the dilution factor, there is no potential for significant effects foreseen due to the Plan.</p> <p>SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for disturbance effects identified.</p> <p>These SCI species are highly vagile and therefore may utilise ex-situ ecological resources which may have interactions with the Plan; however, at this scale landscape characteristics and the availability of alternate resources ensure the local scale interactions with ex-situ resources are not likely to have significant effects on the SPA.</p> <p>Considering the SCI of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources for effects identified from the Plan that have pathways for effects to the SPA or its SCI species.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No

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000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	61.95	Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Limestone pavements [8240], Alkaline fens [7230], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0]	Predation, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, trampling, overuse, intensive grazing, hunting, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, mechanical removal of peat, forestry clearance, modifying structures of inland water courses, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, non-intensive mixed animal grazing, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, abandonment or lack of mowing, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, flooding, grazing in forests or woodland, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, fertilisation, mowing or cutting of grassland	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 61.95 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>There is a direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site. However, considering the distances involved, the nature of the Plan, and the dilution factor, there is no potential for significant effects foreseen due to the Plan.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan and the distances involved, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
002241	Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC	93.10	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0], Limestone pavements [8240], Alkaline fens [7230], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion <i>davallianae</i> [7210]	Marine and freshwater aquaculture [F01], Grazing [A04], Nautical sports [G01.01], Fertilisation [A08], Continuous urbanisation [E01.01], Roads, motorways [D01.02], Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02]	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 93.10 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>There is a direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site. However, considering the distances involved, the nature of the Plan, and the dilution factor, there is no potential for significant effects foreseen due to the Plan.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan and the distances involved, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No

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004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	93.12	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067]	Camping and caravans [G02.08], Mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology [G01.04], Mechanical removal of peat [C01.03.02], Invasive non-native species [I01], Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles [G01.02], Forest planting on open ground [B01], Sand and gravel extraction [C01.01], Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing [A04.03], Erosion [K01.01], Sand and gravel quarries [C01.01.01], Continuous urbanisation [E01.01], Grazing [A04]	<p>This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. It exists 93.12 km outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>There is a direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site. However, considering the distances involved, the nature of the Plan, and the dilution factor, there is no potential for significant effects foreseen due to the Plan.</p> <p>SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for disturbance effects identified.</p> <p>These SCI species are highly vagile and therefore may utilise ex-situ ecological resources which may have interactions with the Plan; however, at this scale landscape characteristics and the availability of alternate resources ensure the local scale interactions with ex-situ resources are not likely to have significant effects on the SPA.</p> <p>Considering the SCI of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources for effects identified from the Plan that have pathways for effects to the SPA or its SCI species.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
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002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	120.82	<p>Coastal lagoons [1150], Estuaries [1130], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Reefs [1170], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) [1349], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</p>	<p>Marine and freshwater aquaculture, discharges, nautical sports, urbanised areas, human habitation, hunting, eutrophication (natural), reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, grazing, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, removal of beach materials, fertilisation, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, invasive non-native species, air pollution, air-borne pollutants, polderisation, leisure fishing, silviculture, forestry, hand cutting of peat</p>	<p>The Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and direct land use management effects. This site exists 120.82 km outside of the Plan boundary. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>There is a direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site. However, considering the distances involved, the nature of the Plan, and the dilution factor, there is no potential for significant effects foreseen due to the Plan.</p> <p>In considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan and the distances involved, there are no potential sources for hydrological effects identified in the Plan and no potential for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
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004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	126.25	<p>Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062], Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A674], Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</p>	<p>Marine and freshwater aquaculture, shipping lanes, urbanised areas, human habitation, fertilisation, nautical sports, industrial or commercial areas, discharges</p>	<p>This Plan provides a cohesive Plan to support ongoing tourism development of the Sligo County area; developing current visitor attractions of the area. This European site is sensitive to hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. It exists 126.25 km outside of the Plan boundary.</p> <p>There is a direct hydrological connection between the Plan boundary and this site. However, considering the distances involved, the nature of the Plan, and the dilution factor, there is no potential for significant effects foreseen due to the Plan.</p> <p>SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for disturbance effects identified.</p> <p>These SCI species are highly vagile and therefore may utilise ex-situ ecological resources which may have interactions with the Plan; however, at this scale landscape characteristics and the availability of alternate resources ensure the local scale interactions with ex-situ resources are not likely to have significant effects on the SPA.</p> <p>Considering the SCI of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources for effects identified from the Plan that have pathways for effects to the SPA or its SCI species.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
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### **3.4 Other Plans and Programmes**

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other Plan's or programmes that might, in combination with the Plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon European sites. Appendix II outlines a selection of Plan's or projects that may interact with the Plan to cause in-combination effects to European sites. These plans and programmes were considered throughout the assessment.

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

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction up to 2040. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower-tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSEs set out various objectives relating tourism development and activities that have been subject to environmental assessment. The RSEs have informed, and continue to inform, the preparation of lower-tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans, which also set out various objectives relating tourism development and activities that have been subject to environmental assessment.

It is recognised that the identification of in-combination effects is limited, and that, as is normal practice, the assessment of in-combination effects will need to be undertaken in a more comprehensive manner at project-level.

Additional information on the relationship with other Plans and programmes is provided in Appendix II.

### **3.5 AA Screening Conclusion**

The effects that could arise from the Plan have been examined in the context of several factors that could potentially affect the integrity of any European site. On the basis of the findings of this Screening for AA, it is concluded that the Plan:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant adverse effects on 33 (no.) European sites.

Therefore, a Stage 2 AA is required for the Plan (see Section 4 of this report). An AA Screening Determination undertaken by the competent authority accompanies this report and the Plan.

## 3.6 Ancillary AA 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 Sligo Destination Experience Development Plan

#### **Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening**

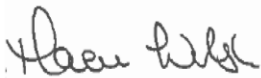
This ancillary determination is ancillary to both:

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

In making the determination that AA is required, the information on the potential effects on European sites arising from the Draft Sligo Destination 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 Draft Sligo Destination 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: 21.11.22**



## Section 4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

### 4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the Plan alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 33 European sites brought forward from screening (those considered on Table 3.1 for which there is “Potential Pathway for Significant Effects” and/or “Potential for In-Combination Effects”), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

### 4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified 33 European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Plan.

Appendix I characterises each of the qualifying features of the 33 European sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites’ vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website<sup>32</sup>.

### 4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts<sup>33</sup>:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>32</sup> Last accessed 12th March 2023; <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>

<sup>33</sup> These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2016) “Guidelines for ecological impact assessment”; Environmental Protection Agency (2002) “Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements”; and National Roads Authority (2009) “Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes”.

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

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

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

#### Generic Conservation Objective for SACs:

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

#### One generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:

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

### 4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects

Assessment of potential impacts on European sites is conducted utilising a standard source-pathway model (see approach referred to under Section 1.3 and Section 3).

The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Loss/reduction of habitat area;
- Habitat or species fragmentation;
- Disturbance to key species;
- Reduction in species density;
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.); and
- Climate change.

Each of the above potential changes are discussed below, and considered in Table 4.1 with reference to the QIs/SCIs of all of the European sites brought forward from Stage 1 of the AA process (see Table 3.1 for Stage 1).

#### **Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area**

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

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

Tourism experiences supported by the Plan are managed independently to Fáilte Ireland and therefore there is a risk of habitat loss or reduction due to the implementation of the Plan. Habitat destruction could occur at unmanaged/mismanaged sites or through inadequate operating procedures of strategic partners that are promoted by the Plan.

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the Plan (see Section 5), e.g. in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance<sup>34</sup> with measures relating to sustainable development, ecological protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

### **Habitat or species Fragmentation**

Visitor interactions and activities at tourist destinations have the potential to result in the following effects:

- Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;
- Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;
- Disturbance of wildlife;
- Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;
- Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;
- Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;
- Fishing activities;
- Removal and throwing of large rocks; and
- Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.

These sources for effects are localised and small scale; however, if unmanaged, the provisions to increase tourist numbers to the Sligo area could result in habitat loss (as indicated above) which could affect the connectivity of habitats and species populations. Similarly, the Plan area contains several European sites (see Table 3.1), each with a multitude ecological resource with a variety of connectivity pathways. The promotion of tourism in this area and potential increases in tourism could introduce habitat or species fragmentation through development pressures, lighting schemes and or human disturbance effects etc.

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

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the Plan (see Section 5), e.g., in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance<sup>34</sup> with measures relating to sustainable development, ecological protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

### **Disturbance to Key Species**

Disturbance effects through recreation and amenity are identified as a known threat to various sites brought forward from Stage 1 Screening. Visitor movement patterns and activities on site can introduce

direct and indirect disturbance effects to designated species. Similarly, potential disturbance effects could occur during construction at a destination. These effects are dependent on on-site management practices, visitor behaviours and the operational procedures of strategic partners. Increased visitor numbers could lead to additional ancillary/infrastructural development demands that could, if unmitigated, impact species distributions.

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

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the Plan (see Section 5), e.g., in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance<sup>34</sup> with measures relating to sustainable development, ecological protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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### **Reduction in species density**

Visitor movement patterns and activities on site can introduce direct and indirect disturbance effects to designated species. These effects can influence the ranging behaviours of species over time and therefore influence the density of species at a local level. These effects are dependent on on-site management practices, visitor behaviours and the operational procedures of strategic partners. Increased visitor numbers could lead to additional ancillary/infrastructural development demands that could, if unmitigated, impact species densities in vulnerable/sensitive locations.

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

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the Plan (see Section 5), e.g., in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance<sup>34</sup> with measures relating to sustainable development, ecological protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

Increased visitor numbers could lead to additional ancillary/infrastructural development demands that could, if unmitigated, impact indicators of conservation value.

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<sup>34</sup> Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

Changes in key indicators of conservation value may arise through vectors such as decreases in water quality/quantity (e.g., through inadequate wastewater treatment, run-off of pollutants during construction and operation of developments, agricultural runoff). However, the Plan does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent. Implementing the Plan will involve Fáilte Ireland helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders (including local authorities, other government agencies, tourism operators, communities and visitors) in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans that have been subject to environmental assessment.

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

The Plan aims to increase visitor numbers within the Sligo area as well as extend the dwell time and seasonal spread of visitors. The key elements of the Plan that have been identified to have potential effects (see Section 3.3.2) are due to the promotion of tourism and the direct effects of tourism on the receiving environment at a local level. These potential effects are influenced by on-site management practices, visitor behaviours and the operational procedures of strategic partners.

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the Plan (see Section 5), e.g., in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance<sup>34</sup> with measures relating to sustainable development, ecological protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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- Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme Appendix 6 "*Environmental Management for Local Authorities and Others*" (and any subsequent replacements).

### **Climate change**

Increases in tourist numbers will result in travel related greenhouse gas emissions to air. However, such effects upon greenhouse gas emissions are not expected to affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European sites considered.

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

Site Code	Site Name <sup>35</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>36</sup>
000458	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Camping and caravans, flooding modifications, urbanised areas, human habitation, flooding and rising precipitations, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, leisure fishing.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: amenity and leisure activities, urbanisation, human habitation, flood risk management, pollution, wastewater</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000492	Doocastle Turlough SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Fertilisation, hunting, grazing.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: pollution, land take, agriculture, direct land use management.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p>

<sup>35</sup> For distance from Plan boundary and qualifying features for each European Site (QIs and SCIs)

<sup>36</sup> Informed by, inter alia, The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland, Overview Volume 1 (NPWS, 2019)

		Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.
000497	Flughany Bog SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Restructuring agricultural land holding, fertilisation, peat extraction, improved access to site, roads, motorways, grazing.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: built environment, pollution, land take, amenity and leisure activities, agriculture, direct land use management.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000595	Callow Bog SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Burning down, mechanical removal of peat, flooding modifications, other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, silviculture, forestry.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: fire, land take, flood risk management, direct land use management, hydrological changes, forestry.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000622	Ballysadare Bay SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Invasive non-native species, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, golf course, bottom culture, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, discontinuous urbanisation, erosion, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, trampling, overuse.</p>

		<p>These pressures relate to: invasive species, amenity and leisure activities, coastal protection works, direct land use management, urbanisation, land take, aquaculture.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000623	Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Mechanical removal of peat, intensive sheep grazing, erosion, collapse of terrain, landslide, invasive non-native species, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, off-road motorized driving.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: land take, agriculture, direct land use management, invasive species, amenity and leisure activities.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000625	Bunduff Lough and Machair/ Trawalua/ Mullaghmore SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Stock feeding, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, agricultural intensification, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, intensive cattle grazing, predator control, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, non-intensive sheep grazing, erosion, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, fertilisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: agriculture, direct land use management, land take, coastal protection works, pollution, coastal protection works.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000627	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Off-road motorized driving, intensive fish farming, intensification, wildlife watching, shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, trampling, overuse, disposal of inert materials, camping and caravans, invasive non-native species, golf course, dispersed habitation, burning down, agricultural intensification, port areas, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: amenity and leisure activities, aquaculture, port areas, waste, invasive species, human habitation, fire, agriculture, direct land use management.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000633	Lough Hoe Bog SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Grazing, mechanical removal of peat, burning down, forest planting on open ground, wind energy production.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: agriculture, fire, land take, forestry, renewable energy (wind).</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul>

		<p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000634	Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Forest and plantation management &amp; use, agricultural intensification, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, dispersed habitation, hand cutting of peat, fire and fire suppression, abandonment or lack of mowing, fertilisation, hunting.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: forestry, agriculture, direct land use management, human habitation, land take, fire, pollution.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000636	Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Invasive non-native species, non-intensive cattle grazing, forest and plantation management &amp; use, species composition change (succession), mechanical removal of peat, dredging or removal of limnic sediments.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: invasive species, agriculture, forestry, direct land use management, land take, aquaculture.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>

000637	Turloughmore (Sligo) SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are: Agricultural intensification, forest replanting, biocenotic evolution, succession. These pressures relate to: agriculture, direct land use management, forestry.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000638	Union Wood SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are: Fences, fencing, forestry clearance, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, invasive non-native species, forest replanting (native trees), grazing in forests or woodland.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: built environment, direct land use management, amenity and leisure activities, forestry, agriculture.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
001656	Bricklieve Mountains & Keishcorran SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are: Agricultural intensification, non-intensive cattle grazing, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, burning down, restructuring agricultural land holding, intensive sheep grazing, hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, mechanical removal of peat, paths, tracks, cycling tracks.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: agriculture, direct land use management, land take, fire, built environment, amenity and leisure activities.</p>

		<p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
001669	Knockalongy and Knockachree Cliffs SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Forest and plantation management &amp; use, intensive sheep grazing, underground or submerged electricity and phone lines, hunting, erosion.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: forestry, agriculture, built environment, direct land use management, land take.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
001673	Lough Arrow SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, sport and leisure structures, invasive non-native species, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: land take, direct land use management, built environment, amenity and leisure activities, invasive species.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> </ul>

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001680	Streedagh Point Dunes SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Nautical sports, off-road motorized driving, camping and caravans, sand and gravel quarries, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, trampling, overuse.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: amenity and leisure activities, extractive industries, direct land use management.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
001898	Unshin River SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Non-intensive sheep grazing, agricultural intensification, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, forest and plantation management &amp; use, invasive non-native species.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: agriculture, direct land use management, forestry, invasive species.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p>

		Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.
001976	Lough Gill SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Dispersed habitation, modifying structures of inland water courses, continuous urbanisation, disposal of inert materials, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, invasive non-native species, grazing in forests or woodland, motorized nautical sports, silviculture, forestry, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: human habitation, hydrological changes, urbanisation, waste, land take, invasive species, agriculture, direct land use management, amenity and leisure activities, forestry.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002006	Ox Mountains Bogs SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Hand cutting of peat, improved access to site, mechanical removal of peat, wind energy production, forest planting on open ground, grazing, roads, motorways, fire (natural).</p> <p>These pressures relate to: land take, direct land use management, renewable energy (wind), forestry, agriculture, built environment, fire.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002298	River Moy SAC	The known threats to this site are:

		<p>Agricultural intensification, flooding modifications, taking and removal of animals (terrestrial), diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, aerodrome, heliport, invasive non-native species, peat extraction, leisure fishing, use of fertilizers (forestry), predator control, forest planting on open ground.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: agriculture, flood risk management, land take, direct land use management, forestry, invasive species, built environment.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004013	Drumcliff Bay SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Marine and freshwater aquaculture, grazing, fertilisation, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, dispersed habitation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: aquaculture, agriculture, pollution, amenity and leisure activities, human habitation, direct land use management.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004035	Cummeen Strand SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Fertilisation, marine and freshwater aquaculture, industrial or commercial areas, urbanised areas, human habitation, leisure fishing, roads, motorways, pollution, shipping lanes, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: pollution, aquaculture, urbanisation, human habitation, amenity and leisure activities, built environment, direct land use management.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004048	Lough Gara SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Fertilisation, silviculture, forestry.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: pollution, agriculture, forestry.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004050	Lough Arrow SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Leisure fishing, fertilisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: amenity and leisure activities, agriculture, pollution.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul>



		<p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004068	Inishmurray SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: amenity and leisure activities.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004129	Ballysadare Bay SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Hunting, continuous urbanisation, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fertilisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use management, built environment, human habitation, fisheries, pollution and land take.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004133	Aughris Head SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p>

		<p>Grazing.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: agriculture and direct land use management.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004135	Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA	<p>No threats and pressures for this European site currently. However, sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004187	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, erosion, invasive non-native species, forest planting on open ground, continuous urbanisation, mechanical removal of peat, grazing, sand and gravel quarries, sand and gravel extraction, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, camping and caravans.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: amenity and leisure activities, direct land use management, invasive species, forestry, urbanisation, land take, extractive industry.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004234	Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Urbanised areas, human habitation, airport.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: urbanisation, human habitation, built environment.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004036	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are:</p> <p>Leisure fishing, urbanised areas, human habitation, fertilisation, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: amenity and leisure activities, human habitation, pollution.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>

001899	Cloonakillina Lough SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are:  Mowing or cutting of grassland, grazing, sylviculture, forestry, leisure fishing, fire and fire suppression.  These pressures relate to: direct land use management, forestry, amenity and leisure activities, fire.</p> <p>Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the Plan introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the Plan area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
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## Section 5 Mitigation Measures

The SEA and AA team worked with the Plan-preparation team at Fáilte Ireland in order to integrate requirements for ecological protection and environmental management into the Plan. As a result, various Guiding Principles for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism have been integrated into the Plan, as detailed below:

Guiding Principles for Sustainable & Responsible Tourism
Assess the feasibility of developing and implementing visitor management plans where relevant.
Encourage the adoption of a responsible tourism approach with ongoing monitoring of environmental impacts.
Increase awareness and appreciation of Sligo region's unique landscape and environment.
Increase environmental performance among tourism businesses.
Encourage sustainable modes of transport and ensure they are accessible to tourists.
Introduce and implement minimum sustainable standards for tour guides.
Increase and promote environmental protection and enhancement when progressing actions derived from this Plan.
Ensure the EPA's Environmental Sensitivity Mapping Webtool is consulted when implementing projects resulting from this Plan.
Ensure the Plan contributes towards delivering on Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2023 (and emerging Climate Action Plan 2024).
Monitor the quality of visitor experiences and local social/cultural impact at key sites.
Ensure Sligo visitor experiences are accessible to all where possible.
Support voluntary and community led environmental protection projects, which in turn benefit tourism.
Advocate for the protection of key environmental and tourism assets.
Improve tourist management, particularly in mature and established tourist areas.
Encourage tourism related businesses to engage in the Leave No Trace Programme.
Ensure crucial infrastructure including water and wastewater services are in place and adequate.
Harness the importance of ecosystem services and protected sites to encourage sustainable levels of ecotourism growth and awareness.
Ensure invasive species management is in place through the promotion of effective biosecurity measures.

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

In addition to the above guiding principles, in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance<sup>37</sup> with measures relating to sustainable development, ecological protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

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

<sup>37</sup> Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

- Requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment, including EIA and AA;
- Statutory land use plans that form part of the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework (e.g., relevant Development Plans, such as: the current Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied and extended) and the new upcoming Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030 [in preparation] that have undergone environmental assessment, as appropriate, including various provisions relating to sustainable development, ecological protection and environmental management<sup>38</sup>; and
- The Climate Action Plan 2023 (and emerging Climate Action Plan 2024), the Sligo County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, Sligo County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018, and all subsequent versions)<sup>38</sup>.

### **Infrastructure Capacity<sup>39</sup>**

With respect to infrastructural capacity (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) the potential impact on existing infrastructure as well as the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourism-related traffic volumes along any routes resulting from the relevant initiative shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate, where relevant. The promotion of developing visitor friendly infrastructure where it is required will also be encouraged.

Any proposed site management and maintenance guidelines produced by Fáilte Ireland will encourage site owners and operators to consider environmentally sustainable solutions and compliance with the Water Framework Directive.

### **Visitor Management<sup>39</sup>**

Those receiving funding shall seek 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 a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. This will include the preparation of Visitor Management Plans, including for Catalyst Projects, where relevant.

Extensive research by Fáilte Ireland has shown improved environmental outcomes (including improved attainment of conservation objectives) in areas with visitor management strategies. Visitor management strategies will be required for the Plan, programmes and projects that are to receive funding as relevant and appropriate. Where available, this research will continue to be used as part of a feedback loop to inform ongoing review of Fáilte Ireland activities, including within the Sligo DEDP area.

### **Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services<sup>39</sup>**

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; protection and management of biodiversity; protection of cultural heritage; and protection of protected landscape sensitivities.

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<sup>38</sup> For more information, refer to Appendix II of this report

<sup>39</sup> This requirement has arisen through the SEA and/or AA processes.

## Section 6 Conclusion

Stage 1 AA Screening and Stage 2 AA of the Sligo Destination Experience Development Plan to be adopted<sup>40</sup> has been carried out. Implementation of the Plan has the potential to result in effects to the integrity of 33 European sites, if unmitigated.

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

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Sligo Destination and Experience Development Plan to be adopted<sup>41</sup> is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>42</sup>. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

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

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<sup>40</sup> Incorporating: the Draft Plan that was placed on display; and all minor modifications to the Draft Plan following public display.

<sup>41</sup> Incorporating: the Draft Plan that was placed on display; and all minor modifications to the Draft Plan following public display.

<sup>42</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the Plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

## Appendix I Background information on European sites

**List of European Sites within 15 km of the Plan's boundary; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity**

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature <sup>43</sup>	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000191	St. John's Point SAC	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Alkaline fens [7230], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> )* important orchid sites [6210], Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ) [1065], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330], Limestone pavements [8240], Reefs [1170]	G05.01, G01.07, A04.02.01, G01.02, F04.02.02, G01.03.02	Trampling, overuse, scuba diving, snorkelling, non-intensive cattle grazing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, hand collection, off-road motorized driving
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Limestone pavements [8240], Alkaline fens [7230], Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510]	K03.04, A04.03, J02.01, G05.01, A04.01, F03.01, A10.01, D01.01, C01.03.02, B02.02, J02.05.02, A07, A04.02.05, G01, A03.03, J02.11, J02.04.01, B06, J02.05, A08, A03	Predation, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, trampling, overuse, intensive grazing, hunting, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, mechanical removal of peat, forestry clearance, modifying structures of inland water courses, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, non-intensive mixed animal grazing, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, abandonment or lack of mowing, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, flooding, grazing in forests or woodland, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, fertilisation, mowing or cutting of grassland
000428	Lough Melvin SAC	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoetes-Nanojuncetea [3130], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]	H01.05, B02, A08, A10.01, A04, I01	Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, forest and plantation management & use, fertilisation, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, grazing, invasive non-native species
000440	Lough Ree SAC	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Bog woodland [91D0], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Active raised bogs [7110], Limestone pavements [8240], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> )* important orchid sites [6210], Alkaline fens [7230], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150]	J02.04, L08, H02.06, A08, I01, K03.05, E01.03, H01.08, F02.03, G01.02, B02, J02.11.02, D03.01.02, G02.09, G01.01, A04, F03.01, H06.03, A03.03	Flooding modifications, inundation (natural processes), diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, fertilisation, invasive non-native species, antagonism arising from introduction of species, dispersed habitation, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, leisure fishing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, forest and plantation management & use, other siltation rate changes, piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, wildlife watching, nautical sports, grazing, hunting, thermal heating of water bodies, abandonment or lack of mowing
000458	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ) [1014], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Humid dune slacks [2190], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Estuaries [1130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	G01.02, G02.02, M01.03, J02.04, E01, G02.08, F02.03, H01.08	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, skiing complex, flooding and rising precipitations, flooding modifications, urbanised areas, human habitation, camping and caravans, leisure fishing, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters

<sup>43</sup> Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests



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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature <sup>43</sup>	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000463	Balla Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]	F03.01, A04, A08	Hunting, grazing, fertilisation
000492	Doocastle Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]	A08, F03.01, A04	Fertilisation, hunting, grazing
000497	Flughany Bog SAC	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	C01.03, A08, A04, D01.02, A10, D05	Peat extraction, fertilisation, grazing, roads, motorways, restructuring agricultural land holding, improved access to site
000516	Lackan Saltmarsh and Kilcummin Head SAC	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	K01.01, C01.01.02, G01.03, J02.04	Erosion, removal of beach materials, motorised vehicles, flooding modifications
000584	Cuicagh - Anierin Uplands SAC	Slender green feather-moss ( <i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i> ) [6216], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], European dry heaths [4030], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8110], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230]	A01, I02, J01, A04.02.03, G05.07, B01.02, H01.05, G05.09, A04.01.03, G01.02, B, D01.02, F03.02.02, G05.01, H05.01, A04.01.02, K01.01, B02.01, G01.03.02, D01.01, C01.03, A07	Cultivation, problematic native species, fire and fire suppression, non-intensive horse grazing, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, fences, fencing, intensive horse grazing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, silviculture, forestry, roads, motorways, taking from nest (e.g., falcons), trampling, overuse, garbage and solid waste, intensive sheep grazing, erosion, forest replanting, off-road motorized driving, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, peat extraction, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals
000592	Bellanagare Bog SAC	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	E03.01, J02.05, X, I01, C01.03.02	Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, invasive non-native species, mechanical removal of peat
000595	Callow Bog SAC	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	J02.15, X, C01.03.02, J02.04, J01.01, B	Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, mechanical removal of peat, flooding modifications, burning down, silviculture, forestry
000604	Derrinea Bog SAC	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	I01, E03.01, A04, J02.05	Invasive non-native species, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, grazing, modification of hydrographic functioning, general
000607	Errit Lough SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140]	G05, X	Other human intrusions and disturbances
000612	Mullygollan Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]	A04, F03.01, A08	Grazing, hunting, fertilisation
000614	Cloonshanville Bog SAC	Active raised bogs [7110], Bog woodland [91D0], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	C01.03.02, J02.04, X, B	Mechanical removal of peat, flooding modifications, silviculture, forestry
000622	Ballysadare Bay SAC	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ) [1014], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Humid dune slacks [2190], Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	I01, J02.12.01, K01.01, G02.01, G01.02, J02.01.02, E01.02, F01.03, A04.03, G05.01, F02	Invasive non-native species, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, erosion, golf course, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, discontinuous urbanisation, bottom culture, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, trampling, overuse, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature <sup>43</sup>	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000623	Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8110], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Calcareous and calcshist scree of the montane to alpine levels ( <i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i> ) [8120], Geyer's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013], European dry heaths [4030], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Alkaline fens [7230], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	X, I01, L05, C01.03.02, A04.03, K01.01, A04.01.02, D01.01, G01.03.02	Invasive non-native species, collapse of terrain, landslide, mechanical removal of peat, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, erosion, intensive sheep grazing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, off-road motorized driving
000625	Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Reefs [1170], Alkaline fens [7230], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ) [1065], Humid dune slacks [2190], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> ) [1395], Machairs * in Ireland [21A0]	A04.02.02, A10.01, A05.02, G01.02, K01.01, J02.01.03, A08, A04.01.01, A02.01, F03.02.04, J02.12.01	Non-intensive sheep grazing, removal of hedges and coppice or scrub, stock feeding, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, erosion, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, fertilisation, intensive cattle grazing, agricultural intensification, predator control, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages
000627	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC	<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ) [1014], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Estuaries [1130]	G02.01, E01.03, J01.01, G05.01, G02.09, J02.12.01, D03.01, E03.03, F01.01, I01, G01.02, J02.11.01, A02.01, G02.08, G01.03.02, D03	Golf course, dispersed habitation, burning down, trampling, overuse, wildlife watching, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, port areas, disposal of inert materials, intensive fish farming, intensification, invasive non-native species, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, agricultural intensification, camping and caravans, off-road motorized driving, shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions
000633	Lough Hoe Bog SAC	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110], Geyer's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092]	J01.01, C03.03, B01, C01.03.02, X, A04	Burning down, wind energy production, forest planting on open ground, mechanical removal of peat, grazing
000634	Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog SAC	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	A08, B02, C01.03.01, F03.01, A02.01, A03.03, X, J01, D01.01, E01.03	Fertilisation, forest and plantation management & use, hand cutting of peat, hunting, agricultural intensification, abandonment or lack of mowing, fire and fire suppression, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, dispersed habitation
000636	Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140]	J02.02.01, C01.03.02, A04.02.01, K02.01, I01, B02	Dredging or removal of limnic sediments, mechanical removal of peat, non-intensive cattle grazing, species composition change (succession), invasive non-native species, forest and plantation management & use
000637	Turloughmore (Sligo) SAC	Turloughs [3180]	X, B02.01, A02.01, K02	Forest replanting, agricultural intensification, biocenotic evolution, succession

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000638	Union Wood SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	B02.02, G01.02, G05.09, B06, B02.01.01, I01	Forestry clearance, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, fences, fencing, grazing in forests or woodland, forest replanting (native trees), invasive non-native species
001403	Arroo Mountain SAC	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], European dry heaths [4030], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels ( <i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i> ) [8120], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	D01.01, G01.03.02, B02, L05, K01.01, C01.01.01, J01.01, I01, C01.03.01, C01.03.02, A04.02.02	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, off-road motorized driving, forest and plantation management & use, collapse of terrain, landslide, erosion, sand and gravel quarries, burning down, invasive non-native species, hand cutting of peat, mechanical removal of peat, non-intensive sheep grazing
001571	Urlaur Lakes SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140]	D01.02, E01.03, A04, E03.01, F02.03, A08, C01.03.02, C01.03.01, J02	Roads, motorways, dispersed habitation, grazing, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, leisure fishing, fertilisation, mechanical removal of peat, hand cutting of peat, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC	Alkaline fens [7230], Geyer`s whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013]	A04.03, A02, A04.02.01, J01	Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, modification of cultivation practices, non-intensive cattle grazing, fire and fire suppression
001656	Bricklieve Mountains & Keishcorran SAC	White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Turloughs [3180], Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels ( <i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i> ) [8120], Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ) [1065]	A02.01, F06, A10.01, J01.01, A04.02.01, A10, A04.01.02, D01.01, C01.03.02	Agricultural intensification, hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, burning down, non-intensive cattle grazing, restructuring agricultural land holding, intensive sheep grazing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, mechanical removal of peat
001669	Knockalongy and Knockachree Cliffs SAC	Killarney fern ( <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> ) [1421]	D02.01.02, K01.01, B02, F03.01, A04.01.02, X	Underground or submerged electricity and phone lines, erosion, forest and plantation management & use, hunting, intensive sheep grazing
001673	Lough Arrow SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140]	D03.01.02, X, J02.01.03, G02, I01, A10.01	Piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, sport and leisure structures, invasive non-native species, removal of hedges and copses or scrub
001680	Streedagh Point Dunes SAC	Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ) [1014]	G01.02, G01.03.02, G01.01, C01.01.01, X, G02.08, G05.01	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, off-road motorized driving, nautical sports, sand and gravel quarries, camping and caravans, trampling, overuse
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Active raised bogs [7110]	F02.03, I01, J02.07.02, J02.15, A03.02, F03.01, A04.03, A03.03, G02.09, H02.06	Leisure fishing, invasive non-native species, groundwater abstractions for public water supply, other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, non-intensive mowing, hunting, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, abandonment or lack of mowing, wildlife watching, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature <sup>43</sup>	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
001898	Unshin River SAC	Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]	J02.10, I01, B02, A02.01, A04.02.02	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, invasive non-native species, forest and plantation management & use, agricultural intensification, non-intensive sheep grazing
001899	Cloonakillina Lough SAC	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	A04, F02.03, A03, B, J01	Grazing, leisure fishing, mowing or cutting of grassland, sylviculture, forestry, fire and fire suppression
001919	Glenade Lough SAC	White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092], Slender naiad ( <i>Najas flexilis</i> ) [1833], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150]	B02.02, I01, B04	Forestry clearance, invasive non-native species, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)
001976	Lough Gill SAC	Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	J02.05.02, I01, B, E01.01, A10.01, B06, E01.03, G01.01.01, D01.01, J02.10, E03.03, X	Modifying structures of inland water courses, invasive non-native species, sylviculture, forestry, continuous urbanisation, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, grazing in forests or woodland, dispersed habitation, motorized nautical sports, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, disposal of inert materials
002006	Ox Mountains Bogs SAC	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Marsh saxifrage ( <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> ) [1528], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflora</i> ) [3110], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], European dry heaths [4030], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Geyer`s whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013]	B01, L09, C03.03, X, C01.03.01, C01.03.02, D05, D01.02, A04	Forest planting on open ground, fire (natural), wind energy production, hand cutting of peat, mechanical removal of peat, improved access to site, roads, motorways, grazing
002032	Boleybrack Mountain SAC	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], European dry heaths [4030], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410]	G01.02, C01.03.02, D01, J02.06.02, C03.03, A04.03, J01.01, I02, A04.01.02, B, A04.02.01, A07, A10, F03.02.04, K03.02, B01, D02.02, B02, A04.02.02, F03.02.02, C01.01.01	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, mechanical removal of peat, roads, paths and railroads, surface water abstractions for public water supply, wind energy production, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, burning down, problematic native species, intensive sheep grazing, sylviculture, forestry, non-intensive cattle grazing, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, restructuring agricultural land holding, predator control, parasitism (fauna), forest planting on open ground, pipe lines, forest and plantation management & use, non-intensive sheep grazing, taking from nest (e.g., falcons), sand and gravel quarries

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature <sup>43</sup>	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	Reefs [1170], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ) [1029], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Bottlenose dolphin ( <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> ) [1349], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Estuaries [1130], Coastal lagoons [1150], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]	F01, E03, G01.01, E01, F03.01, K02.03, J02.01.02, J02.10, A04, J02.12.01, C01.01.02, A08, D01.01, I01, H04, J02.01.01, F02.03, B, C01.03.01	Marine and freshwater aquaculture, discharges, nautical sports, urbanised areas, human habitation, hunting, eutrophication (natural), reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, grazing, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, removal of beach materials, fertilisation, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, invasive non-native species, air pollution, air-borne pollutants, polderisation, leisure fishing, silviculture, forestry, hand cutting of peat
002241	Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC	<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Alkaline fens [7230], Limestone pavements [8240]	H01.08, J02.01.03, C01, D01.01, A04.01, J02.10, M01.01, K02.03, H01, J02, M01.03, G01, D03.01.02, B02.01.01, G02.09, K02.01, I02, I01, A04.02.05, A08, A10.01, M01.02	Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, mining and quarrying, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, intensive grazing, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes), eutrophication (natural), pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, flooding and rising precipitations, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, forest replanting (native trees), wildlife watching, species composition change (succession), problematic native species, invasive non-native species, non-intensive mixed animal grazing, fertilisation, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, droughts and less precipitations
002298	River Moy SAC	Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], Active raised bogs [7110], Alkaline fens [7230], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092], Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]	B05, H01.05, I01, F03.02.04, D04.02, F03.02, J02.04, A02.01, C01.03, B01, F02.03	Use of fertilizers (forestry), diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, invasive non-native species, predator control, aerodrome, heliport, taking and removal of animals (terrestrial), flooding modifications, agricultural intensification, peat extraction, forest planting on open ground, leisure fishing
002303	Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC	Turloughs [3180]	K02, X, A08, A10.01, A02.01	Biocenotic evolution, succession, fertilisation, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, agricultural intensification
002338	Drumalough Bog SAC	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	I01, E03.01, X, J02.05	Invasive non-native species, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, modification of hydrographic functioning, general
002354	Tullaghanrock Bog SAC	Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	J02.04, A04.02.01, B, X	Flooding modifications, non-intensive cattle grazing, silviculture, forestry
004013	Drumcliff Bay SPA	Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	F01, A08, A04, E01.03, G01.02	Marine and freshwater aquaculture, fertilisation, grazing, dispersed habitation, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature <sup>43</sup>	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004035	Cummeen Strand SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	J02.01.02, E02, A08, F02.03, D01.02, E01, H, F01, D03.02	Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, industrial or commercial areas, fertilisation, leisure fishing, roads, motorways, urbanised areas, human habitation, pollution, marine and freshwater aquaculture, shipping lanes
004036	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA	Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157]	A08, F02.03, G01.02, E01	Fertilisation, leisure fishing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, urbanised areas, human habitation
004048	Lough Gara SPA	Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	A08, B, X	Fertilisation, silviculture, forestry
004050	Lough Arrow SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ) [A004], Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061]	F02.03, A08	Leisure fishing, fertilisation
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193]	F03.01, A08, G01.01, F02.03	Hunting, fertilisation, nautical sports, leisure fishing
004064	Lough Ree SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ) [A004], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053]	A04, B, I01, G01.02, F03.01, G01.01, F02.03, A08	Grazing, silviculture, forestry, invasive non-native species, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, hunting, nautical sports, leisure fishing, fertilisation
004068	Inishmurray SPA	Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Barnacle goose ( <i>Branta leucopsis</i> ) [A045], Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018], Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194]	G01.02, X	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Scaup ( <i>Aythya marila</i> ) [A062], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> ) [A164], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140]	F01, D03.02, E01, A08, G01.01, E02, E03	Marine and freshwater aquaculture, shipping lanes, urbanised areas, human habitation, fertilisation, nautical sports, industrial or commercial areas, discharges
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Corncrake ( <i>Crex crex</i> ) [A122], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038]	D01.01, D01.05, A04, A03, G01.01, G01.02, F02.03, A04.03, A08, F03.01, E01	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, bridge, viaduct, grazing, mowing or cutting of grassland, nautical sports, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, leisure fishing, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, fertilisation, hunting, urbanised areas, human habitation
004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	F02.03, F03.01, A04, G01.01, B	Leisure fishing, hunting, grazing, nautical sports, silviculture, forestry

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature <sup>43</sup>	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004105	Bellanagare Bog SPA	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	D01.02, J02.05.02, C01.03, A04, B01	Roads, motorways, modifying structures of inland water courses, peat extraction, grazing, forest planting on open ground
004115	Inishduff SPA	Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018]	X	No threats or pressures
004129	Ballysadare Bay SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157]	F03.01, E01.01, F01, A08	Hunting, continuous urbanisation, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fertilisation
004133	Aughris Head SPA	Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188]	A04	Grazing
004135	Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA	Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Barnacle goose ( <i>Branta leucopsis</i> ) [A045]	X	No threats or pressures
004151	Donegal Bay SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003], Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144]	F01, A04, G01.01, A08, E01.01, D01.02, G01.02	Marine and freshwater aquaculture, grazing, nautical sports, fertilisation, continuous urbanisation, roads, motorways, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
004187	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA	Chough ( <i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> ) [A346], Peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103]	G02.08, G01.04, C01.03.02, I01, G01.02, B01, C01.01, A04.03, K01.01, C01.01.01, E01.01, A04	Camping and caravans, mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, mechanical removal of peat, invasive non-native species, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, forest planting on open ground, sand and gravel extraction, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, erosion, sand and gravel quarries, continuous urbanisation, grazing
004228	Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061]	B, I01, F02.03, A08	Sylviculture, forestry, invasive non-native species, leisure fishing, fertilisation
004234	Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA	Barnacle goose ( <i>Branta leucopsis</i> ) [A045]	D04.01, E01, X	Airport, urbanised areas, human habitation

## Appendix II Qualifying Interests of SACs that have undergone assessment

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

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[1013]	Geyer's Whorl Snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> )	The main pressures facing this species are associated with abandonment of land, and both under-grazing and overgrazing by livestock.	A06, A09, A10, K04	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
[1014]	Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> )	Pressures facing this species are associated with land abandonment, under-grazing and the creation of tourism and leisure infrastructure such as caravan sites and golf courses.	A06, A10, F05, F07	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, creation or development of sports, tourism and leisure infrastructure (outside the urban or recreational areas), sports, tourism and leisure activities	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
[1029]	Freshwater Pearl Mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> )	The pressures facing this species come from a wide variety of sources (e.g., pollution from urban wastewater, development activities, farming and forestry), often quite removed from the species' habitat. Flow changes, caused by land drainage are also a significant pressure facing the species.	A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, D02, F12, F28, F31, F33	Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development, other modification of hydrological conditions for residential or recreational development, abstraction of ground and surface waters (including marine) for public water supply and recreational use	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
[1065]	Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> )	The pressures facing this species are associated with conversion of land into agricultural land or forestry, under-grazing and abandonment of land.	A01, A07, A10, B01	Conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning), abandonment of management/use of other agricultural and agroforestry systems (all except grassland), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage)	Habitat management; land use change and drainage.
[1092]	White-clawed Crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> )	The main pressures facing this species is related to the non-indigenous crayfish species (NICS) and Crayfish Plaque, a waterborne disease specific to freshwater crayfish.	I01, I05	Invasive alien species of union concern, plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
[1095]	Sea Lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> )	Most of the pressures on Sea Lampreys are associated with hydropower infrastructure, reduction of prey populations due to overharvesting, drainage and the use of both natural and synthetic fertilisers. Changes in rainfall due to climate change is also considered a significant pressure on the species.	A19, A20, A31, D02, G01, N01, N02, N03, X0	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, threats and pressures from outside the member state	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity.



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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[1096]	Brook Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> )	Most of the pressures on Brook Lampreys are associated with drainage for agriculture, the use of both natural and synthetic fertilisers, tree removal. Infrastructure related to hydropower along with pollution to ground and surface water and the discharge of waste water are also considered pressures.	A19, A20, A31, B09, D02, F11, F12, N01, N02	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, clear-cutting, removal of all trees, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, pollution to surface or ground water due to urban runoffs, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.
[1099]	River Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> )	The main pressures on River Lampreys are associated with hydropower infrastructure and changes in rainfall due to climate change. The use of synthetic and natural fertilisers, drainage and also infrastructure related to shipping are also considered to be pressures on the species.	A19, A20, A31, D02, E03, N01, N02, N03	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.
[1106]	Salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )	Known pressures include exploitation at sea in commercial fisheries, interceptor fisheries in coastal waters, aquaculture and predation. In addition, the negative influence of climate change on prey structure as well as alterations in habitat and water quality are also pressures on the species.	A25, A26, B23, D02, F12, F28, G11, G19, G20, I02, J01, K05, L06, N01	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development, illegal harvesting, collecting and taking, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, abstraction of water, flow diversion, dams and other modifications of hydrological conditions for freshwater aquaculture, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), physical alteration of water bodies, interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.
[1110]	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	No significant pressures were identified acting on this habitat.	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	None identified.
[1130]	Estuaries	Most of the pressures on estuaries come from various sources of pollution, including domestic wastewater, agriculture and marine aquaculture. Alien invasive species such as the naturalised Pacific oyster ( <i>Magalana gigas</i> ) are also recognised as a significant pressure	A28, F20, G16, I02, XU	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), unknown pressure	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
[1140]	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Pressures on mudflats and sandflats are partly caused by pollution from agricultural, forestry and wastewater sources, as well as impacts associated with marine aquaculture, particularly the Pacific oyster ( <i>Magallana gigas</i> ).	A28, F20, G16	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.

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[1150]	Coastal lagoons	Several high-ranking pressures were identified acting on this habitat: eutrophication, modification of hydrological flow, and drainage. Other pressures noted include erosion and silting up, accumulation of seaweed, and sedimentation from peat related to turf cutting and/or forestry.	C12, J02, K02, K04, L01, L03, N04	Extraction activities generating marine pollution, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), drainage, modification of hydrological flow, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), accumulation of organic material, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Erosion and silting up. Accumulation of seaweed. Land use management resulting in hydrological interactions.
[1160]	Large shallow inlets and bays	Pressures on the habitat include nutrient enrichment, dredging and invasive alien species.	A28, B23, F20, G01, G16, I02	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity, surface water runoff, discharge etc. On site management activities.
[1170]	Reefs	The main pressures on reefs come from fishing methods that damage the seafloor.	G01, G03	Marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
[1210]	Annual vegetation of drift lines	Most of the pressures on drift lines are associated with activities such as recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics.	C01, F01, F06, F07, F08	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures)	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
[1220]	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	The main pressures on this habitat are associated with coastal defences (which can interfere with sediment dynamics), recreation and shingle removal.	C01, E01, F07, F08, F09, I02	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), deposition and treatment of waste/garbage from household/recreational facilities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
[1230]	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change.	C01, E01, F07, F08, I02, N03, N04	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.

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[1310]	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Pressures on Salicornia mud are caused by alien species and overgrazing by livestock	A09, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
[1330]	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> )	The main pressures on Atlantic salt meadows are from agriculture, including ecologically unstable grazing regimes and land reclamation, and the invasive non-native species common cord-grass ( <i>Spartina anglica</i> ).	A09, A33, A36, F07, F08, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
[1349]	Bottlenose Dolphin ( <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> )	Pressures on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration or from local/regional prey removal by fisheries.	C09, G01	Geotechnical surveying, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species	Large vessel movement effecting distributions. Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
[1355]	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	There are no pressures facing this species	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
[1365]	Harbour Seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> )	Pressures on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as local/regional prey removal by fisheries or by-catch in fisheries, or geophysical seismic exploration; other possible impacts may occur from coastal tourism and localised human disturbance at haul-out sites.	C09, G01	Geotechnical surveying, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species	Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
[1395]	Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> )	There are no pressures facing this species.	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	None identified.
[1410]	Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> )	Most of the pressures on Mediterranean salt meadows are associated with agriculture, including overgrazing, under-grazing and land reclamation.	A09, A10, A33, A36	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
[1421]	Killarney Fern ( <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> )	There are no pressures facing this species.	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Land use management and direct impacts.

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[1528]	Marsh Saxifrage ( <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> )	Land abandonment, modification, land drainage and peat extraction are also considered pressures facing this species.	A06, A31, B27, C05	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), drainage for use as agricultural land, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction	None identified.
[1833]	Slender Naiad ( <i>Najas flexilis</i> )	The species is pressured by enrichment (eutrophication), acidification, peatland damage and the physical alteration of water bodies.	A25, A26, B23, C05, F12, F33, I02, K04, K05	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, peat extraction, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, abstraction of ground and surface waters (including marine) for public water supply and recreational use, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), modification of hydrological flow, physical alteration of water bodies	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
[2110]	Embryonic shifting dunes ( <i>Embryonic shifting dunes</i> )	The majority of pressures on this habitat are associated with recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics.	C01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, L01, L02	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2120]	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes ( <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> )	Most of the pressures on marram dunes are caused by the interference on sediment dynamics due to recreation and coastal defences.	E01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, I02, L01	Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2130]	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ( <i>grey dunes</i> )	Pressures on fixed dunes are associated with recreation and ecologically unsuitable grazing practices.	A02, A09, A10, F07, F08, I02, L02	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.

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[2190]	Humid dune slacks ( <i>Humid dune slacks</i> )	Pressures on the habitat come from a number of sources. Including agricultural fertilisers, sports and leisure activities (e.g., walking, off-road driving and golf courses) and drainage. Succession to scrub is also a problem, particularly where it is linked to desiccation of the slack.	A19, A31, F07, I02, L02	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, sports, tourism and leisure activities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change.
[21A0]	Machairs (* in Ireland)	Pressures on the habitat include ecologically unsuitable grazing regimes and disturbance.	A02, A09, A10, A20, A30, F01, F07, L01	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, active abstractions from groundwater, surface water or mixed water for agriculture, conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), sports, tourism and leisure activities, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Mismanaged recreational activity.
[3110]	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> )	This habitat is under significant pressure from eutrophication, and from drainage and other damage to peatland. Damage to peatland can result in hydrological changes in lakes, increased organic matter, water colour and turbidity, changes in sediment characteristics, acidification and enrichment.	A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, F12	Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water	Surface dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3130]	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation ( <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> )	The majority of pressures this habitat is under is associated with drainage, agriculture, peat extraction, forestry and wastewaters.	A25, A26, B23, C05, F12, I02, K04, K05	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, peat extraction, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), modification of hydrological flow, physical alteration of water bodies	Surface dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3140]	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of muskgrass ( <i>Chara spp.</i> )	The hard-water lake habitat is under significant pressure from eutrophication, the primary sources of nutrient and organic pollution being agriculture and municipal and industrial wastewaters.	A25, A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, F12, F13, F33, I02	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, plants, contaminated or abandoned industrial sites generating pollution to surface or ground water, abstraction of ground and surface waters (including marine) for public water supply and recreational use, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.

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[3150]	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	Most of the pressures on this habitat are as a result of pollution from agriculture, forestry activities and wastewater.	A25, A26, B23, C05, F11, F12, F13, K04, K05	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, peat extraction, pollution to surface or ground water due to urban runoffs, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, plants, contaminated or abandoned industrial sites generating pollution to surface or ground water, modification of hydrological flow, physical alteration of water bodies	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3160]	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	The pressures on this habitat are associated with pollution from agricultural and forestry activities and also from drainage.	A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, D08	Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, energy production and transmission activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
[3180]	Turloughs	The main pressures associated with this habitat are related to drainage, groundwater pollution and ecologically unsuitable grazing.	A09, A26, A31	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3260]	Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation ( <i>Ranuncion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> )	The majority of pressures on this habitat are caused by damage through hydrological and morphological change, eutrophication and other water pollution.	A25, A26, B23, C05, F11, F12, F13, K01, K04, K05	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, peat extraction, pollution to surface or ground water due to urban runoffs, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, plants, contaminated or abandoned industrial sites generating pollution to surface or ground water, abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, modification of hydrological flow, physical alteration of water bodies	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.
[4010]	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Overgrazing, burning, wind farm development and erosion are the main pressures associated with this habitat, along with nitrogen deposition from agricultural activities that generate air pollution.	A09, A11, A27, B01, D01, L01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[4030]	European dry heaths	A number of significant pressures were recorded for this habitat in the current reporting period, particularly overgrazing by sheep and burning for agriculture with afforestation and wind farms also being recognised as pressures.	A09, A11, B01, D01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
[4060]	Alpine and Boreal heaths	Overgrazing by livestock, tourism (hill walking) and agricultural activities that cause air pollution are considered significant pressures for this habitat.	A09, A27, F07, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, sports, tourism and leisure activities, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.

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[5130]	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	The pressures associated with this habitat are associated with overgrazing, erosion and scrub removal.	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6210]	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) *important orchid sites)	The significant pressures related to this habitat are mainly associated with agricultural intensification causing loss of species-rich communities, or abandonment of farmland resulting in succession to scrub.	A02, A09, A10, C01, I02, I04	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6230]	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	The main pressures on this habitat are due to bracken encroachment and succession.	I04, L02	Problematic native species, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6410]	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> )	The main pressures on the habitat are associated with agricultural intensification (e.g., land drainage, fertiliser application), under-grazing and forestry.	A02, A06, A10, A14, A31, B01	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, livestock farming (without grazing), drainage for use as agricultural land, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6430]	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	Pressures on the habitat include invasive species; and agricultural intensification and drainage in the lowlands.	A09, A31, I01, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, drainage for use as agricultural land, invasive alien species of union concern, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6510]	Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> )	The main pressures associated with this habitat are due to agricultural intensification (fertiliser application) and changes in agricultural practices.	A02, A06, A14, A19, A20	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), livestock farming (without grazing), application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.

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[7110]	Active raised bogs	The main pressures on active raised bog are peat extraction, drainage, afforestation and burning.	A11, B01, C05, K02, N01	Burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, drainage, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7120]	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	The main pressure on degraded bogs come from peat extraction, drainage, afforestation and burning.	A11, B01, C05, K02, N01	Burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, drainage, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7130]	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	The main pressures on blanket bogs are overgrazing, burning, afforestation, peat extraction, and agricultural activities causing nitrogen deposition. Erosion, drainage and wind farm construction are also pressures relating to this habitat.	A09, A11, A27, B01, C05, D01, K02, L01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, drainage, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7140]	Transition mires and quaking bogs	The main pressures facing transition mires in Ireland are afforestation, water pollution, drainage and hydrological changes with grazing/agricultural management also being a pressure.	A06, A09, B01, C05, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7150]	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	The main pressures on the habitat are associated with impacts on the supporting bog habitats, especially overgrazing, burning, peat extraction, drainage and conversion to forestry.	A09, A11, B01, C05, K02, N01	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, drainage, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface and ground water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7210]	Calcareous fens with species of mariscus sedge and bog cotton ( <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Caricion davallianae</i> )	Overgrazing, groundwater pollution, abandonment of grassland management and drainage are pressures associated with this habitat.	A06, A09, C05, J01, K01, K02, K04	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, peat extraction, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[7220]	Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> )	Pressures related to this habitat are associated with drainage, pollution to ground and surface waters, recreational activities, infrastructure, overgrazing and abandonment of grassland management.	A06, A10, E01, F07, H08, J01, K02, K04, L02	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above (dumping, accidental and deliberate disturbance of bat roosts (e.g., caving)), mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.



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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[7230]	Alkaline fens	The main pressures facing this habitat are land abandonment (and associated succession), overgrazing, drainage and pollution.	A06, A09, A26, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02, N02, N03	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[8110]	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> )	The main pressures on siliceous scree come from overgrazing, under-grazing and succession.	A09, A10, L02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[8120]	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels ( <i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i> )	Pressures facing this habitat are associated with overgrazing.	A09	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[8210]	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	The majority of pressures related to this habitat are associated with overgrazing and the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb ( <i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> ).	A09, A27, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[8220]	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Pressure on this habitat is associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb ( <i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> ).	I02	Other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[8240]	Limestone pavements	The main pressures facing this habitat are associated with conversion to agricultural land and housing construction, as well as scrub encroachment caused by under-grazing.	A01, A10, C01, F01, I02	Conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[8330]	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	There are no pressures facing this habitat.	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	There are no pressures acting on this resource.
[91A0]	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	The significant pressure facing this habitat are associated with invasive non-native species such as <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> , cherry laurel ( <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> ) and beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ) and overgrazing by deer.	A09, B09, I02, I04, M07	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, storm, cyclone	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.

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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[91D0]	Bog woodland	Pressures facing this habitat are related to drainage, invasive species and burning.	A11, B09, C05, I02, K01	Burning for agriculture, clear-cutting, removal of all trees, peat extraction, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
[91E0]	Alluvial forests with Alder and Ash ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> , <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> )	Many of the pressures facing this habitat include invasive species, particularly sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ), Indian balsam ( <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> ) and currant species ( <i>Ribes nigrum</i> and <i>R. rubrum</i> ) as well as some native species such as brambles ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) and common nettle, along with over felling.	B09, I02, I04, I05	Clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in management.
[91J0]	<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles	Pressures facing this habitat are mainly linked to the presence of alien species such as sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ), cherry laurel ( <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> ) and traveller's joy ( <i>Clematis vitalba</i> ), with overgrazing by deer also posing a pressure to the habitat.	A09, I02, I05	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.

## Appendix III Special Conservation Interests of SPAs that have undergone assessment

### Special Conservation Interests and Vulnerabilities of SPAs that have undergone assessment

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A003	Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	C03, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A017	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i>	C03, F02, F03, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A018	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution
A045	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	A11, C03, D02	Agriculture activities not referred to above, renewable abiotic energy use, utility and service lines
A048	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	F01, F02, G01, H03, M01	Marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, changes in abiotic conditions
A050	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, I01, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, invasive non-native species, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications
A054	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A056	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07	Renewable abiotic energy use, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution, other forms of pollution
A061	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	C03, F03, G01, H01, H07, M02	Renewable abiotic energy use, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), other forms of pollution, changes in biotic conditions
A062	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	C03, F01, F02, F03, G01, H01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution
A067	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, M02	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, changes in biotic conditions
A122	Corn Crane	<i>Crex crex</i>	A03.01, A04.01, K03.04, M01.03	Intensive mowing or intensification, intensive grazing, predation, flooding and rising precipitations
A125	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra atra</i>	C03, G01, H01	Renewable abiotic energy use, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)
A130	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A137	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A140	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, grazing, forest planting on open ground, mining and quarrying, renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, fire and fire suppression, interspecific faunal relations, changes in biotic conditions

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Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A141	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A142	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	A02, C03, F01, G01, H03	Modification of cultivation practices, renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A143	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A144	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	C03, F01, G01, H03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, changes in abiotic conditions
A149	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A157	Bar-Tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A162	Common Redhank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A164	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	C03, F01, G01, H03, J02, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, changes in abiotic conditions
A179	Black-Headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A182	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A184	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications
A188	Black-Legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution
A193	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	C03, D01, D03, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species
A194	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	C03, D01, G01, I01, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species, changes in abiotic conditions
A346	Red-Billed Cough	<i>Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax</i>	A02, A04, E06, G01	Modification of cultivation practices, grazing, other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities
A395	Greater White-Fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	A02, A04, A06, A11, B01, C03, D02, D05, F01, F03, G01, H03, H07, K03, M01, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, grazing, annual and perennial non-timber crops, agriculture activities not referred to above, forest planting on open ground, renewable abiotic energy use, utility and service lines, improved access to site, marine and freshwater aquaculture, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, interspecific faunal relations, changes in abiotic conditions, changes in biotic conditions
A674	Light-Bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	A02, A11, C03, D02, F01, G01, G05, H03, H07, I01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, agriculture activities not referred to above, renewable abiotic energy use, utility and service lines, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, other human intrusions and disturbances, marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, invasive non-native species, other ecosystem modifications



## Appendix IV Relationship with Legislation and Other Plans and Programmes

### Relevance to the Plan (applicable to all Legislation, Plans and Programmes identified in Appendix IV on the table below)

Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3 in the SEA ER) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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Legislation, Plans and Programmes	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.
	and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>flexibility; and</li> <li>public participation</li> </ul>
<b>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and</li> <li>the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products.</li> <li>Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.</li> </ul>
<b>EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU.</li> <li>It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets.</li> <li>All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets.</li> <li>The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables.</li> <li>EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans.</li> <li>Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.</li> </ul>
<b>Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288(COD))</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption.</li> <li>The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor.</li> <li>Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if the overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive;</li> <li>Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014;</li> <li>Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels;</li> <li>Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels.</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020.</li> <li>Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures</li> <li>EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs</li> <li>The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy-efficient buildings, products and services</li> <li>Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy</li> <li>Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering</li> <li>National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits</li> <li>Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it</li> <li>Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.</li> </ul>
<b>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.</li> </ul>	<p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;</li> <li>The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism;</li> <li>The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure;</li> <li>Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law;</li> <li>Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.</li> </ul>
<b>European Union Biodiversity Strategy for 2030</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030.</li> <li>Aims to build resilience to future threats such as the impacts of climate change, forest fires, food insecurity, disease outbreaks and protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade.</li> </ul>	<p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea;</li> <li>Launching an EU nature restoration plan;</li> <li>Introducing measures to enable the necessary transformative stage; and</li> <li>Introducing measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge.</li> </ul>
<b>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy</b>	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.</li> <li>Supporting EU-level GI projects.</li> <li>Improving access to finance for GI projects.</li> <li>Improving information and promoting innovation.</li> </ul>

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



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shellfish Directive</li> <li>○ Freshwater Fish Directive</li> <li>○ Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive</li> <li>○ Dangerous Substances Directive</li> </ul>	
<b>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect, control and conserve groundwater.</li> <li>• Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</li> <li>• Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex I of Directive.</li> <li>• Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.</li> </ul>
<b>Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption.</li> <li>• Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I.</li> <li>• Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a).</li> <li>• Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5.</li> <li>• Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause.</li> <li>• Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action.</li> <li>• Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health.</li> <li>• Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial.</li> </ul>
<b>Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban wastewater and the treatment and discharge of wastewater from certain industrial sectors.</li> <li>• The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of wastewater discharges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban wastewater entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment.</li> <li>• Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges.</li> <li>• Establishes minimum requirements for urban wastewater collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent.</li> <li>• Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures.</li> <li>• Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.</li> <li>• The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive.</li> <li>• The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator.</li> <li>• The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met.</li> <li>• The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the Guidelines. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.</li> </ul>
<b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.</li> </ul>	<p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p>
<b>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.</li> <li>• The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.</li> </ul>
<b>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</li> <li>• Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.</li> <li>• Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society.</li> <li>Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>
<b>European Landscape Convention 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.</li> <li>Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</li> </ul>
<b>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</b>	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital</li> <li>to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy</li> <li>to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better implementation of legislation.</li> <li>Better information by improving the knowledge base.</li> <li>More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy.</li> <li>Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies.</li> </ul> <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make the Union's cities more sustainable.</li> <li>To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.</li> </ul>
<b>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</b>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats</li> <li>to promote cooperation between states</li> <li>to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species</li> </ul>	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control.</li> <li>Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.</li> <li>Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies.</li> <li>Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.</li> <li>Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations.</li> <li>Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.</li> </ul>
<b>Bali Road Map (2007)</b>	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and</li> <li>To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.</li> </ul>	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mitigation</li> <li>adaptation</li> <li>technology</li> <li>financing</li> </ul>
<b>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation</li> <li>Transparency of actions</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Finance</li> <li>Adaptation</li> <li>Forests</li> <li>Capacity building</li> </ul>	<p>Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.</p>
<b>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</b>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.</p>	<p>The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020);</li> <li>Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets;</li> <li>Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt;</li> <li>Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and</li> <li>Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.</li> </ul>
<b>EU Common Agricultural Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and</li> <li>To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future;</li> <li>Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.</li> </ul>
<b>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.</li> </ul>	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration,</li> <li>Evaluation,</li> </ul>

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Legislation, Plans and Programmes	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.
<b>Stockholm Convention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorisation; and</li> <li>Restriction of chemicals.</li> </ul> <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention</li> <li>Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention</li> <li>Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention</li> <li>Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner</li> <li>To target additional POPs</li> <li>Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance</li> </ul>
<b>Ramsar Convention</b>	<p>The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".</p>	<p>Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;</li> <li>Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;</li> <li>Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</li> </ul>
<b>OSPAR Convention</b>	<p>The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.</p>	<p>OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy</li> <li>Eutrophication Strategy</li> <li>Hazardous Substances Strategy</li> <li>Offshore Industry Strategy</li> <li>Radioactive Substances Strategy</li> <li>Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme</li> </ul> <p>These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.</p>
<b>European 2020 Strategy for Growth</b>	<p>Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;</li> <li>Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;</li> <li>Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.</li> </ul>	<p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed;</li> <li>3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&amp;D;</li> <li>the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right);</li> <li>the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree;</li> <li>20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.</li> </ol>
<b>Marine (Northern Ireland) Act 2013</b>	<p>Aims to provide for marine plans in relation to the Northern Ireland inshore region; to provide for marine conservation zones in that region; to make further provision in relation to marine licensing for certain electricity works in that region; and for connected purposes.</p>	<p>The Marine Act sets out a new framework for Northern Ireland's seas based on: a system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resource needs; improved management for marine nature conservation and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects. The main provisions of the Act are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine Planning</li> <li>Nature Conservation</li> <li>Marine Licensing</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Northern Ireland)</b>	<p>Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland. Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors.</p>	<p>Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective.</p>
<b>NI Regional Landscape Character Assessment</b>	<p>In recognising the importance of sustaining local identity, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has commissioned Landscape Character Assessments of Northern Ireland from environmental consultants, which resulted in the identification of distinct character areas within Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment provides a strategic overview of the landscape in Northern Ireland and subdivides the countryside into 26 Regional Landscape Character Areas based upon information on people and place and the combinations of nature, culture and perception which make each part of Northern Ireland unique.</p>

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Legislation, Plans and Programmes	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.
<b>NI Regional Seascape Character Assessment</b>	The aim of this study is to provide a strategic understanding of different areas of regional seascape character along the entire Northern Ireland coast, complementing similar assessments undertaken elsewhere in the UK. This will contribute to the aims of the European Landscape Convention through promoting the protection, management and planning of the seascape, and to support the European cooperation in landscape issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and map the different regional seascape character areas.</li> <li>Describe the key features and characteristics of each seascape character area.</li> </ul> Relate the description of each seascape character area to its neighbouring terrestrial landscape character areas (as described in the NI Landscape Character Assessment, 2000) and take account of boundaries identified in relation to neighbouring seascape areas for the British and Irish coastline.
<b>European 2020 Strategy for Growth</b>	Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;</li> <li>Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;</li> <li>Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.</li> </ul>	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed;</li> <li>3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&amp;D;</li> <li>the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right);</li> <li>the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree;</li> <li>20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.</li> </ol>
<b>European Parliament resolutions, including: The European Green Deal (EGD) 2020</b>	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution.</li> <li>It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</li> </ul> In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
<b>European Union Biodiversity Strategy for 2030</b>	Aims to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030. Aims to build resilience to future threats such as the impacts of climate change, forest fires, food insecurity, disease outbreaks and protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value.</li> <li>An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss.</li> <li>A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision-making.</li> </ul> Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.
<b>EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package</b>	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030 and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.
<b>Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020</b>	Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.	As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation;</li> <li>Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs;</li> <li>Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and</li> </ul> Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes.
<b>Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011</b>	The aim of the Act is to create a planning system which is quicker, clearer and more accessible, with resources better matched to priorities. The Act also gives effect to local government reform changes which transferred the majority of planning functions and decision-making responsibilities for local development plans, development management plus planning enforcement to locally accountable councils	The enactment of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 provided the legislative basis for the most significant reforms of the Northern Ireland planning system in a generation. These reforms impacted on every aspect of planning, including how development plans are drawn up, how development proposals and applications are managed and the way in which these functions are delivered. The key reforms set out to deliver the complete overhaul and redesign of the development plan and development management systems with the aim of improving efficiency and effectiveness. Significant changes were also made in relation to planning appeals and enforcement.
<b>Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995</b>	The Order is one of the primary pieces of legislation used to protect archaeological sites and built heritage.	State Care sites and monuments are those in the ownership of NIEA. The Order (Article 13) provides the statutory remit for NIEA to acquire historic monuments to secure their protection and manage them for the benefit of present and future generations, by providing public access. The Order (Article 3) allows NIEA to schedule monuments for protection. These monuments remain in their existing ownership, but give NIEA powers to control works through Scheduled Monument consent, help to look after sites through Management Agreements or pursue prosecution where damage has been caused.

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<b>Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 (NI)</b>	An Act to secure the protection of wrecks in territorial waters and the sites of such wrecks, from interference by unauthorised persons; and for connected purposes.	Section 1 of the act provides for wrecks to be designated because of historical, archaeological or artistic value. Section 2 provides for designation of dangerous sites. Wreck sites must have a known location in order to be designated.
<b>Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 - Spatial strategy for Northern Ireland</b>	The RDS provides an overarching strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide the public and private sectors. It does not redefine other Departments' strategies but complements them with a spatial perspective.	The 8 aims of the RDS are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of Northern Ireland;</li> <li>• Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Londonderry as the principal city of the North West;</li> <li>• Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential;</li> <li>• Promote development which improves the health and well-being of communities;</li> <li>• Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places;</li> <li>• Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake;</li> <li>• Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaptation to climate change; and</li> <li>• Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world.</li> </ul>
<b>Archaeology 2030 - A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland</b>	This document sets out a strategic approach and recommendations as to how society develop engagement with and understanding of archaeology.	This document is the collaborative product of four cross-sectoral working groups, co-ordinated by a steering group, and involved people from a wide range of disciplines working in, or related to archaeology. Convened as 'The Way Forward for Archaeology in Northern Ireland', the aim was to conduct a review of the current position of archaeology in NI, and through a series of workshops, survey and dialogue, to develop a sector-wide, strategic approach, with recommendations for the future.
<b>The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and relevant Planning Policy Statements (PPS) for Northern Ireland</b>	The Department of the Environment's 'Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland' - Planning for Sustainable Development (SPPS), sets out the Department's regional planning policies for securing the orderly and consistent development of land in Northern Ireland.	The provisions of the SPPS must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans, and are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.  Statements of national policy and principles towards certain aspects of the town planning framework. (It should be noted that the PPS's will be superseded by Local Development Plans when they are adopted).
<b>Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland 2020</b>	A strategy for Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy.	The Strategy sets out how Northern Ireland plans to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy. It builds upon the first Biodiversity Strategy published in 2002 but adopts the modern and internationally agreed approach that emphasises the management of biological systems to deliver the materials and services upon which people depend – the ecosystem services approach.
<b>Draft Environment Strategy (NI)</b>	The Environment Strategy is intended to be an overarching document setting out Northern Ireland's environmental priorities for the coming decades and will form part of the Green Growth agenda.	The Environment Strategy covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air and water quality</li> <li>• A healthy environment we can enjoy</li> <li>• Nature and wildlife</li> <li>• Using our environment to make things without damaging it</li> <li>• Waste and recycling</li> <li>• Our changing climate</li> </ul>
<b>The Draft Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy 2021-2040</b>	The draft Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy 2021-2040 Consultation Document provides an outline of the policy drivers for the development of this strategy, the ecosystem services that semi-natural peatlands in Northern Ireland provide, details the current factors affecting our semi-natural peatlands and sets out the objectives and actions which we consider necessary to ensure that our semi-natural peatlands are conserved and restored to functioning ecosystems.	The Draft Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy provides information on a series of Strategic Objectives and Actions that the Department and its partner organisations intend to take forward. The UK Peatland Strategy was published in 2018 and identifies a common way forward and sets the context for the devolved administrations strategic peatland action plans.
<b>The Draft Green Growth Strategy Consultation on the draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland</b>	This Green Growth Strategy sets out an ambitious vision and a framework for delivery with which all other NI government policies and strategies must align. It provides us with a vitally important opportunity to embed wider climate change, a green economy and environmental considerations into decision-making.	This draft Strategy establishes the NI Green Growth vision and principles and sets out commitments to tackling the climate crisis. A detailed Climate Action Plan is currently being developed, which will set out what will be delivered.
<b>Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050</b>	The long-term vision of the Energy Strategy is to have net zero and affordable energy, compatible with the 2015 Paris Agreement, and one which makes a fair contribution to the UK Government's legally binding target of "net zero" emissions by 2050.	The Energy Strategy sets out a pathway for energy to 2030 that will mobilise the skills, technologies and behaviours needed to take us towards our vision of net zero carbon and affordable energy by 2050. It outlines a roadmap to 2030 aiming to deliver a 56% reduction in our energy-related emissions.
<b>The UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS)</b>	The UK Marine Policy Statement provides the policy framework for the marine planning system and taking decisions affecting the marine environment.	The Marine Policy Statement will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom marine area. It has been prepared and adopted for the purposes of section 44 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The Guidance to the UK Marine Policy Statement from 1 January 2020 explains how references to EU law in the UK MPS should be interpreted from 1 January 2021 following the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

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<b>Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland</b>	The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of our marine area. It is a single document made up of two plans, one for the inshore region and one for the offshore region.	The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) and the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 (The Marine Act), require the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) as the Marine Plan Authority (MPA), to prepare marine plans. The Marine Plan has been developed within the framework of the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS). This will facilitate the sustainable development of the marine area. The UK Government has published a 25-year Environment Plan that aims to having UK Marine Plans in place by 2021.
<b>Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006-2026</b>	Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) aims to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity in our coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment.	ICZM seeks to reconcile the different policies that have an effect on the coast and to establish a framework that facilitates the integration of the interests and responsibilities of those involved in the development, management and use of the coast.
<b>Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022</b>	The Act sets targets for the years 2050, 2040 and 2030 for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland.	The Act commits Northern Ireland to a target of 48% reduction in emissions and 80% renewable electricity by 2030 and carbon net zero by 2050.
<b>The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002</b>	Aims to prevent and control pollution in Northern Ireland.	The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollution prevention and control</li> <li>• Air pollution prevention and control</li> <li>• Pollution prevention and control in areas of special scientific interest (ASSI)</li> </ul>
<b>The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.</b>	The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) aims to promote the conservation of biodiversity.	The Act defines the functions of Northern Irish public bodies in relation to the conservation of biodiversity as well as containing provisions for the conservation of flora, fauna and habitats.
<b>Northern Irelands River Basin Management Plans</b>	River Basin Management Plans are the key tools for implementing the Water Framework Directive and to achieving its objectives.	DAERA has published the Draft River Basin Management Plan for the 3rd cycle period which runs from 2021-2027. The draft plan covers the North Western, Neagh Bann and North Eastern river basin districts (RBD) and includes detailed status updates on each RBD.  The 3rd cycle of River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the period of 2022-2027 is currently being prepared by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in line with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC) at the time of compiling this report.
<b>The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009</b>	The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 introduced a revised system of Marine Management and Licensing, including marine planning.	The eight key elements are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO)</li> <li>• Creation of a strategic marine planning system</li> <li>• A streamlined marine licensing system</li> <li>• Marine nature conservation</li> <li>• Fisheries management and marine enforcement</li> <li>• Migratory and freshwater fisheries</li> <li>• Coastal access</li> <li>• Coastal and estuarine management</li> </ul>
<b>The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010</b>	The UK Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 require the UK to take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) through the development of a UK Marine Strategy.	The UK Marine Strategy, made up of Parts One, Two and Three, sets out a comprehensive framework for assessing, monitoring and taking action across our seas to achieve the UK's shared vision for 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse ocean and seas'. In October 2019, the updated UK Marine Strategy Part One: UK updated assessment and Good Environmental Status was published. In March 2021 the updated UK Marine Strategy Part Two: UK updated monitoring programmes was published and the UK Marine Strategy Part 3: Programme for Measures is being reviewed after being out for consultation (6/09/21- 29/11/21).
<b>Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985</b>	The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order provides for the protection of certain animals, birds and plants.	Attention is drawn to Article 10 of the Wildlife ( <i>Northern Ireland</i> ) Order 1985 ( <i>as amended</i> ) under which it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb, capture, injure a Common seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ), Grey seal ( <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> ) or Basking shark ( <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> ). In addition it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly, injure or kill a wild animal included in Schedule 5 of this Order. This includes Angel shark ( <i>Squatina squatina</i> ), Common skate ( <i>Dipturus batis</i> ), Short snouted seahorse ( <i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i> ), Spiny seahorse ( <i>Hippocampus guttulatus</i> ), Spiny lobster ( <i>Palinurus elaphus</i> ) and Fan mussel ( <i>Atrina fragilis</i> ).  It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disturb any such animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection,</li> <li>• damage or destroy, or obstruct access to, any structure or place which any such animal uses for shelter or protection,</li> <li>• damages or destroys anything which conceals or protects any such structure; or</li> <li>• to have in possession or control any live or dead wild animal included in Schedule 5 or any part of, or anything derived from, such an animal.</li> </ul>

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<b>Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995</b>	The Regulations aim to transpose the Habitats Directive in relation to Northern Ireland to provide protection to habitats and species in need of conservation.	Attention is drawn to regulation 34 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), which states that it is an offence to deliberately disturb, capture, injure or kill a wild animal of a European Protected Species included in Schedule 2 to these Regulations. This includes all species of dolphins, porpoises and whales and the marine turtle species.  It is also an offence to; (a) deliberately obstruct access to a breeding site or resting place of such an animal, (b) damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal, (c) keep, transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange, any live or dead wild animal of a European protected species, or any part of, or anything derived from, such an animal.
<b>UNWTO Barcelona Declaration and the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism</b>	The Glasgow Declaration is a catalyst for increased urgency about the need to accelerate climate action in tourism and to secure strong commitments to support the global goals to halve emissions over the next decade and reach Net Zero emissions as soon as possible before 2050.	Over 450 organizations have become signatories of the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism to accelerate climate action. By becoming signatories, organizations agree to implement the commitments detailed in the Glasgow Declaration, notably: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the global commitment to halve emissions by 2030 and reach Net Zero as soon as possible before 2050.</li> <li>• Deliver climate action plans within 12 months from becoming a signatory (or updating existing plans), and implement them.</li> <li>• Align plans with the five pathways of the Declaration (Measure, Decarbonise, Regenerate, Collaborate, Finance) to accelerate and co-ordinate climate action in tourism.</li> <li>• Report publicly on an annual basis on progress against interim and long-term targets, as well as on actions being taken.</li> <li>• Work in a collaborative spirit, sharing good practices and solutions, and disseminating information to encourage additional organizations to become signatories and supporting one another to reach targets as quickly as possible.</li> </ul>
<b>OSPAR Convention</b>	The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.	OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy</li> <li>• Eutrophication Strategy</li> <li>• Hazardous Substances Strategy</li> <li>• Offshore Industry Strategy</li> <li>• Radioactive Substances Strategy</li> <li>• Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme</li> </ul> These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.
<b>Water Reuse Regulation (2020/741)</b>	The purpose of this Regulation is to facilitate the uptake of water reuse whenever it is appropriate and cost-efficient, thereby creating an enabling framework for those Member States who wish or need to practise water reuse.	Regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse. This Regulation lays down minimum requirements for water quality and monitoring and provisions on risk management, for the safe use of reclaimed water in the context of integrated water management.
<b>NEC Directive 2016/2284/EU</b>	Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants.	National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive (2016/2284/EU) entered into force on 31 December 2016. Replacing earlier legislation, ( Directive 2001/81/EC ), the new NEC Directive sets 2020 and 2030 emission reduction commitments for five main air pollutants.
<b>UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979)</b>	The first international treaty to deal with air pollution on a broad regional basis. The Convention entered into force in 1983, laying down the general principles of international cooperation for air pollution abatement and setting up an institutional framework which has since brought together research and policy.	The Convention has substantially contributed to the development of international environmental law and has created the essential framework for controlling and reducing the damage to human health and the environment caused by transboundary air pollution.
<b>Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (2009/128/EC)</b>  <b>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115</b>	The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD) establishes a framework for European Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by setting minimum rules to reduce the risks to human health and the environment that are associated with pesticide use.  The Directive aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and of alternative approaches or techniques, such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides. EU countries have drawn up National Action Plans to implement the range of actions set out in the Directive.	The main actions relate to training of users, advisors and distributors of pesticides, inspection of pesticide application equipment, the prohibition of aerial spraying, limitation of pesticide use in sensitive areas, and information and awareness raising about pesticide risks. EU countries must also promote Integrated Pest Management, for which, general principles are laid down in Annex III to the Directive.  The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, including EU wide targets to reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030, in line with the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. The proposal, adopted on 22 June 2022, is part of a package of measures to reduce the environmental footprint of the EU's food system and help mitigate the economic losses that we are already suffering due to climate change and biodiversity loss.

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<b>Directive on arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and PAH in ambient air (2004/107/EC)</b>	Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	<p>The proposal transforms the existing Directive into a Regulation which will be directly binding and uniformly applicable to all Member States. It overhauls the existing rules on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (see Directive 2009/128/EC) to bring them in line with the ambitions set in the EU Green Deal, Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies. The proposals must be approved by Member States in the Council and the European Parliament, under the normal legislative procedure.</p> <p>The objective of this Directive is to establish a target value for the concentration of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and benzo(a)pyrene in ambient air so as to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons on human health and the environment as a whole. It determines common methods and criteria for the assessment of concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air as well as of the deposition of such substances.</p>
<b>National Level</b>		
<b>Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan (2021-2030)</b>	<p>The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between.</p> <p>As part of Project Ireland 2040 the National Development Plan sets out the Government's over-arching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030. It is an ambitious plan that balances the significant demand for public investment across all sectors and regions of Ireland with a major focus on improving the delivery of infrastructure projects to ensure speed of delivery and value for money.</p>	<p>The National Planning Framework published alongside the National Development Plan yields ten National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compact Growth</li> <li>2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>4. Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>6. High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage</li> <li>8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society</li> <li>9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources</li> <li>10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</li> </ol>
<b>National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland [in preparation]</b>	<p>The high-level strategic framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network.</p> <p>This new framework is the Department of Transport's contribution to Project Ireland 2040, Government's long-term strategy for accommodating population growth in a sustainable manner and making Ireland a better country for all of its people. It has been developed to ensure that our transport sectoral strategy is underpinned by and supports the achievement of the spatial objectives and National Strategic Objectives set out in the National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>The draft framework establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.</p>
<b>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</b>	<p>The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas.</li> <li>• There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission.</li> <li>• Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects.</li> <li>• Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.</li> </ul>
<b>National Climate Action Plan 2023 and Climate Action Plan 2024</b>	<p>The National Climate Action Plan 2023 (the second annual update to Ireland's Climate Action 2019) provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.</p> <p>The emerging Climate Action Plan 2024 builds upon the 2023 Plan by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.</p>	<p>The Climate Action Plans list the actions needed to deliver on Ireland's climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated periodically to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.</p>
<b>Marine Planning Development Management Bill (General Scheme), 2019</b>	<p>The Bill seeks to establish in law a completely new regime for the maritime area which will replace existing State and development consent regimes and streamline arrangements on the basis of a single consent principle.</p>	<p>One of the aims is to establish a legal basis for An Bord Pleanála and coastal local authorities to consent to development in the maritime area, while retaining existing foreshore and planning permission provisions for aquaculture and sea fisheries related development. It will also provide for a single environmental impact assessment (EIA) and a single appropriate assessment (AA), where applicable.</p>
<b>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011</b>	<p>The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.</li> <li>• These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning.</li> </ul>



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Legislation, Plans and Programmes	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).</li> </ul>
<b>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477of 2011, as amended)</b>	These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites.</li> <li>The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.</li> </ul>
<b>Waste Management Act 1996, as amended</b>	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I 296 of 2009)</b>	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997).</li> <li>Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.</li> <li>Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure</li> </ul>
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)</b>	To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution.</li> <li>Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values</li> <li>Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established</li> </ul>
<b>European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)</b>	These Regulations, which give effect to Irelands 3rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited</li> <li>Limits on the land application of fertilisers</li> <li>Storage requirements for livestock manure; and</li> <li>Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (and Amendment Bill 2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.</li> <li>The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021 seeks to amend the principle Act of 2015 (outlined below) by reinforcing Ireland's transition to Net Zero and achieve its commitment to a climate neutral economy by no later than 2050. It establishes a legally binding framework with clear targets and commitments set in law, and ensure the necessary structures and processes are embedded on a statutory basis to ensure Ireland achieves its national, EU and international climate goals and obligations in the near and long term.</li> </ul>	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective,</li> <li>The policy of the Government on climate change,</li> <li>Climate justice,</li> <li>Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and</li> <li>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</li> </ul>
<b>The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</li> <li>The Plan provides a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs;</li> <li>Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals;</li> <li>Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and</li> <li>Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence.</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b>	€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</li> <li>It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006:</b>  <b>(Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3))</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997)</li> <li>• Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4</li> <li>• Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001)</li> <li>• Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 101</li> </ul> </p>	<p>The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.</p>	<p>The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture &amp; Foreshore Management Division are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>• to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>• to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011</b></p>	<p>The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences and</li> <li>• Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal.</li> <li>• In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)</b></p>	<p>The NMPF details how marine activities will interact with each other in an ocean space that is under increasing spatial pressure, ensuring the sustainable use of Ireland's marine resources to 2040.</p> <p>The NMPF has been prepared with an ecosystem-based approach and informed by best available knowledge.</p>	<p>The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time, outlining the Government's vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity.</p> <p>The NMPF is intended as the marine equivalent to the National Planning Framework. This approach will enable the Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set a clear direction for managing our seas</li> <li>• clarify objectives and priorities</li> <li>• direct decision makers, users and stakeholders towards strategic, plan-led, and efficient use of our marine resources</li> </ul>
<p><b>European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)</b></p>	<p>These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in Natura 2000 sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries;</li> <li>• Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required;</li> <li>• Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation;</li> <li>• Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan;</li> <li>• Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan;</li> <li>• Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment;</li> <li>• Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities;</li> <li>• Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and</li> <li>• Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Seafood Operational Programme (20104-2020)</b></p>	<p>The Operational Programme (OP) supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in Ireland aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the EU's "Europe 2020" objectives. The OP supports the general reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the development of its Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) in Ireland.</p> <p>The OP strategy is designed around the Irish national priorities in the agri-food sector: 'Act Smart' by encouraging knowledge and innovation, 'Think Green' through a responsible and sustainable use of resources, 'Achieve Growth' in order to maintain and create jobs.</p>	<p>The OP is organised around the following priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union Priority 1 (UP1): €67 million (28% of the total allocation) aim at assuring the sustainable development of fishing activities, while protecting the marine environment</li> <li>• Union Priority 2 (UP2): €30 million (12% of the total allocation) will support the Irish National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture that aims at boosting the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector.</li> <li>• Union Priority 3 (UP3): €84.8 million (35.4% of the total allocation) will go towards compliance with CFP rules regarding control and data collection.</li> <li>• Union Priority 4 (UP4): €12 million (5% of the total allocation) will support local development initiatives — a substantial, eleven-fold increase compared to the 2007-2013 funding period.</li> <li>• Union Priority 5 (UP5): €33 million (13.8% of the total allocation) will go towards creating scale in the Irish marketing and processing sectors, starting from the base of very small-scale businesses.</li> <li>• Union Priority 6 (UP6): €10.6 million (4% of the total allocation) will be used on measures to improve the knowledge on the state of the marine environment and the level of protection of marine areas</li> </ul>
<p><b>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012</b></p>	<p>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors;</li> <li>• Increase the contribution to the national GDP;</li> <li>• Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework;</li> <li>• Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems;</li> <li>• Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem;</li> <li>• Implement and comply with environmental legislation;</li> </ul>

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Legislation, Plans and Programmes	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity;</li> <li>• Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and</li> <li>• Engagement and participation by all.</li> </ul>
<b>Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)</b>	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.	The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.
<b>Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost efficient manner for consumers.</li> <li>• Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs.</li> </ul>	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing on and offshore wind,</li> <li>• Building a sustainable bioenergy sector,</li> <li>• Fostering R&amp;D in renewables such as wave &amp; tidal,</li> <li>• Growing sustainable transport; and</li> <li>• Building out robust and efficient networks.</li> </ul>
<b>National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017</b>	The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives.	<p>The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Action Policy Framework</li> <li>• Decarbonising Electricity Generation</li> <li>• Decarbonising the Built Environment</li> <li>• Decarbonising Transport</li> <li>• An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors</li> </ul>
<b>National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050.</li> <li>• Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.</li> </ul>	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity;</li> <li>• Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future;</li> <li>• Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and</li> <li>• Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.</li> </ul>
<b>National Clean Air Strategy</b>	The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation.</li> <li>• The Strategy should also help tackle climate change.</li> <li>• The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture.</li> <li>• In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>Eirgrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2011 - 2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eirgrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland.</li> <li>• <i>"Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."</i></li> </ul>	Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.
<b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users.</li> <li>• It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high-capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure;</li> <li>• Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity;</li> <li>• Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off-road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and</li> <li>• Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and</li> <li>• Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.</li> </ul>
<b>National Water Resources Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment.</li> <li>• The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.</li> </ul> <p>The preparation of the NWRP has been divided into two phases, the combination of which will become the final NWRP. The NWRP Framework Plan (Phase 1) has now been adopted. Phase 2 of the NWRP (four Regional Water Resources Plans), currently in preparation, will address the needs across the 535 individual water supplies and identify the solutions to address these needs.</p>	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions</li> <li>• Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry</li> <li>• Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources</li> <li>• Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events</li> <li>• Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water</li> <li>• Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies</li> <li>• Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</li> </ul>

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<b>National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)</b>	Vision: "Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU."	General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development</li> <li>• Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability</li> <li>• Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products</li> </ul>
<b>Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997) Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001) Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006)</b>	The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.	The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>• to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> </ul> to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications.
<b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry.</li> <li>• The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.</li> </ul>	This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong;</li> <li>• Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;</li> <li>• The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects;</li> <li>• Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms;</li> <li>• Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;</li> <li>• Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and</li> <li>• Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.</li> </ul>
<b>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions.</li> <li>• Landscape Strategy Vision: "Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."</li> </ul>	The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development;</li> <li>• Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape;</li> <li>• Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape;</li> <li>• Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.</li> </ul>
<b>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027</b>	This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published.  Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally;</li> <li>• To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste;</li> <li>• To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export;</li> <li>• To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.</li> </ul>	The Environmental Protection Agency has a statutory responsibility to prepare National Hazardous Waste Management Plans. The National Hazardous Waste Management Plan for the period 2014-2020 was the third such national plan and had 27 recommendations with the following objectives: to prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste; to maximise the collection of hazardous waste; to strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; and to minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.  The Environmental Protection Agency has prepared a revised National Hazardous Waste Management Plan for the period 2021 to 2027.
<b>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b>	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.

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Legislation, Plans and Programmes	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.
<b>HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025</b>	The vision is: "A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility."	These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life</li> <li>• Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities</li> <li>• Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland</li> </ul>
<b>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</b>	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.</li> </ul>
<b>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved.</li> <li>• Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To reduce overall travel demand.</li> <li>○ To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.</li> <li>○ To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</li> <li>○ To reduce transport emissions.</li> <li>○ To improve accessibility to transport.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment</li> <li>○ ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking</li> <li>○ improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies</li> <li>○ strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</b>	SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.	<p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition);</li> <li>• Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and</li> <li>• Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network.</li> </ul> <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts;</li> <li>• Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and</li> <li>• To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA.</li> </ul>
<b>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland.</li> <li>• Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Security of Supply</li> <li>○ Sustainability of Energy</li> <li>○ Competitiveness of Energy Supply</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand</li> <li>• Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland</li> <li>• Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation</li> <li>• Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks</li> <li>• Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production</li> <li>• Being prepared for energy supply disruptions</li> </ul>
<b>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018, emerging 2024 NAF, and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</b>	NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change.</li> <li>• Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g., increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions.</li> <li>• Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change.</li> <li>• Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance</li> </ul>
<b>Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)</b>	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	<p>2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95%</li> <li>• Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.</li> </ul>
<b>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)</b>	Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.	Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.
<b>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)</b>	This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Wildlife Act of 1976</b>  <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b>  <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023</b>	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.  The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2023 introduced a new public sector duty on biodiversity. The legislation provides that every public body, as listed in the Act, is obliged to have regard to the objectives and targets in the National Biodiversity Action Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems</li> <li>• Give statutory protection to NHAs</li> <li>• Enhances wildlife species and their habitats</li> <li>• Includes more species for protection</li> </ul>

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Legislation, Plans and Programmes	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.
<b>Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030</b>	Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature. The 4th NBAP strives for a "whole of government, whole of society" approach to the governance and conservation of biodiversity. The aim is to ensure that every citizen, community, business, local authority, semi-state and state agency has an awareness of biodiversity and its importance, and of the implications of its loss, while also understanding how they can act to address the biodiversity emergency as part of a renewed national effort to "act for nature".	This National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 builds upon the achievements of the previous Plan. It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues:  Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity
<b>National Broadband Plan (2012)</b>	Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.	The Plan sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband.</li><li>• Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.</li><li>• The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.</li><li>• A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.</li></ul>
<b>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process.</li><li>• Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications.</li><li>• Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels.</li><li>• Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding.</li><li>• Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off.</li><li>• Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains.</li><li>• Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth.</li><li>• Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders.</li><li>• Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management.</li></ul> <p>The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.</p>
<b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation.</li><li>• Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water.</li><li>• Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans.</li><li>• Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs.</li><li>• Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies.</li><li>• Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body.</li><li>• Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances.</li><li>• Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater.</li><li>• Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies.</li><li>• Outlines surface water quality standards.</li><li>• Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li></ul>
<b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</b>		
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (S.I. 272 of 2009)</b>		
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010)</b>	Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li><li>• Sets groundwater quality standards.</li><li>• Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater.</li></ul>
<b>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b>	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prosecute for water pollution offences.</li><li>• Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.</li><li>• Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution.</li><li>• Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices;</li><li>• Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.</li><li>• Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.</li></ul>
<b>Water Services Act 2007</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides the water services infrastructure.</li></ul>	Key strategic objectives include:
<b>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services.</li><li>• Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</li></ul>
<b>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced.</li><li>• Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards</li><li>• Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.</li></ul>

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<b>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</b>	This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.	Six strategic objectives as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet Customer Expectations.</li> <li>• Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply.</li> <li>• Provide Effective Management of Wastewater.</li> <li>• Protect and Enhance the Environment.</li> <li>• Support Social and Economic Growth.</li> <li>• Invest in the Future.</li> </ul>
<b>Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas</b>	Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning.</li> <li>• Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.</li> </ul>
<b>Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan</b>	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	not applicable
<b>Agri-Food Strategy 2030</b>	This 10-year Strategy sets out four high-level "Missions" to be achieved in order to develop such a system in Ireland: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector</li> <li>2. Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Wellbeing</li> <li>3. Food that is Safe, Nutritious and Appealing, Trusted and Valued at Home and Abroad</li> <li>4. An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Sector, driven by Technology and Talent</li> </ol>	Each of the Missions has a set of Goals which are underpinned by a series of Actions.
<b>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)</b>  <b>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)</b>  <b>Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection.</li> <li>• GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.</li> <li>• Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>• Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment.</li> <li>• Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans.</li> <li>• Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>
<b>National Rural Development Programme</b>	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	At a more detailed level, the programme also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation;</li> <li>• Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and</li> <li>• Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities</li> </ul>
<b>National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)</b>	Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020.	Measures include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afforestation and Creation of Woodland</li> <li>• NeighbourWood Scheme</li> <li>• Forest Roads</li> <li>• Reconstitution Scheme</li> <li>• Woodland Improvement Scheme</li> </ul>
<b>River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle [in preparation]</b>	This draft River Basin Management Plan sets out the measures that are necessary to protect and restore water quality in Ireland. The overall aim of the plan is to ensure that our natural waters are sustainably managed and that freshwater resources are protected so as to maintain and improve Ireland's water environment.	The River Basin Management Plan sets out the measures necessary to protect and improve the quality of Ireland's waters. These plans are prepared in 6-year cycles, during which a programme of measures must be implemented so as to achieve water quality objectives. Good water quality contributes to protecting human health by improving the quality of drinking water sources and bathing waters.  UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 6 'ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all' have been integrated into the measures and the governance arrangements for the proposed River Basin Management Plan.
<b>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</b>	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	Objectives of the Strategy include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management.</li> <li>• To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils.</li> <li>• To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions.</li> <li>• To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly.</li> <li>• To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use</li> </ul>

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<b>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b>	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.
<b>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020</b>	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:  Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.	Three high level goals of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs.</li> <li>To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy.</li> <li>To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.</li> </ul>
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016</b>	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.
<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030</b>	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFV forecasts</li> <li>Electricity targets</li> <li>Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>Hydrogen targets</li> <li>Biofuels targets</li> <li>LPG targets</li> <li>Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</li> </ul>
<b>All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025</b>	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects in order to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment.  The main objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly;</li> <li>Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them;</li> <li>Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers;</li> <li>Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and</li> <li>Collecting evidence to track change and measure success.</li> </ul>	This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations. A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat. Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.
<b>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</b>	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>85% increase in exports to €19 billion.</li> <li>70% increase in value added to €13 billion.</li> <li>60% increase in primary production to €10 billion.</li> <li>The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high end value added product development.</li> </ul>
<b>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland</li> <li>Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020</li> <li>Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative</li> </ul>
<b>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable.</li> <li>By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.</li> </ul>	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce overall travel demand</li> <li>Maximise the efficiency of the transport network</li> <li>Reduce reliance on fossil fuels</li> <li>Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>Improve accessibility to transport</li> </ul> <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>



Consolidated NIS of the Sligo Destination Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plans and Programmes	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.
<b>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021</b>	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Context</li> <li>• Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination</li> <li>• Enhancing the Visitor Experience</li> <li>• Research in the Irish Tourism Sector</li> <li>• Supporting Local Communities in Tourism</li> <li>• Wider Government Policy</li> <li>• International Context</li> <li>• Co-ordination Structures</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</b>	Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.  The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year</li> <li>• net of inflation excluding carrier receipts;</li> <li>• 250,000 people employed in tourism; and</li> <li>• 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)</b>	This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.	The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience;</li> <li>• To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs;</li> <li>• To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and</li> <li>• To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.</li> </ul>
<b>National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland</b>	The high-level strategic framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network. This new framework is the Department of Transport's contribution to Project Ireland 2040, Government's long-term strategy for accommodating population growth in a sustainable manner and making Ireland a better country for all of its people. It has been developed to ensure that our transport sectoral strategy is underpinned by and supports the achievement of the spatial objectives and National Strategic Objectives set out in the National Planning Framework.	The framework establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.
<b>Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020</b>	The Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan provides a strategic framework for the integration of built, natural and cultural heritage into the future management of waterways.  The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i> .	Four objectives of the Plan include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice.</li> <li>• Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement.</li> <li>• Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset.</li> <li>• Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Waterways Ireland "Reimagining Our Waterways" 10-Year Plan 2023</b>	10-Year Plan is a visionary roadmap for reimagining historical waterways, greenways and blueways.  Waterways Ireland's Vision is to be recognised as having enabled the creation of inspirational inland navigations and waterways experiences, through conservation and sustainable development for the benefit of all.	At the core of our 10-year plan is set of six strategic priorities. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation Development &amp; Governance</li> <li>• Sustainable Funding Model</li> <li>• Asset Portfolio Management</li> <li>• Participation and Reputation</li> <li>• Sustainable Development</li> <li>• Climate Action, Environment and Heritage</li> </ul>
<b>S.I. No. 232/2018 - European Union (National Emission Ceilings) Regulations 2018</b>	The Regulations require the Minister to ensure that emissions of the specified pollutants are limited in accordance with the ceilings set out in Schedule 2. Annex III part 2 includes a set of measures to reduce emissions from agriculture.	The Regulations provide that the Environment Protection Agency shall prepare an annual inventory report of emissions of 5 specified pollutants (sulphur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ), nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> ), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> ), and fine particulate matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )), and in certain years a report on projections of emissions.  The Regulations also require the preparation of a national air pollution control programme Referring, among other things, to the 1979 UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution), and the establishment of a network to monitor the negative impacts of air pollution upon ecosystems based on a network of monitoring sites that is representative of Ireland's freshwater, natural and semi-natural habitats and forest ecosystem types. The Programme shall contain elements on the use of nitrogen fertilizer and soil protection. In fulfilling the requirements of subparagraph (b) the Minister shall ensure coordination with other monitoring programmes established pursuant to Union legislation including Directive 2008/50/EC, Directive 2000/60/EC and Council Directive 92/43/EEC and, if appropriate, the LRTAP Convention and, where appropriate, make use of data collected under those programmes.
<b>Regional/ County/Local Level</b>		

Consolidated NIS of the Sligo Destination Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plans and Programmes	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.
<p><b>Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032</b>  <b>Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031</b>  <b>Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2019-2031</b></p>	<p>The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its 10 constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council; Galway County Council; Galway City Council; Sligo County Council; Leitrim County Council; Cavan County Council; Monaghan County Council; Mayo County Council; and Roscommon County Council.</p> <p>The Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its 10 constituent local authorities: Cork City Council; Cork County Council; Clare County Council; Kerry County Council; Limerick City and County Council; Tipperary County Council; Waterford County Council; Carlow County Council; Kilkenny County Council; and Wexford County Council.</p> <p>The Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.</p>
<p><b>Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy</b>  <b>Ireland's Ancient East Regional Tourism Development Strategy</b>  <b>Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Regional Tourism Development Strategy</b>  <b>Dublin Regional Tourism Development Strategy</b></p>	<p>Regional Tourism Development Strategies are a roadmap for the tourism industry and all stakeholders involved in tourism in the region to navigate the current challenges and steer a course towards sustainable recovery and continued success. The Strategies set out a strategic approach to unlocking the commercial potential of the regions. It will ensure focus on tourism development is sustainable and regenerative and that the benefits accrue to local communities and to nature.</p>	<p>The strategic framework has been developed to achieve the vision of each of the Strategies. It consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability Strategy</li> <li>• Visitor and Brand Strategy</li> <li>• Destination Development Strategy &amp; Product Development Strategy</li> <li>• Industry Development Strategy</li> <li>• Distribution and Business Development Strategy</li> <li>• Marketing Strategy</li> <li>• Community Strategy</li> <li>• Environmental Strategy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</b></p>	<p>The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Greater Dublin Transport Strategy 2016-2035, focused on improving public and sustainable transport. While the bulk of the Plan relates solely to the Greater Dublin Area, certain areas such as public transport services and activities related to small public service vehicles are dealt with on a national basis.</p>	<p>The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus;</li> <li>• Light Rail;</li> <li>• Heavy Rai;</li> <li>• Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment;</li> <li>• Integrated Service Plan; and</li> <li>• Integration and Accessibility.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</b></p>	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site</li> <li>• To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest</li> <li>• To describe the site and its management</li> <li>• To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site</li> <li>• To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives</li> </ul>	<p>Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.</p>
<p><b>Groundwater Protection Schemes</b></p>	<p>A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.</p>	<p>A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.</p>
<p><b>Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)</b></p>	<p>The overarching vision for each LECP is: <i>"to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities"</i></p>	<p>The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>Land Use Plans, including County Development Plans and Local Area Plans in force within the area to which the Plan relates, including Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied and extended) and the new upcoming Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030 [in preparation] and in adjoining planning authorities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport objectives).</li> <li>• Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies.</li> <li>• Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required.</li> <li>• Protect and enhances amenities and environment.</li> <li>• Guide planning authority in assessing proposals.</li> <li>• Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development.</li> <li>• Aim to promote sustainable development.</li> <li>• Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Green Infrastructure Plans/Strategies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes the maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure in an area.</li> <li>• Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats.</li> </ul>	<p>not applicable</p>
<p><b>Landscape Character Assessments, including those in force within the area to which the Strategy relates and Local Authorities in adjoining counties</b></p>	<p>Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area.</li> <li>• Guide strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.</li> </ul>

Consolidated NIS of the Sligo Destination Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plans and Programmes	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.
<b>Connacht-Ulster Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021</b>	The plan gives effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.
<b>Sligo County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023</b>	The Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The purpose of this Action Plan is to endeavour to manage the existing noise environment and protect the future noise environment within the action planning area. Management of the existing noise environment may be achieved by prioritising areas for which further assessment and possible noise mitigation may be required. Protection of the future noise environment may be achieved by acoustical planning, which further incorporates noise into the planning process via measures such as land-use planning, development planning, sound insulation measures, traffic planning and control of environmental noise sources.
<b>Sligo County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</b>	Climate Change Adaptation Strategies represent a proactive step by Local Authorities in the process of adaptation planning to build resilience and respond effectively to the threats posed by climate change.	The Climate Change Adaptation Strategies takes on the role as the primary instrument at local level to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure a proper comprehension of the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change;</li> <li>• Bring forward the implementation of climate resilient actions in a planned and proactive manner; and</li> <li>• Ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into all plans and policies and integrated into all operations and functions of County Council.</li> </ul>
<b>Sligo County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029</b>	It sets out how the local authority will promote a range of mitigation, adaptation and other climate action measures, to help deliver on the national climate obligations and the Government's overall National Climate Objective, which seeks to pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.	The Climate Action Plan sets a clear pathway for Sligo County Council to: • actively translate national climate policy to local circumstances with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures; • assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels; and • identify and deliver a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) within the local authority area to act as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures in a specifically defined area, through the identification of projects and outcomes that will assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective.
<b>Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES) prepared by Local Authority within the area to which the Strategy relates and Local Authorities in adjoining counties</b>	The Strategy sets out the framework for the delivery of sustainable and renewable energies throughout the County.	The LARES outlines the potential for a range of renewable energy resources and developments and acknowledges the significant contribution that they can make to the county in terms of energy security, reduced reliance on traditional fossil fuels, enabling future energy exports, meeting assigned national targets and the transition to a low carbon economy.
<b>Shannon Tourism Masterplan 2020-2030</b>	The Shannon Tourism Masterplan is the first dedicated plan undertaken on the entire Shannon Region, setting out a bold and integrated framework for sustainable tourism development along the Shannon across 2020 – 2030.  The Masterplan is a collaborative project led by Waterways Ireland with Fáilte Ireland and 10 Local Authorities along the River Shannon and Shannon-Erne Waterway.	The Masterplan has examined the potential for positioning the Shannon as a hub destination for international and domestic tourism. It identifies the scale and scope of this challenge and has identified the measures needed to develop the necessary infrastructure, products, and experiences to reposition the Shannon Region as a key tourism destination within Ireland's Hidden Heartlands.  Three key themes are identified in the plan, The Shannon, Mighty River of Ireland, Shannon Journey's and Adventures and The Natural Timeless Shannon.
<b>Fáilte Ireland plans, strategies etc. relating to the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East and Dublin or other brands or initiatives, including the Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme, VEDPs and DEDPs and Visitor Management Plans</b>	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment. The vision for the Wild Atlantic Way brand is: To create a world class, sustainable and unmissable experience brand that engages and energises the visitor so that they become powerful advocates and leaves them wanting to return for more.	Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence.  The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.
<b>Fáilte Ireland's Corporate Strategy 2021-2023</b>	Fáilte Ireland's Corporate Strategy seeks to guide the industry back to recovery following the Covid-19 global pandemic.	It sets out a course of action based on the following seven strategic pillars, from which this Regional Tourism Strategy takes its cue: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To sustain tourism businesses in the short term so they can thrive over the long term. (Survive to Thrive)</li> <li>2. To support industry to attract and retain talent to support sustainable growth. (Supporting Tourism Careers)</li> <li>3. To achieve a sustained step change in Irish staycations. (Accelerate Domestic Tourism)</li> <li>4. To transform Ireland's outdoor tourism experience. (Opening the Outdoors)</li> <li>5. To transform Irish tourism's online presence and ecommerce capability. (Digital that Delivers)</li> <li>6. To enhance the destination experience and support the industry in building a pipeline of future international business. (Destination Development and Distribution)</li> <li>7. To reduce the carbon footprint of the tourism sector and make it much more sustainable. (Driving Climate Action)</li> </ol>
<b>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</b>	Various other plans and projects which are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment	Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.

## **Appendix V Fáilte Ireland published documents referenced in the DDP/SEA Environmental Report**



**WILD ATLANTIC WAY**

SLÍ FHIÁIN AN ATLANTAIGH

# Site Maintenance Guidelines

*for launching the  
Wild Atlantic Way*



**Fáilte Ireland**

National Tourism Development Authority

the **paulhogarth** company



BRADY SHIPMAN MARTIN



## INTRODUCTION

The *Wild Atlantic Way* will be the longest coastal driving attraction in the world, inviting greater tourism numbers to the west coast of Ireland from overseas tourist markets to explore this unique and varied, but wild landscape and seascape.

**The Vision** for the *Wild Atlantic Way* is to build on the existing international reputation of the West Coast of Ireland, and to develop an all encompassing World Class tourism product that will invite visitors to experience the unique wild and natural seascape and landscape of the Atlantic Coast.

It will be at once wild, natural, vibrant and authentic; unspoilt, intriguing, exciting and memorable. It will showcase the wild landscapes and seascapes, and the heritage and history of the places along it.

### What does it look like?

The *Wild Atlantic Way* is a route along the Atlantic coast from Kinsale in County Cork to the Inishowen Peninsula in County Donegal, and will be fully developed over a period of 10 years.

Along the **Route** there are **159 Discovery Points**, large and small, each chosen for their potential to offer visitors an authentic and intimate experience of the natural and wild landscape and seascape. The majority of these Discovery Points are alongside or accesses by rural roads, with others being located within village and harbour settings. Additionally, there are **22 Embarkation Points** to island Discovery Points.

Each Discovery Point already has a parking facility in the form of a lay-by or car park, and these will serve as the **Arrival Points** for each site. A number of these Discovery Points will be further enhanced to improve the quality of the visitor experience, subject to compliance with the relevant environmental and habitats regulations.

*At this stage, we want the help of the Local Authorities to prepare the Arrival Points to the Discovery Points for the launch of the Wild Atlantic Way in 2014.*

*This document provides guidelines as to the works that may be required to meet a minimum standard of presentation of these sites. The Guidelines also include an Ecological Method Statement which sets out the ecological standards and procedures which must be complied with by the Local Authorities in implementing any works.*

In relation to the further development of the *Discovery Points*, a Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Appropriate Assessment are currently being undertaken of the Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme and the findings of these assessments will determine the scope, extent and nature of future works, if any.

These Guidelines, therefore, relate only to the parking facilities at the *Discovery Points*.



Ferry to Island

**P** Car parks & Lay-bys

 Potential Discovery Points



## OVERVIEW

The parking facilities are the **Arrival Points** for vehicles and provide pedestrian access for visitors to the *Wild Atlantic Way* site markers, and in the longer term, to the *Discovery Points*.

In some cases, the parking facility will incorporate the *Discovery Point*, either because there is no access from it into the surrounding landscape for a variety of reasons, or that it is considered that the best view of the surrounding landscape and seascape is to be had from the parking facility.

**Parking facilities are not authentic landscape elements**, however, it is important that they are well presented and do not compromise visitor experience of the natural landscape or seascape attraction.

By virtue of their remote and unsheltered locations, many are highly exposed to the excesses of wind and rain, and have endured damage to surfaces, boundaries and facilities - in some cases giving rise to a sense of dereliction. **Poor presentation and dereliction** will undermine visitor experience of the sites.

The purpose of this document is to assist Local Authorities in identifying appropriate repair works that **will enhance the presentation** and visitor experience of parking facilities. Included as part of these guidelines is an Ecological Method Statement. All remedial works undertaken by Local Authorities should comply with these Guidelines and the Ecological Method Statement.

**All parking facilities should be effective, visually discreet, and compatible with their natural context.**



## SITE APPROACH AND ENTRANCE

The extent of what is considered the Site Approach will be determined by the particular characteristics and context of each site.

- In the case of lay-bys, the approach will probably only include the section of road alongside it and any defined entrance.
- For small car parks at the end of cul-de-sacs or along very minor roads, the approach may include some or all of the minor road linking to the main route, as well as any defined entrance.
- Car parks adjacent to settlements, beaches and harbours vary considerably in size, and may incorporate and service other facilities or attractions. In such cases, it may be appropriate that the approach be limited to the part of the car park where the *Wild Atlantic Way* site marker is to be located.

### Typical maintenance works may include:

- Repair of broken road surfaces;
- Repair of rutted road edges;
- Cutting roadside grass verges;
- Trimming of hedgerows;
- Weeding and removal of inappropriate species and dead planting;
- De-cluttering and removal of excessive or obsolete signage;
- Repairing or removing broken or inappropriate entrance structures including height restrictions;
- Removal or tidying up of derelict or abandoned equipment in adjoining fields or areas.



## PARKING SURFACES

The site car parks, by virtue of their exposed locations, are prone to physical damage by high volumes of drainage, high winds and temperature change, giving rise to broken and uneven surfaces, potholes and surface drainage problems.

Parking surfaces should be **continuous, reasonably firm and durable, be free of tripping hazards**, incorporating free flowing drainage, and should also be **visually compatible** with the surrounding context.

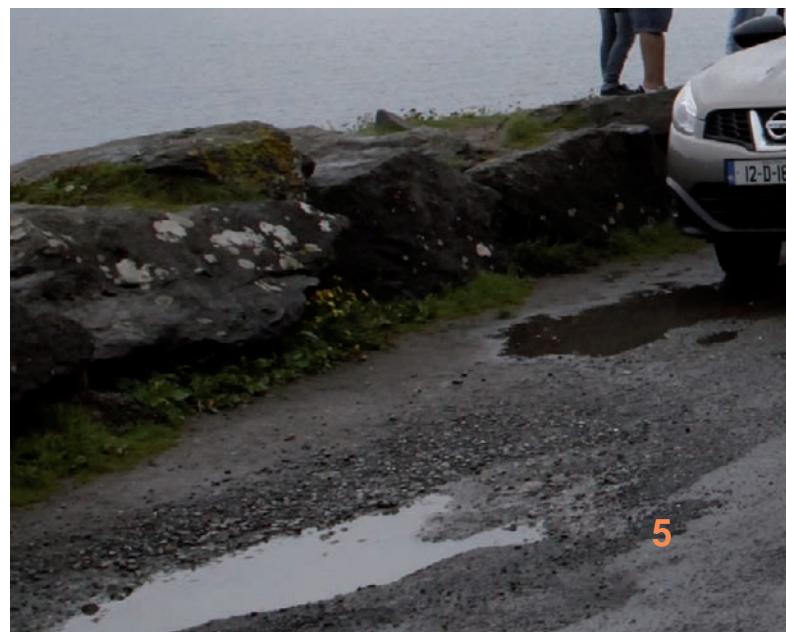
Surface materials will typically include tar and chip or compacted stone for rural sites, whereas village and harbour sites might include bitumen macadam, tar and chip, and possibly concrete.

Hot rolled asphalt incorporating drainage channels, gullies, painted line markings, concrete edgings etc are not generally appropriate, but may be required at specific sites where higher volumes of visitors are anticipated.

### Issues to Consider

- General:** Tidy up sites by removing **debris and gravel piles**, and repairing broken elements.
- Drainage:** Examine the effectiveness of the site drainage, by considering site levels and gradients, the source and direction of cross flows, and the optimum outlet routes. Determine free **flowing discreet drainage system** that will assist in ensuring the integrity of the parking surface and edges.
- Surfaces:** Repair any broken surfaces, potholes, sudden level changes or broken or rutted edges that may give rise to tripping and difficulties for buggies and wheelchair users. Use materials that are consistent with the local road, existing car park or surrounding landscape context as appropriate.
- Vegetation:** Grass and other vegetation can break through compact surfaces after a number of years. In some cases this might be considered part of the **character**; for others, it might be considered **derelict**. An assessment of what is appropriate must be made, and such vegetation either left alone, or the surface renewed to eliminate it. If renewing surfaces, the specification should consider the likelihood of vegetation re-establishing itself.

In general, **do not introduce urban traffic solutions** such as highly finished tarmac, paint marking, bollards, kerbs, barriers or traffic signage in areas that are distinctly rural and natural in appearance.



## SITE BOUNDARIES

Boundaries for parking facilities vary significantly, and typically in rural settings include earth mounds, sod and stone banks, hedgerows, post and wire fencing etc., that are consistent with the wider landscape setting. In some cases, they may also include examples of local craftsmanship, such as dry stone walls.

Rural boundaries have an **inherent rugged and almost natural appearance**. Undulating lines, off-plumb fence posts, and weathered appearances are perfectly acceptable authentic elements of the landscape.

### Repair and maintenance works for improved presentation may require:

- Earth mounds:** Any broken or eroded parts should be repaired to match the original.
- Sod and Stone banks:** Reinststate any damaged sections and remove overgrown or dead planting, or any inappropriate species;
- Hedgerows:** In general, annual trimming to maintain vistas should be undertaken outside bird nesting season, ideally in autumn to allow recovery in advance of the tourism season.
- Dry stone walls:** Repair any broken or fallen sections to match the original
- Post & wire fence:** Replace and missing or broken posts or sections of wire
- Sand dunes:** Natural features with marram grass should not need maintenance.

Inappropriate boundaries might include bollards (concrete, steel, painted timber), boulders, chain link fencing, painted timber fences, crash barriers, and walls made from blockwork, modular materials or concrete.

Where inappropriate boundary treatments are present they should be removed and replaced with an alternative that is consistent with the surrounding landscape context. If vehicular constraints are necessary for safety or for restricting access, consider solutions derived from typical appropriate boundaries.



## SIGNAGE

Sites should be free of all unnecessary clutter, so as not to detract from the setting and visitor experience. Excesses of signage, for direction, safety, information, interpretation and other purposes needs to be rationalised and simplified.

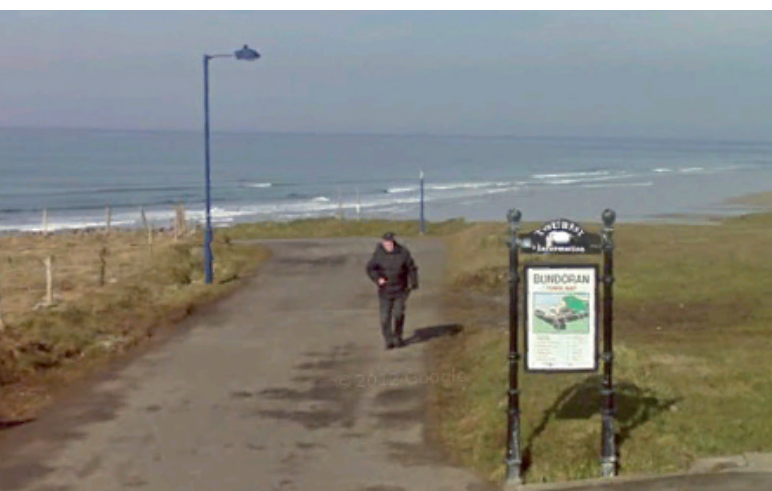
**In many instances, typical actions required that may include:**

- Removal of abandoned or derelict signage and signage infrastructure;
- Removal of any urban or otherwise inappropriate signage structures;
- Removal of all commercial advertising;
- Repair and repainting of signage infrastructure.

Local Authorities, in consultation with Fáilte Ireland and other relevant bodies, should seek to remove other tourism and interpretive signage, and if appropriate and necessary, to seek to incorporate other information in conjunction with the *Wild Atlantic Way* site marker.

The *Wild Atlantic Way* site marker will incorporate interpretation signage, the content for which will be agreed by means of a separate consultative process.

The objective is that upon arrival, the *Wild Atlantic Way* site marker should be readily visible, not confused amongst other signage, and be close to the point of interaction (or departure to) the natural and wild experience identified with each site.



## SITE FURNITURE

Where site furniture is provided, it is important that it is appropriate to the natural landscape setting, and well maintained so as to enhance visitor experience of the site.

### Actions required may include:

- Removal, replacement or repair of any furniture that is broken or appears derelict;
- Removal of any urban style seating or other site furniture that detracts from the authenticity of the site;
- Removal of any makeshift site furniture such as picnic tables and seating made of block, brick or concrete structures;
- Removal of bins comprising re-used oil barrels and other containers, moulded plastic, and urban council type bins.

Picnic tables and seating should generally be understated, robust and well maintained. Easy access is important, including the approach route and base installation.

Bins, where provided, should be convenient without being prominent, and should generally be of naturally bleaching timber construction. Consideration should be given where possible to the provision of dual bins for rubbish and recycling.

Particular attention should be given to the most appropriate location for the *Wild Atlantic Way* site marker. It should be obvious at the point of arrival by car, and also at the point of leaving the car park behind and proceeding by foot to the natural setting, and in time, to the Discovery Point.

Local Communities, themselves part of the *Wild Atlantic Way* experience, may have implemented community projects and in some cases, memorial plaques. It is important that the Local Authority identifies such interventions and their origins, and undertakes any improvement works in a manner that engages with such community participation.



## SITE FACILITIES

The majority of sites do not typically incorporate extensive visitor facilities. Toilet facilities are provided at many of the village, beach and harbour locations, either on a permanent or seasonal basis. In addition, some of the parking facilities double as the location for community recycling facilities.

### Actions required:

#### Toilet Blocks

Ensure toilet blocks in use are properly presented and maintained, internally and externally, so as not to undermine visitor experience;

Some sites incorporate disused and derelict toilet blocks. Where there is a demand, these should be refurbished and well presented. Otherwise, derelict toilet facilities should be demolished and their sites reinstated.

#### Temporary Toilets

Portaloos, whether temporary or permanent, are substantially below any international or local visitor expectation and should be removed.

Where there is a demand for toilet facilities, consideration should be given to the provision of proper facilities.

In exceptional circumstances, if temporary facilities are provided, they should always be fully screened by timber panelling and hedgerows.

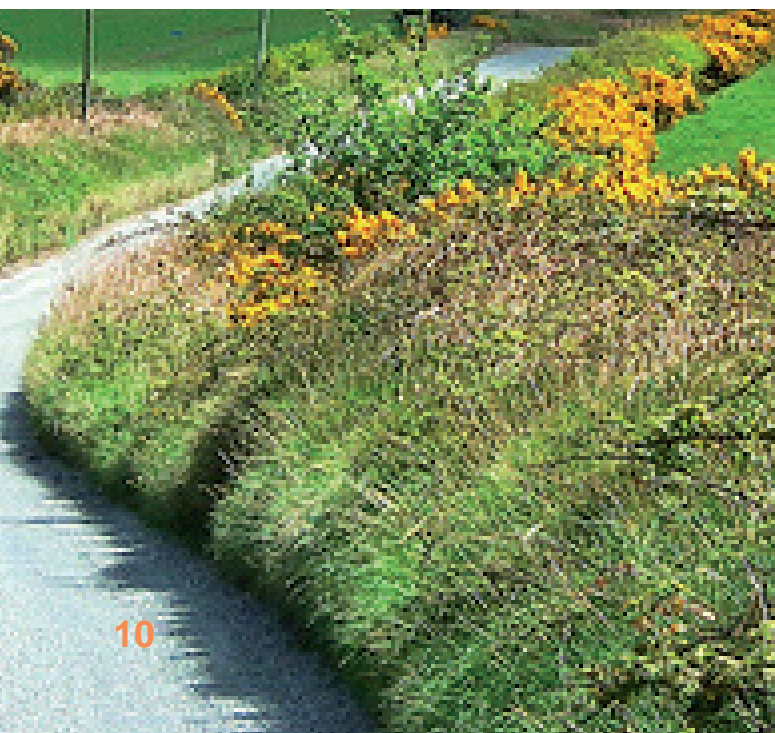
#### Recycling:

Consider possible alternative sites

Ensure they are located out of sight of visitors;

Provide screening, perhaps using timber panels and hedgerow surrounds







## SITE LIGHTING

The majority of sites are distinctly rural in character with the exception of those located in villages and harbours. In this regard, sites should have no lighting provided as frequently, the dusk, dawn or night time experience of the seascape and skyline is part of the experience.

Inappropriate lighting installations should be removed.

In village, harbour or promenade locations, lighting may be a reasonable expectation and appropriate. Local Authorities should ensure that such fittings and illumination levels are suitable to the location. Bollard lighting might be considered a good alternative, perhaps in conjunction with lamp standards, to provide suitable wayfinding lighting without compromising the village or harbour character.

## SOFT LANDSCAPING

In general, vegetation at sites in the form of indigenous hedgerows, shrubs, grass, marram grass and seasonal flowers is entirely appropriate.

Any vegetation that is dead, not indigenous, or inconsistent with the local landscape context, should be removed and replaced as appropriate in order to reinforce the authenticity of sites.

## SUSTAINABILITY

The authenticity of the wild and natural environments being showcased along the *Wild Atlantic Way* is an essential part of the experience. In this regard, sites should be maintained and repaired in a sustainable manner, using, as appropriate, locally sourced materials and indigenous planting, as well as management techniques that are environmentally responsible. Particular regard should be given to safeguarding ecological characteristics, including flora and fauna, and the protection of the natural environments.





## MAINTENANCE & SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

All sites that are brought up to an acceptable standard will be awarded a *Wild Atlantic Way* site markers and an interpretative panel, both of which will be placed in a suitable location at the Arrival Point. The high quality presentation of the sites however, will be an ongoing requirement, in order to maximise visitor experience and match expectations.

Fáilte Ireland will require a Service Level Agreement for each site with the relevant Local Authority.

This will serve as a contract between Fáilte Ireland and the Local Authority to ensure that investment in the sites now will continue to be effective for the *Wild Atlantic Way*.

### What will the Service Level Agreement include?

Following the identification and agreement of the scope of works required for each site at this stage, a site specific Service Level Agreement will also be prepared. In essence, the Service Level Agreement will seek to ensure that maintenance and improvement works undertaken in the short term are kept at an acceptable standard by the Local Authority into the future.

Typically, they are likely to include:

- Periodic reporting on site condition, including photographs
- Defined management regimes and programmes
- Sites to be kept clean and tidy
- Bins to be emptied and any loose rubbish picked up
- Vegetation to have scheduled seasonal management plans
- Signage is kept clear and well presented, and unauthorised signage or advertisements removed
- Any painted structures should be re-painted as required to maintain good presentation
- Toilet facilities, where provided, are kept clean and stocked with necessary supplies
- Lighting, if appropriate, is maintained in full working order
- Site furniture is kept in good condition
- Parking surfaces to be maintained in good order
- Items that are broken, including by vandalism, are repaired quickly
- Graffiti is removed

Local Authorities will be required to commit to allocating appropriate resources to ensure that the appropriate standard is maintained.



# ECOLOGICAL METHOD STATEMENT

## 1.1 Introduction

All projects must be undertaken in accordance with the Wild Atlantic Way candidate Discovery Points Remedial Works Guidelines, including this Ecological Method Statement, and in accordance with the requirements of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.

The purpose of the Ecological Method Statement is to identify what ecological control methods need to be specified to avoid adverse ecological effects arising from remedial works. All projects must comply with all planning, local authority and other statutory requirements both during and after the construction phase of the Project.

Remedial works are proposed at a number of sites. The works vary in scale and are specific to the individual sites and incorporate a combination of the proposed works outlined on Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1 Proposed Works for Wild Atlantic Way candidate Discovery Points**

<b>Proposed works</b>
Extend surfacing in car park
Enlargement of car park/lay-by
Provision of footpath
Provision of site amenities e.g. toilet block, painting, seating
Provide Wild Atlantic Way site marker
Lay-by reshaping
Removal/replacement of bollards
Extension of timber boardwalks to create access locations within car park to boardwalks
<b>Proposed Management Activities</b>
Road repairs (e.g. pot holes)
Repair stone walls, fencing, concrete posts, and furniture
Repair surfacing in car park
Removal of vegetation, tree and hedgerow cutting
Repair and maintain verge around car park and along access road
Rationalise existing information signage, removal of existing barriers, general tidy up of area
Undertake maintenance of grassed amenity areas
Maintenance of site amenities e.g. toilet block, painting, seating
Repair works to paths, slipways, kerbs, steps, etc. due to storm damage
Reinstate rock armour
Drainage clearance works

The locations of these sites are often within areas of high ecological sensitivity and therefore it will be necessary to consider the potential effects of such works on the natural environment. Depending on the site and the specific complexities, the works could potentially give rise to the following adverse ecological effects:

- Habitat loss and disturbance
- Disturbance of species
- Introduction and spread of invasive alien species.
- Increased runoff of silt and pollutants to surrounding aquatic ecosystems, which could impact on aquatic habitats and species

## 1.2 Ecological Control Measures

A number of Ecological Control Measures are to be integrated into the design of each site. The Ecological Control Measures have been detailed and tailored by giving due consideration to the sensitivity of the receiving environment and the scale of works proposed. Particular measures (see Table 1.2 below) are listed against each type of works being proposed for each site. It will be necessary for the Local Authority to specify that, when planning works at individual sites, the measures are adhered to and appropriately incorporated into the construction approach. Site specific detail on how these measures will be incorporated into the construction design will vary depending on the characteristics of each site and will need to be considered prior to the commencement of construction.

**Table 1.2 Ecological Control Measures**

No.	Description of wording to be included in Works Specification
<b>G1</b>	<p>All rubbish, debris and other waste material shall be segregated to prevent contamination, stored appropriately and covered where required. Removal of waste materials from site shall be undertaken by an approved contractor for treatment/disposal.</p> <p>Hazardous waste material shall be stored separately from other inert waste materials and kept covered in an appropriate area/container(s) to ensure that the material does not inadvertently enter any existing surface water drainage network materials. The hazardous waste materials shall be removed from site by an approved contractor for treatment at a licenced facility - as directed by the Ecological Clerk of Works.</p> <p>Particular care shall be taken in the removal of stockpiles of material such as gravel and chippings. (Such stockpiles are frequently sources of non-native invasive plants, such as Japanese knotweed). Disposal of contaminated material may require transport to an approved, licensed facility.</p>
<b>G2</b>	<p>All rubbish, debris and other waste material shall be removed in such a manner as to ensure that none of the material is contaminated and/or released inadvertently to watercourses and other sensitive ecological habitats.</p>
<b>G3</b>	<p>Prior to removal, all vegetation shall be checked by the Ecological Clerk of Works to ensure that it is free of non-native invasive species, such as Japanese knotweed. Should any such species be encountered, the area shall be treated as directed by expert advice on the management of invasive species.</p>
<b>G4</b>	<p>Works involving the removal or clearing of vegetation that would have any impacts on nesting birds shall be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (i.e. outside the period 1st March to 31st August).</p> <p>In addition, the possible presence of roosting bats shall be considered prior to the undertaking any works that may disturb the roosts. Any further safeguards shall be included and provided for subject to the supervision of the Ecological Clerk of Works</p>
<b>G5</b>	<p>Should they be required, all hazardous substances, such as fuels, oils, cement and concrete products, shall be stored on-site in a secure, dry and contained area and isolated from drainage connections to any existing surface water drainage network</p>

No.	Description of wording to be included in Works Specification
G6	Should they be required, all hazardous substances, such as fuels, oils, cement and concrete products, shall be used in a manner that ensures that contamination of other materials does not occur and that they do not inadvertently enter any existing surface water drainage network
G7	Where possible, machinery shall only operate from existing parking or built surfaces, and shall not enter any sensitive or designated ecological habitat – as directed by the Ecological Clerk of Works
G8	All resurfacing works shall be undertaken within the existing or formerly paved areas
G9	All resurfacing and other minor construction or demolition works (including removal and consolidation of existing features, such as signage, litter bins, picnic tables) should be undertaken in a manner that ensures that no materials can inadvertently enter any watercourse or sensitive ecological habitat, and in a manner that ensures there are no impacts on fauna such as birds and bats – as directed by the Ecological Clerk of Works
G10	Prior to use, resurfacing materials, including hardcore and sub-surface fill material will be stored in a manner that ensures that they do not inadvertently enter any existing surface water drainage network, or any sensitive ecological habitat – as directed by the Ecological Clerk of Works
G11	All timber to be used in works shall be sustainably sourced
G12	<p>Works to define boundary edges shall be undertaken in a manner that ensures that there are no impacts on any sensitive or designated ecological habitat on the natural environment – as directed by the Ecological Clerk of Works and shall consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proposed low earth bunds shall be placed within the existing parking or built surface areas.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All material used, including rock, soil, seed and sods shall be sustainably sourced and appropriate to the setting</li> </ul>
G13	Removal and consolidation of existing features, such as signage, litter bins, picnic tables shall be undertaken in a manner that ensures that there are no impacts on any watercourse or sensitive ecological habitat.
G14	Works to provide a natural surface to bare areas shall be undertaken in a manner that ensures that there are no impacts on the natural environment. All material used, including soil, seed and sods shall be sustainably sourced and appropriate to the setting.
G15	Where possible, site markers shall be placed within existing hard standing areas and installed in a manner that ensures that there are no impacts on any sensitive or designated ecological habitat – as directed by the Ecological Clerk of Works
G17	An Ecological Clerk of Works shall be retained to advise on and monitor works associated with construction, demolition, resurfacing and/or drainage

### 1.3 Advisory Measures

Advisory Measures, in addition to the requirements to comply with all planning, local authority and other statutory requirements both during and after the construction phase of the Project are detailed in Table 1.3 below.

**Table 1.3 Advisory Measures**

No.	Description
<p><b>1. Protection of Biodiversity including Natura 2000 Network</b></p>	<p>Contribute as appropriate towards the protection of designated ecological sites including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries, Ramsar Sites, Salmonid Waters and Wicklow National Park.</p> <p>The protection of natural heritage and biodiversity, including European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network, will be supported in accordance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including the following and any updated/superseding documents):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended)<sup>1</sup>, the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)<sup>2</sup>, the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)<sup>3</sup>, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC).</li> <li>• National legislation, including the Wildlife Act 1976<sup>4</sup>, the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989 (SI No. 349 of 1989) (as amended), the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008<sup>5</sup> and the Flora Protection Order 1999.</li> <li>• National policy guidelines, including the Landscape and Landscape Assessment Draft Guidelines 2000, the Environmental Impact Assessment Sub-Threshold Development Guidelines 2003, Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines 2004 and the Appropriate Assessment Guidance 2010.</li> <li>• Catchment and water resource management Plans.</li> <li>• Biodiversity Plans and guidelines, including Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016: and Ireland’s National Biodiversity Plan;</li> <li>• Ireland’s Environment 2012 (EPA, 2012), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report’s goals and challenges.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Including Annex I habitats, Annex II species and their habitats and Annex IV species and their breeding sites and resting places (wherever they occur). Note that the NPWS provide sensitive areas mapping for Freshwater Pearl Mussels which are listed under Annex II of the Directive.

<sup>2</sup> Including Annex I species and other regularly occurring migratory species, and their habitats (wherever they occur)

<sup>3</sup> Including protected species and natural habitats

<sup>4</sup> Including species of flora and fauna and their key habitats.

<sup>5</sup> Including protected species and natural habitats



No.	Description
<p><b>2. Appropriate Assessment</b></p>	<p>All projects will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. A project will only be authorised after the competent authority has ascertained, based on scientific evidence and an Appropriate Assessment report to the relevant level of detail, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or</li> <li>2. The project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or</li> <li>3. The project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.</li> </ol> <p>The methodology followed by the Appropriate Assessment should follow, as relevant and appropriate, that outlined in DEHLG (2009) <i>Appropriate Assessment of Plans &amp; Projects - Guidance for Planning Authorities</i>.</p>

No.	Description
<b>3. AA and Exemptions</b>	<p>Proposals for development must be screened for the need to undertake AA as per the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (Part 5, Section 42). A local authority is unlikely to carry out an AA of their own development as the competent authority in such instances is likely to be An Bord Pleanála. A local authority must screen proposed developments for AA to determine whether a Section 177AE application to An Bord Pleanála is required.</p> <p>If proposals are screened out then planning exemptions are not lost. If a Stage 2 AA is required then planning exemptions are lost and planning permission must be sought<sup>6</sup>. If a local authority is applying for the permission and Stage 2 AA is required, then the application must go to An Bord Pleanála.</p> <p>Developments or works by other groups or individuals may require planning permission or, if not, may require Ministerial consent in European sites. Local authorities are likely to be responsible for deciding whether there are restrictions on exemptions in the case of exempted development by a group or individual.</p>
<b>4. Environmental Control Measures</b>	<p>A number of Environmental Control Measures have been integrated into the design of each site. The Measures have been detailed and tailored by giving due consideration to the sensitivity of the receiving environment and the scale of works proposed. These measures should be taken into account by any Appropriate Assessments and are part of the design and are not mitigation.</p>
<b>5. Protection of Natura 2000 Sites</b>	<p>No projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>7</sup>).</p>
<b>6. Coastal Focus</b>	<p>Works undertaken in coastal areas will be in accordance with best practice and support measures to protect the coast, the coastal edge and coastal habitats. Protect, enhance and conserve the beaches from inappropriate development. Facilitate and Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach to ensure the conservation, management and projection of man-made and natural resources of the coastal zone.</p>
<b>7. Biodiversity and Ecological Networks</b>	<p>Support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, semi-natural grasslands, rivers, streams, natural springs, wetlands, geological and geo-morphological systems, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p>

<sup>6</sup> As per Part I, Section 4 (4) of the Planning Act 2000 as amended states that [Notwithstanding paragraphs (a), (i), (ia) and (l) of subsection (1) and any regulations under subsection (2)]: development shall not be exempted development if an environmental impact assessment or an appropriate assessment of the development is required.

<sup>7</sup> Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

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

No.	Description
<b>8. Waters</b>	Protect the water resources, including rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater, coastal waters and associated habitats and species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU <i>Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC)</i> , the <i>European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended)</i> , the <i>North Western International</i> , the <i>Western</i> , the <i>Shannon International</i> and the <i>South Western River Basin Management Plans 2009-2015</i> (or any such plans that may supersede same) and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same).
<b>9. Non-Designated Sites</b>	Recognise that nature conservation is not just confined to designated sites and acknowledge the need to protect non-designated habitats and landscapes and to conserve biological diversity.
<b>10. Non-native invasive species</b>	Support, as appropriate, the National Parks and Wildlife Service's efforts to seek to control the spread of non-native invasive species on land and water.
<b>11. Environmental Assessment</b>	Ensure, as appropriate, that plans, programmes and projects comply with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Directives - including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended) - and relevant transposing Regulations.</li> </ul>
<b>12. Cumulative/In-combination effects</b>	Any new development that could interact with projects for remedial works would have to comply with the provisions contained in relevant land use and other sectorial plans e.g. Development Plans, River Basin Management Plans. These provisions have been subject to and informed by Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment which have considered in-combination effects.  With respect to events (such as a vehicle collision) that are not reasonably foreseeable, contingency plans and procedures are already in place at various levels e.g. emergency plans, local response arrangements.  As part of the wider Wild Atlantic Way project, environmental monitoring is being coordinated at a number of levels – this includes monitoring related to habitats.
<b>13. Works to be carried out at candidate Discovery Points and potential impacts</b>	The methodology for the incorporation of environmental control measures will require consideration at project level for each site to account for individual complexities with regards to the sensitivities and layout of the individual site.



**WILD ATLANTIC WAY**

*SLÍ FHIÁIN AN ATLANTAIGH*

## Appendix 6

### 'Environmental Management for Local Authorities and Others'

The objective of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.

The SEA which has been undertaken for the Operational Programme, the findings of which have been informed by the Appropriate Assessment (AA) and are presented in an SEA Environmental Report which accompanies Operational Programme, has resulted in the integration of this Appendix into the Operational Programme in order to facilitate environmental protection and sustainable development at lower levels of decision making.

This appendix includes various provisions with which local authorities and others will demonstrate compliance at lower levels of decision making in order to get funding. These decision making processes will include project level Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and AA as appropriate.

Proposals for development must be screened for the need to undertake AA as per the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (Part 5, Section 42).

A local authority is unlikely to carry out an AA of their own development as the competent authority in such instances is likely to be An Bord Pleanála. A local authority must screen proposed developments for AA to determine whether a Section 177AE application to An Bord Pleanála is required.

If proposals are screened out then planning exemptions are not lost. If a Stage 2 AA is required then planning exemptions are lost and planning permission must be sought<sup>1</sup>. If a local authority is applying for the permission and Stage 2 AA is required, then the application must go to An Bord Pleanála.

Developments or works by other groups or individuals may require planning permission or, if not, may require Ministerial consent in European sites. Local authorities are likely to be responsible for deciding whether there are restrictions on exemptions in the case of exempted development by a group or individual.

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<sup>1</sup> As per Part I, Section 4 (4) of the Planning Act 2000 as amended states that [Notwithstanding paragraphs (a), (i), (ia) and (l) of subsection (1) and any regulations under subsection (2)]: development shall not be exempted development if an environmental impact assessment or an appropriate assessment of the development is required.

Topic <sup>2</sup>	Requirement <sup>3</sup>
All	<p><b>Regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</b></p> <p>Local authorities and others shall cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Local authorities and others will demonstrate, as appropriate, that plans, programmes and projects comply with EU Directives - including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) – and relevant transposing Regulations.</p>
All	<p><b>Information to be considered by local authorities and others at lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment</b></p> <p>Lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment by local authorities and others, as relevant, should consider the sensitivities identified in Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas;</li> <li>• Features of the landscape that provide linkages/connectivity to designated sites (e.g. watercourses, areas of semi-natural habitat such as linear woodlands etc)</li> <li>• Salmonid Waters;</li> <li>• Shellfish Waters;</li> <li>• Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments;</li> <li>• Nature Reserves;</li> <li>• Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas;</li> <li>• Areas likely to contain a habitat listed in annex 1 of the Habitats Directive;</li> <li>• Entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and Zones of Archaeological Potential;</li> <li>• Entries to the Record of Protected Structures;</li> <li>• Un-designated sites of importance to wintering or breeding bird species of conservation concern;</li> <li>• Architectural Conservation Areas; and</li> <li>• Relevant landscape designations.</li> </ul>
All	<p><b>Construction and Environmental Management Plan</b></p> <p>Construction Environment Management Plans (CEMPs) shall be prepared in advance of the construction of larger projects and implemented throughout. Such plans shall incorporate relevant mitigation measures indicated in this Appendix to the Operational Programme and any lower tier Environmental Impact Statement or Appropriate Assessment. CEMPs typically provide details of intended construction practice for the proposed development, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. location of the sites and materials compound(s) including area(s) identified for the storage of construction refuse,</li> <li>b. location of areas for construction site offices and staff facilities,</li> <li>c. details of site security fencing and hoardings,</li> <li>d. details of on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction,</li> <li>e. details of the timing and routing of construction traffic to and from the construction site and associated directional signage,</li> <li>f. measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network,</li> <li>g. measures to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris,</li> <li>h. alternative arrangements to be put in place for pedestrians and vehicles in the case of the closure of any public right of way during the course of site development works,</li> <li>i. details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels,</li> <li>j. containment of all construction-related fuel and oil within specially constructed bunds to ensure that fuel spillages are fully contained; such bunds shall be roofed to exclude rainwater,</li> <li>k. disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil,</li> <li>l. a water and sediment management plan, providing for means to ensure that surface water runoff is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local water courses or drains,</li> <li>m. details of a water quality monitoring and sampling plan.</li> <li>n. if peat is encountered - a peat storage, handling and reinstatement management plan.</li> <li>o. measures adopted during construction to prevent the spread of invasive species (such as Japanese Knotweed).</li> <li>p. appointment of an ecological clerk of works at site investigation, preparation and construction phases.</li> </ol>
All	<p><b>Maintenance Plan</b></p> <p>Lower tier assessments should examine the need for Maintenance Plans informed by environmental considerations to be prepared and implemented.</p>
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	<p><b>Protection of Biodiversity including Natura 2000 Network</b></p> <p>Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); UNESCO World Heritage and UNESCO Biosphere sites; Ramsar Sites; Salmonid Waters; Shellfish Waters; Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildlife Sites (including Nature Reserves); Certain entries to the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas; Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs); Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979) ; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p>

<sup>2</sup> The SEA Directive identifies a number of environmental topics which must be considered in the assessments being undertaken for plans and programmes. These topics are listed in this column and comprise biodiversity and flora and fauna, population and human health, soil, water, air and climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape.

<sup>3</sup> The provisions listed under this column are the requirements which the local authorities and others will have to comply with in order to get funding.

	<p>Local authorities and others shall demonstrate compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including the following and any updated/superseding documents):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended)<sup>4</sup>, the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)<sup>5</sup>, the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)<sup>6</sup>, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC).</li> <li>• National legislation, including the Wildlife Act 1976<sup>7</sup>, the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989 (SI No. 349 of 1989) (as amended), the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008<sup>8</sup> and the Flora Protection Order 1999.</li> <li>• National policy guidelines (including any clarifying Circulars or superseding versions of same), including the Landscape and Landscape Assessment Draft Guidelines 2000, the Environmental Impact Assessment Sub-Threshold Development Guidelines 2003, Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines 2004 and the Appropriate Assessment Guidance 2010.</li> <li>• Catchment and water resource management Plans, including River Basin District Management Plans 2009-2015 (including any superseding versions of same).</li> <li>• Biodiversity Plans and guidelines, including Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016: Ireland's 2<sup>nd</sup> National Biodiversity Plan (including any superseding version of same).</li> <li>• Ireland's Environment 2014 (EPA, 2014, including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Appropriate Assessment</b></p> <p>All projects and plans arising from this programme will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. A plan or project will only be authorised after the competent authority has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment where necessary, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or</li> <li>2. The Plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or</li> <li>3. The Plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Protection of Natura 2000 Sites</b></p> <p>No projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this programme (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>9</sup>).</p>
	<p><b>NPWS &amp; Integrated Management Plans</b></p> <p>Regarding, integrated management plans, Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive requires that Member States establish the necessary conservation measures for Special Area of Conservation involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans. The NPWS's current priority is to identify site specific conservation objectives; management plans may be considered after this is done.</p> <p>Where Integrated Management Plans are being prepared for all Natura sites (or parts thereof), Fáilte Ireland and local authorities shall engage with the National Parks and Wildlife Service in order to ensure that plans are fully integrated with the Operational Programme and other plans and programmes, with the intention that such plans are practical, achievable and sustainable and have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and economic considerations and with special regard to local communities.</p>

<sup>4</sup> Including Annex I habitats, Annex II species and their habitats and Annex IV species and their breeding sites and resting places (wherever they occur). Note that the NPWS provide sensitive areas mapping for Freshwater Pearl Mussels which are listed under Annex II of the Directive.

<sup>5</sup> Including Annex I species and other regularly occurring migratory species, and their habitats (wherever they occur).

<sup>6</sup> Including protected species and natural habitats.

<sup>7</sup> Including species of flora and fauna and their key habitats.

<sup>8</sup> Including protected species and natural habitats.

<sup>9</sup> Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

a) no alternative solution available,

b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and

c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

	<p><b>Coastal Zone Management</b> Local authorities and others shall demonstrate that works will be undertaken in accordance with best practice and local authorities and others shall, as appropriate: support measures to protect the coast, the coastal edge and coastal habitats; and facilitate an Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach to ensure the conservation, management and projection of man-made and natural resources of the coastal zone.</p> <p><b>Biodiversity and Ecological Networks</b> Local authorities and others shall demonstrate, as appropriate, protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, semi-natural grasslands, rivers, streams, natural springs, wetlands, geological and geo-morphological systems, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Protection of Riparian Zone and Waterbodies and Watercourses</b> Local authorities and others shall demonstrate that waterbodies and watercourses are protected from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in riverine, wetland and coastal areas, as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Non-Designated Sites</b> Local authorities and others shall demonstrate the appropriate protection of non-designated habitats and landscapes and to conserve the biological diversity.</p> <p><b>Non-native invasive species</b> Local authorities and others shall support, as appropriate, the National Parks and Wildlife Service's efforts to seek to control the spread of non-native invasive species on land and water.</p>
<b>Population and human health</b>	<p><b>Human Health</b> Local authorities and others shall assess proposals for development in terms of, inter alia, potential impact on existing adjacent developments, existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape. Where proposed developments would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, local authorities and others shall ensure the introduction of mitigation measures in order to eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p>
<b>Soil</b>	<p><b>Soil Protection and Contamination</b> Local authorities and others shall ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed.</p> <p><b>Areas of geological interest</b> Local authorities and others shall demonstrate protection and maintenance of the character, integrity and conservation value of features or areas of geological interest.</p>
<b>Water</b>	<p><b>Water Framework Directive and associated legislation</b> Local authorities and others shall contribute towards, as appropriate, the protection of existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, including rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater, coastal waters and associated habitats and species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC), the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009), the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same). Local authorities and others shall support the application and implementation of a catchment planning and management approach to development and conservation, including the implementation of Sustainable Drainage System techniques for new development.</p> <p><b>River Basin Management Plan</b> Local authorities and others shall support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the various River Basin Management Plans 2009 – 2015, and associated Programmes of Measures, or any such plans that may supersede same during the lifetime of the Operational Programme, as well as relevant recommendations contained in the Water Quality in Ireland 2007 – 2009 (EPA, 2011, and any updated/superseding document). Local authorities and others shall demonstrate that proposals for development would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands and coastal waters. Also local authorities and others shall have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 which provides guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p><b>Bathing Water</b> Local authorities and others shall contribute towards the achievement of the requirements of the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008) and EU Mandatory Values, as a minimum, and EU Guide Values, where possible.</p> <p><b>Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b> Local authorities and others shall support, as appropriate, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010), the DEHLG/OPW publication <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</i> (2009) (including any clarifying Circulars or superseding versions of same) and relevant outputs of the Catchment and Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies (CFRAMS).</p> <p><b>Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs)</b> Local authorities and others shall ensure that new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems as appropriate.</p>
<b>Air and Climatic</b>	<p><b>Infrastructure for Walking, Cycling and Water-based activities</b> Local Authorities and others shall work with Fáilte Ireland, the National Trails Office, Coillte, the</p>



<b>Factors</b>	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking, cycling and water-based activities along the Wild Atlantic Way.
<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>Construction Waste</b> Local authorities and others shall demonstrate that all waste arising during construction phase will be managed and disposed of in a way that ensures the provisions of the Waste Management Acts and regulations and Regional Waste Management Plans. Construction Waste Management Plans will be implemented by local authorities and others to minimise waste and ensure correct handling and disposal of construction waste streams in accordance with the Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects, Department of the Environment, July 2006.
	<b>Waste Creation</b> Local authorities and others shall support the minimisation of waste creation and promote a practice of reduce, reuse and recycle where possible.
	<b>Waste Disposal</b> Local authorities and others shall safeguard the environment by seeking to ensure that residual waste is disposed of appropriately.
	<b>Irish Water</b> Local authorities and others shall co-operate with and support, as relevant and appropriate, Irish Water in its new role as the lead authority for water services.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>Archaeological Heritage</b> Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage, in particular by implementing the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the National Monuments Act, 1930 (as amended).
	<b>Protection of Archaeological Sites</b> Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of archaeological sites and monuments and their settings, archaeological objects and underwater archaeological sites that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments. Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places.
	<b>Consultation</b> Local authorities and others shall consult with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites.
	<b>Underwater Archaeological Sites</b> Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine, intertidal and sub-tidal locations.
	<b>Architectural Heritage</b> Local authorities and others shall help to ensure the appropriate protection of architectural heritage by complying, as appropriate, with the legislative provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to architectural heritage and the policy guidance contained in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011 (and any updated/superseding document).
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>Landscape Designations</b> Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of county and local level landscape designations from incompatible developments. Proposals for development that have the potential to significantly adversely impact upon these designations shall be accompanied by an assessment of the potential landscape character and visual impacts of the proposed development - demonstrating that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation. Such assessments should be prepared having regard to the relevant aspects of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2013 Landscape Institute).
	<b>Coastal Areas and Seascapes</b> Local authorities and others shall protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.