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LAOIS LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN 2023-2028

AA SCREENING REPORT

Prepared for:
Laois County Council

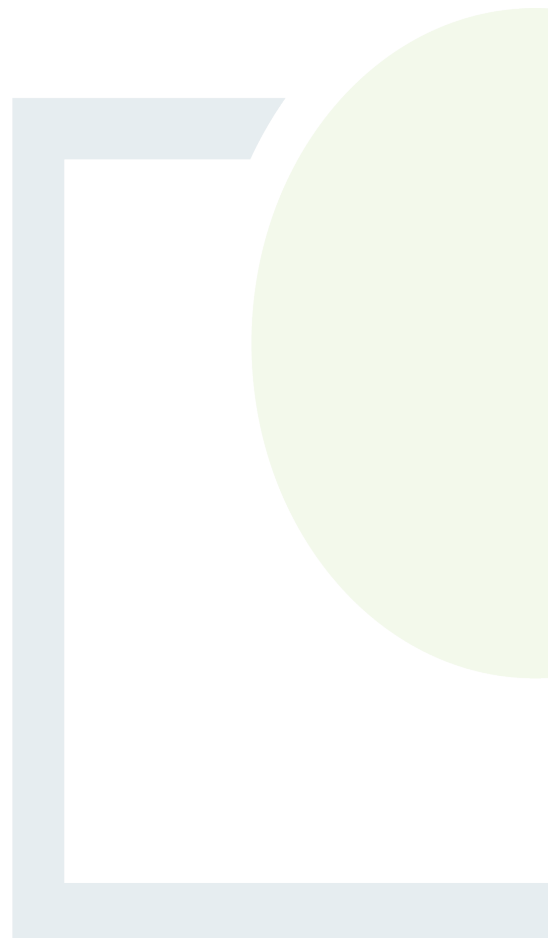


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APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT FOR THE LAOIS LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN 2023-2028

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Abstract: This document is to inform the Competent Authority in carrying out their statutory obligations relating to the Habitats Directive requirement for Appropriate Assessment for plans and projects seeking consent. Appropriate Assessment is required under Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive for any project or plan that may give rise to significant effects on a European (Natura 2000) site.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Fehily Timoney and Company (FT)¹ was commissioned by Laois County Council to prepare an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the Draft Laois Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028 (Draft Plan).

This report presents an examination of whether the proposed plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is based on best available scientific knowledge. This report has been prepared to inform the competent authority in completing their statutory obligations in relation to Appropriate Assessment, as required by Article 6(3) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive).

1.1 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The Directive requires that where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, while not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site, it will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' to identify any implications for the European site in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

"6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."

The competent authority must carry out a screening for appropriate assessment to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. If it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site, an appropriate assessment of its implications for the European Site(s) in view of the Site's conservation objectives is required to be carried out.

The provisions of Article 6(3) do not apply where the proposed plan or project is 'connected with or necessary to the management of the site'. In this case, the draft plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site(s).

¹ Details on the contributors to this report are provided in Appendix 1.



1.2 Methodology

1.2.1 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (European Commission, 2002).
- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C(2021) 6913 final (European Commission, 2021).
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010) (Environment Heritage and Local Government, 2009).
- Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2019). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019.
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. (European Commission, 2013)
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, (Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021).

1.2.2 Process

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a draft plan on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor model. 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 mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off, noise, removal of vegetation, etc.;
- Pathway(s) – functional link, or ecological pathway e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and,
- Receptor(s) –the qualifying habitats and species of European sites and ecological resources supporting those habitats/species.

In the context of this report, a source is any identifiable element of the draft plan that is known to interact with the receiving environment. A receptor is the Qualifying Interests (QI)² for an SAC or Special Conservation Interests (SCI)³ for an SPA or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the QI/SCI. In practice, the term Qualifying Interests also applies to SCIs (and is used in this document for simplicity). A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor

² SACs are areas designated under the Habitats Directive to conserve habitats listed in Annex I of the Directive and plant and animal species listed in Annex II. Collectively these are referred to as the 'Qualifying Interests' or 'QIs' of the SAC.

³ SPAs are sites classified under the Birds Directive to protect rare or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I to the Directive as well as regularly occurring migratory species and wetlands. Wetland habitats that support internationally important populations of migratory birds may be coastal or inland. Collectively, these species and habitats are referred to as the 'Special Conservation Interests' of the SPA.



The assessment commences with a description of the project, along with a description of the receiving environment and the associated sources for impacts to the receiving environment. All elements of the project are presented including the project location and existing baseline environment. The type of impacts that are likely due to the project (Source) are identified having regard to the spatial and temporal scale of the project, resource requirements and likely emissions. These sources are then used to define the zone of influence (Zoi) of the project as detailed in Section 2.1.

The European Commission Notice (2021) on the ‘Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, states that in identifying European sites (Natural 2000 sites), which may be affected by the project, the following should be identified:

- Any European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- Any European sites within the likely zone of influence of the plan or project. European sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g., water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;
- European sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.

The zone of influence of a proposed development is the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have potential effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. The OPR (2021) practice note states that the Zone of Influence must be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km). Section 3.2 sets out the detailed rationale for the identification of relevant European sites within the Zoi based on the sources of impacts arising from the draft plan. Subsequently, an assessment is undertaken with respect to potential connectivity (Pathways) to European Sites and their qualifying interests/special conservation interests are identified.

The potential for in-combination effects with other plans and projects is examined in Section 3.3, having regard to the identified impacts of the project along the ecological pathways identified to European sites.

In section 3.2 the likelihood of significant effects of the European Sites within the Zoi is examined having regard to the sensitivity of the site with pathways for impacts associated with the project on its own and in combination with other plans and projects.

Having regard to the European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2021) the:

“absence of scientific evidence on the significant negative effect of an action cannot be used as justification for approval of this action. When applied to Article 6(3) procedure, the precautionary principle implies that the absence of a negative effect on Natura 2000 sites has to be demonstrated before a plan or project can be authorised. In other words, if there is a lack of certainty as to whether there will be any negative effects, then the plan or project cannot be approved.”

Where significant effects are determined to be likely, or where there is uncertainty regarding the likelihood of significant effects, the project will be required under law to be subjected to Appropriate Assessment.



This AA screening is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives.



2. DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAFT PLAN

2.1 Overview of the Laois Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028

The Laois LECP 2023-2028 was developed by Laois County Council and the Laois Local Community Development Committee (Laois LCDC) to replace the previous LECP 2016-2021.

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 County Laois, both by Laois County Council directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. The LECP is an important way to set out how Laois County Council and other stakeholders can work together to ensure that their initiatives, programmes, and projects support an improved quality of life for people living and working in the County.

As the framework for the economic development and local/community development of the Local Authority area, the LECP will also be the primary mechanism at local level to bring forward relevant actions arising from the proposed high-level goals and other government policies. The high-level goals, objectives and actions within the LECP will have a direct effect on the services, supports and amenities in County Laois. A review of the LECP 2016-2021 was undertaken showing what was accomplished in the County because of previous High-Level Goals.

Laois LCDC is responsible for implementing the community elements of the plan and the Strategic Policy Committee, or SPC, for Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning is responsible for implementing the economic element of the plan. Both elements were developed in tandem and combined in the final LECP.

Laois LCDC has prepared the following parts in addition to the LECP:

- Appendix A: Socio Economic Statement
- This statement includes some background information about the preparation of the LECP. It comprises a profile of County Laois including some key facts, trends, strengths and opportunities relevant to economic and community development. It also sets out 10 High-Level Goals and a context for each Goal.
- Appendix B: Socio Economic Profile of Laois
- This appendix contains graphical representations of certain baseline data for the County based on the 2016 Census.

2.2 High-Level Goals of the LECP

A High-Level Goal is an idea of the future or a desired result that an individual, group or organisation plan and commit to achieve.

10 High-Level Goals for the new LECP have been developed to ensure alignment with policy objectives in the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 (CDP). These high-level goals seek to recognise the challenges the County will face over the lifetime of the new LECP. The goals are broad in scope, given that future stages of the process will develop more detailed Objectives and Actions. The LECP focuses on promotion plans including events, marketing and networking rather than large-scale development. Table 2-1 outlines the High-Level Goals of the LECP 2023-2028.



Table 2-1: Overview of High-Level Goals of the Laois Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028

Goals	Description
Goal 1	Encourage civic participation and support local communities to lead on their own developments.
Goal 2	Develop and promote ways of living and of doing business that support a sustainable environment and resilient communities.
Goal 3	Encourage a sustainable culture of innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the county.
Goal 4	Help the local economy to diversify in a long-term, sustainable manner, broadening employment opportunities in the county.
Goal 5	Recognise and support diversity in the county, promoting equality, integration, and inclusiveness across all sectors.
Goal 6	Sustain, develop, and enhance town and village centres as focal points for their communities.
Goal 7	Support an integrated and holistic approach to education, training, and employment along with life-long learning.
Goal 8	Promote well-being and excellent quality of life within the county.
Goal 9	Strengthen and encourage a strong sense of pride in the county and promote our unique identity.
Goal 10	Promote the county as a key location for foreign and domestic investment.

2.3 Relationship with other Relevant Plans and Programmes

The Laois LECP is part of a series of plans and strategies that have, and are being developed, at national, regional and local level. These include:

- National Planning Framework, National Development Plan, Rural Development Strategy, Enterprise 2025 Strategy, the Action Plan for Jobs and the National Anti-Poverty Strategy
- The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
- The Laois County Development Plan
- The Local Education and Training Strategy
- Any other Local Area Plan provisions responsible for the protection and management of the environment including environmental sensitivities.

2.4 Potential Interactions of the Draft Plan on the receiving environment

Having regard to the European Commission (2021) guidance document and the OPR (2021) practice note, the potential impacts of the project on the receiving environment at source are set out relative to the following criteria:

- Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration;
- Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses;
- Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the draft plan;
- Project related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc) leading to disturbance / displacement of species;
- Project related activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density;



-
- Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions; and
 - Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species during the proposed works

These impacts are further examined in defining the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the project to identify likely significant effects through the Source-Pathway-Receptor assessment (Section 3.2)



3. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction

This section of the report examines if the Draft Plan is likely to have a significant effect upon European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

3.2 Identification of European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the draft plan

The OPR (2021) AA Screening practice note states that the Zone of Influence must be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model. The S-P-R model has been used to identify the ZoI to ensure that relevant European sites are identified. The S-P-R model minimises the risk of overlooking distant or obscure effect pathways, while also avoiding an over reliance on buffer zones (e.g. 15 km), within which all European sites should be considered. This approach follows the DoEHLG (2009 rev 2010) guidance on AA which states that:

“For projects, the distance could be much less than 15 km, and in some cases less than 100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects”

As detailed in section 1.2.2, in order for an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no likelihood for the effect to occur. The potential impacts of the proposed development are set out in Section 2.1 of this report. The impact is essentially the ‘source’ in the S-P-R model.

These impacts may be very localised and confined to the Draft Plan site with no potential connectivity to a European site and therefore no potential for effects. Alternatively, where an ecological or functional pathway exists they may give rise to a potential effect to a Qualifying Interest of a European site. This section of the report identifies the potential pathways to European sites emanating from these potential sources of impact.

The dominant ecological pathways to consider are:

- Direct physical interactions or changes to the local environment;
- Air dispersal (noise, dust, odour emissions, smoke etc.);
- Hydrological interactions (from site run off after fire management); and
- Dispersal patterns of mobile species.

3.2.1 Potential Sources of Impacts from the Draft Plan

The potential impacts of the Draft Plan on the receiving environment are as follows:

- Release of pollutants and sedimentation to watercourses with hydrological connectivity to European sites;
- Habitat fragmentation if there is functional connectivity; and



- Disturbance effects if functional habitats are present on site from the QIs and SCIs of the surrounding European Sites.

There impacts are assessed under the following criteria below:

- Release of pollutants and sedimentation to watercourses with hydrological connectivity to European sites;
- Potential effects to groundwater / hydrogeology;
- Potential effects to mobile SCI from surrounding SPAs;
- Potential effect to mobile QI species;
- European sites geographically overlapping or adjacent to any of the actions or aspects of the draft plan (noise, lighting and dust).
- Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species during the Draft Plan.

3.2.2 Release of pollutants and sedimentation to watercourses with hydrological connectivity to European sites

As a precautionary approach in defining the ecological receptors that may be affected, all European sites hydrologically connected to the Draft Plan area were examined using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. The QI's/SCI's of these European sites were assessed to identify potential physical or ecological connectivity to the subject lands.

3.2.3 Potential effects to groundwater / hydrogeology

A search was conducted using GIS to identify any European sites with Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems, within the catchment area of the project.

3.2.4 Potential effect to mobile SCI's from surrounding SPAs

The habitats within the subject lands and the surrounding area could offer potential resources for mobile SCI bird species from SPA's. As Identified in Table 2.1 there is potential for direct and indirect impacts to these local habitats. Therefore, the assessment has considered the potential pathways for effects these bird species. Generally, the core foraging range for SCI birds species is less than 15km. However, SNH (2016)⁴ core foraging range for some geese species can be larger. Namely:

- Greylag goose Core range of 15-20km* Greylag Geese feed mostly on cereal stubble and grassland in their wintering areas.
- Barnacle goose Core range of 15km, with maximum recorded distance of up to 25km.

Therefore, as a precautionary approach in defining the ecological receptors that may be affected, all SPA's within 15 km and SPA's within 25km designed for Greylag and Barnacle Geese were examined using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. The conservation objectives of these European sites were assessed to identify potential physical or ecological connectivity to the subject lands.

⁴ Scottish Natural Heritage (2016) Guidance to Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs)



3.2.5 Potential effect to mobile QI species

Lesser horseshoe bats tend to forage in summer in broadleaved woodland and around riparian vegetation (Bontadina et al., 2002; Biggane, 2003). In 2016, the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) carried out a review of literature pertaining to mean and maximum bat foraging distances (BCT, 2016). In their review, a Core Sustainance Zone (CSZ) refers to the area surrounding a communal bat roost within which habitat availability and quality will have a significant influence on the resilience and conservation status of the colony using the roost. For the BCT review, lesser horseshoe bat data was available from 83 radio-tracked individuals from four separate studies. The weighted average maximum foraging distance for lesser horseshoe bats was 2.02km. The BCT noted that for Annex II species there is justification for increasing the CSZ to reflect use of the landscape by all bats in a population. Some researchers have found that lesser horseshoe bats normally forage in woodlands/scrub within 2.5 km of their roosts (Bontadina et al., 2002); thus, for each roost, a 2.5 km zone is considered an appropriate distance to foraging areas for the purpose of the current SSCO targets. The 2.5 km zone around each known roost is mapped and potential foraging grounds within the zone are identified and mapped for each SAC using the Forestry Inventory and Planning System (FIPS) (2007/2012) spatial dataset. The target is that there is no significant decline in potential foraging habitat within 2.5 km of qualifying roosts. However, Collins et al. (2016) also note that seasonal movements between summer and winter roosts are reported to be between 5 to 10 km in distance.

As a precautionary approach in defining the ecological features that may be affected, all SAC's designated for Lesser Horseshoe bats within 10 km was first examined using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping and the conservation interests of these European sites were examined in order to ascertain whether there could be potential physical or ecological connectivity to the project and the associated impacts from the Draft Plan. The potential effects to aquatic QI species (e.g. Otter, Lamprey sp. Atlantic Salmon, etc) is considered in Sections 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 above.

3.2.6 European sites geographically overlapping or adjacent to any of the actions or aspects of the proposed project (noise, lighting and dust)

There are no European sites geographically overlapping or adjacent to the proposed development. The closest European sites are Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC and Dalkey Islands SPA, located 1.8 and 2 km away (direct distance). However, there could be effects beyond the boundary of the site due to sources such as dust/smoke, displacement.

The Institute of Air Quality Management 'Guidance on the Assessment of dust from demolition and construction' (Holman et al, 2014) states that for sensitive ecological receptors, sensitivity to dust is 'High' up to 20m from the source and reduces to 'Medium' over 50m from the source. Holman et al, 2014 also stipulates that track out⁵ may occur from roads up to 500 m from large sites, 200 m from medium sites and 50 m from small sites. Dust from soiling (excavation works) can occur up to 25 m, 50 m and 100 m, at minor, moderate, and major construction sites respectively (NRA, 2011).

⁵ The movement of dust and dirt from a construction/demolition site onto the public road network.



Disturbance due to noise impact varies between species and is dependent on the nature of the noise source and sensitivity of the species in question e.g., the potential effects of anthropogenic sound on fish can range from direct mortality to no obvious behavioural responses and are dependent on the class of sound i.e., either continuous or impulsive (Popper and Hawkins, 2019). Similarly, the disturbance response of birds (e.g., becoming alert or a flight response) can vary depending on season, species sensitivity, and weather. Goodship and Furness (2022) provides estimates of species-specific buffer zones to protect birds from human disturbance during breeding and non-breeding seasons. Therefore, a precautionary Zone of Influence of 1 km was identified. This 1 km buffer also accounts for noise disturbance to otters and other aquatic species.

Other emissions source identified in Table 2.1 (e.g. Lighting) are likely to be more localised than the distances stated for noise impacts.

Considering the actions or aspects of the draft plan, a precautionary Zol of 2 km has been adopted.

3.2.7 Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species during the proposed works.

Invasive species can spread from an area of infection to other habitats by the transportation of plant fragments or soil containing seeds / plan material. This typically can occur during excavation and vegetation clearance. Machinery, vehicles and personnel coming into contact with infected areas can spread these species outside of the site. The ZOI of this potential impact requires the consideration of European sites in close proximity to the footprint of works. As a precautionary approach a Zol of 2 km has been adopted.

Hydrologically connected European sites will also need to be considered e.g. soil containing invasive species material washing downstream to a European site. The potential effects to hydrologically connected European sites is considered in Section 3.2.1 above.

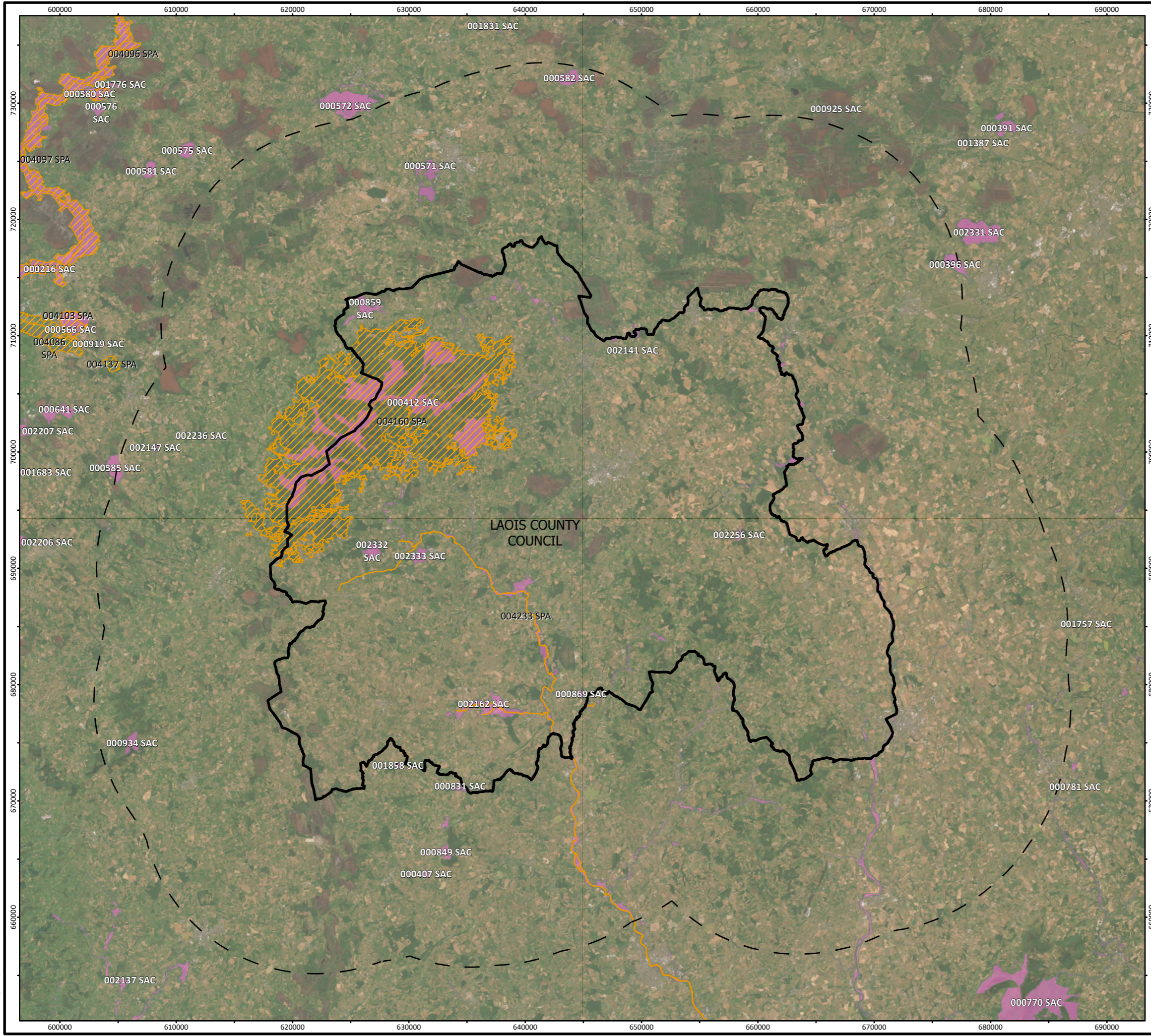
3.2.8 Summary of the Zone of Influence of the Draft Plan

The Zol of the draft plan have been identified as:

- Any European sites hydrologically connected to the Draft Plan;
- Any European sites with groundwater dependent habitats within the catchment area of the Draft Plan;
- All SAC's designated for Lesser Horseshoe bats within 10 km of the Draft Plan;
- All SPAs within 15 km SPA's and SPA's designed for Greylag and Barnacle Geese within 25km of the Draft Plan;
- Any European sites within 2 km of the Draft Plan, with potential impacts from habitat loss, noise, lighting, invasive species and dust.

The were no European sites identified within the Zol for the following criteria:

- No SACs for Lesser Horseshoe Bats are present within 10 km of the Draft Plan (as expected).



- Legend**
- Local Authority Boundaries
 - Local Authority Boundary - 15km Buffer
 - Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas	
LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL Local Authority Climate Action Plans	
FIGURE NO:	3.1
CLIENT: LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL	
DATE: 15/08/2023	SCALE: 1:322,500 @ A3



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Table 3-1: Identification of European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Draft Plan

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000412	Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC	0	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
000831	Cullahill Mountain SAC	0	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
000859	Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC	0	Geyer's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1013], Alkaline fens [7230]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000869	Lisbigney Bog SAC	0	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davalliana</i> [7210], Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
002141	Mountmellick SAC	0	Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	0	Nore Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>) [1990], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], European dry heaths [4030], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			to alpine levels [6430], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Estuaries [1130], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Reefs [1170], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099]			
002256	Ballyprior Grassland SAC	0	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
002332	Coolrain Bog SAC	0	Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150],	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.		
002333	Knockacoller Bog SAC	0	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
004160	Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA	0	Hen harrier (Circus cyaneus) [A082]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
004233	River Nore SPA	0	Kingfisher (Alcedo atthis) [A229]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.		
001858	Galmoy Fen SAC	0.27	Alkaline fens [7230]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
000849	Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC	2.55	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
000571	Charleville Wood SAC	5.57	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000407	The Loughans SAC	7.53	Turloughs [3180]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
002236	Island Fen SAC	8.86	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Alkaline fens [7230]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	10.71	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330], Estuaries [1130], Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina) [1365], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Brook	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029]			
000934	Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC	11.53	Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], European dry heaths [4030]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
002147	Lisduff Fen SAC	12.06	Alkaline fens [7230], Geyer's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1013], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
000582	Raheenmore Bog SAC	13.08	Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.		
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	13.56	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Desmoulin's whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Alkaline fens [7230], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (Vertigo angustior) [1014], Geyer's whorl snail (Vertigo geyeri) [1013]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
000585	Sharavogue Bog SAC	14.09	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
000572	Clara Bog SAC	14.77	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Bog woodland [91D0], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210]	county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.		
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	22.00	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410], Alkaline fens [7230], Limestone pavements [8240], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) [6510]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	22.00	Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Corncrake (Crex crex) [A122], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
002241	Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC	30.06	Limestone pavements [8240], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Alkaline fens [7230], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	30.67	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	32.07	Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Coastal lagoons [1150], Bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) [1349], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Reefs [1170], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Subtidal sandbanks (Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time) [1110], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)) [1330], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410], Estuaries [1130], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			sand [1310], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029]			
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	64.39	Ringed plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Eurasian oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Mew gull (Larus canus) [A182], Whooper swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Bar-tailed godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Eurasian curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Greylag goose (Anser anser) [A043], Northern pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Greylag goose (Anser anser) [A043], Eurasian teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Common shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Great crested grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005], Common greenshank (Tringa nebularia) [A164], Northern shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056], Grey plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Greater scaup (Aythya marila) [A062], Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A053], Eurasian wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Red knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Red-breasted merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069], Black-headed gull (Larus ridibundus) [A179], Common redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], European golden plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Great cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Ruddy turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Northern lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142]	The draft plan focuses on economic and community coordination. Sustainability is part of the core concept and main goals of the plan. The plan does not provide a consent granting framework. There are no additional sources for effects from the plan which are not in keeping with the existing economic and community processes within the county. Therefore there are no further considerations related to European sites.	No	No





3.3 Consideration of in-combination Effects with other plans or projects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely affect European sites. Appendix 2 outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the Plan to cause in-combination effects to European sites. These plans, programmes, strategies etc. were considered throughout the assessment.

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

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the next 20 years. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSE for the Eastern and Midland Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the Draft LACAP. As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Draft Plan is consistent with and conforms with national and regional policies, plans and programmes, including the NPF and the RSEs for the Eastern and Midland Region. The County Development Plan may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions, such as the that will be subject to their own lower-tier environmental assessments.

In order to be realised, projects included in the Draft 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.

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

Additional information on the in-combination effects relationship with other plans and programmes is provided at Appendix 2.



4. SCREENING CONCLUSION

The results of the s-p-r modelling process identified that - given the scale and nature of the potential sources identified in Table 2.1 - there are no likely significant effects identified to any European sites. The AA screening process has considered potential effects which may arise during all phases of the draft plan. Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the sources for impacts, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests, special conservation interest or the conservation objectives of any designated European site.



5. REFERENCES

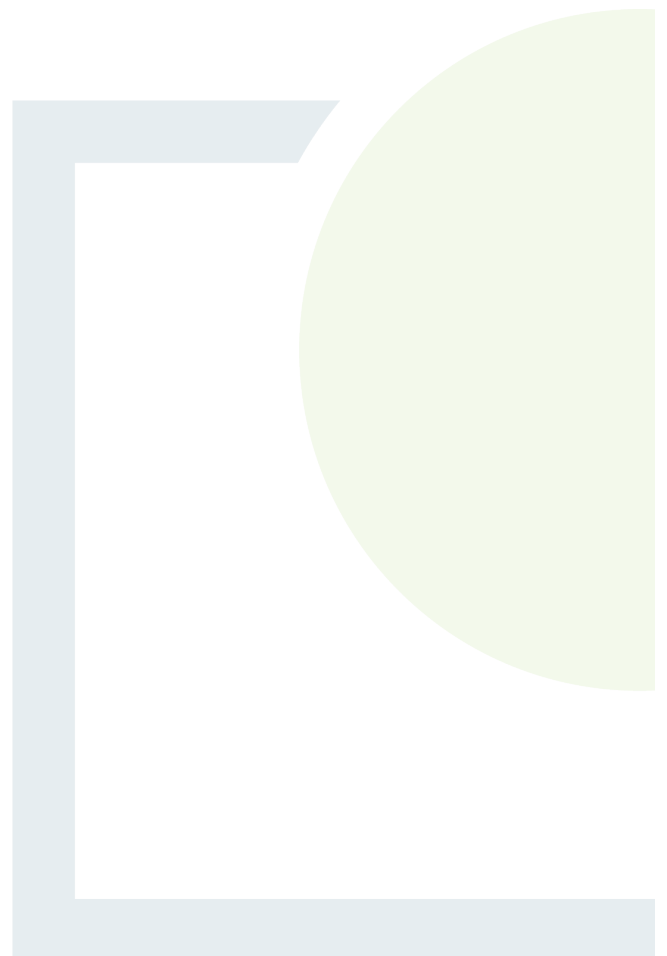
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APPENDIX 1

Background information on
European sites





Appendix 1 - Table 1: Quality and site characteristics of European sites considered in the assessment

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
000571	Charleville Wood SAC	The woodland is one of a very few ancient woodlands in Ireland with some parts undisturbed for at least 200 years. Notable for its size and the occurrence of several rare insect species particularly <i>Mycetobia obscura</i> . The lake attracts locally to regionally important numbers of waterfowl. The site supports a large population of the rare snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> .	A large oak woodland on deep glacial deposits surrounded by estate parkland and agricultural grassland. Site includes a small lake partially overgrown by reed swamp with a wooded island and a stream bordering the western site margin.
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	Estuaries and intertidal sand and mud flats are particularly well represented in this site with salinity ranging from full freshwater to full seawater. The quality of these habitats is generally good. The Slaney River and its tributaries display good examples of floating river vegetation. An important area of alluvial forest is found at Macmine while old oak woodlands occur at Toomnafinnoge the latter being a remnant of the ancient oak woods of Shillelagh. The site is of high importance for the conservation of fish species notably <i>Salmo salar</i> <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> <i>L. planeri</i> and the very localised <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> . <i>Lutra lutra</i> is well distributed throughout while a significant population of <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> occurs on the Derreen River. The site provides year-round haul-out habitat for the Annex II species <i>Phoca vitulina</i> and includes regionally significant breeding and moulting sites. The site has high ornithological importance especially for wintering waterfowl with internationally important populations of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> <i>Cygnus olor</i> <i>Limosa limosa</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> . There is at least a further 14 species of wintering waterfowl which occur in numbers of national importance. Wintering <i>Larus</i> gulls are well represented especially <i>Larus ridibundus</i> and <i>Larus fuscus</i> . A nesting colony of <i>Egretta garzetta</i> has recently become established within the site and birds are present in the area throughout the year. The site supports one of the best breeding concentrations of <i>Acrocephalus scirpaesus</i> in the country. A range of flora and fauna species listed as Red Data Book species occur within the site.	This site comprises almost the entire Slaney system from the headwater streams in the Wicklow Mountains to the extensive estuarine area of Wexford Harbour. The main river tributaries included are the Bann Glasha Clody Derry Derreen Douglas and Carrigower Rivers. The tidal influence extends upriver as far as Enniscorthy. In the upper and central regions the geology consists of granite. Above Kilcarr Bridge the Slaney has cut a gorge into the granite plain. The Derry and Bann Rivers are bounded by a narrow line of uplands which corresponds to schist outcrops. South of Kildavin the Slaney flows through an area of Ordovician slates and grits. The river is often fringed by woodland and/or swamp vegetation. Other habitats which occur alongside the river include wet grassland scrub and in higher areas heath and bog. Improved grassland and arable land is included alongside the river for water quality reasons. Salt marshes are a feature of the lower estuarine area of the site.



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
000849	Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC	The importance of the site lies in the variety of natural and semi-natural grassland communities found; these are generally rare in the south midlands. The site is also important for the small population of the rare and protected species <i>Orchis morio</i> that it supports.	This site comprises three separate areas of which two are dominated by dry grassland the third by broad-leaved deciduous woodland. The site is underlain by limestone and in places shales and sandstone. Soils on the site are generally quite thin and rock outcrops are scattered throughout. A small limestone cliff is found in one area of the site. Vegetation on the site generally varies with rock type and both calcicole and calcifuge species are found.
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	The site contains many Annexed habitats including the most extensive area of estuarine habitat in Ireland. A good range of Annexed species are also present including the only known resident population of <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> in Ireland all three Irish species of lamprey and a good population of <i>Salmo salar</i> . A number of birds listed on the EU Birds Directive either winter or breed in the site. The site is internationally important for waterfowl with more than 50000 individuals occurring in winter. Several species listed in the Irish Red Data Book are present perhaps most notably the only known Irish populations of <i>Scirpus triquetus</i> .	A very large long site approximately 14 km wide and 120 km long encompassing: the drained river valley which forms the River Shannon estuary; the broader River Fergus estuary plus a number of smaller estuaries e.g. Poulmasherry Bay; the freshwater lower reaches of the Shannon River between Killaloe and Limerick plus the freshwater stretches of much of the Feale and Mulkear catchments; a marine area at the mouth of the Shannon estuary with high rocky cliffs to the north and south; ericaceous heath on Kerry Head and Loop Head; and several lagoons. The underlying geology ranges from Carboniferous limestone (east of Foynes) to Namurian shales and flagstones (west of Foynes) to Old Red Sandstone (at Kerry Head). The salinity of the system varies daily with the ebb and flood of the tide and with annual rainfall fluctuations seasonally.
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	This is the most important coastal wetland site in the country and regularly supports in excess of 50000 wintering waterfowl. It has internationally important populations of <i>Calidris alpina</i> <i>Limosa limosa</i> and <i>Tringa totanus</i> . A further 16 species have populations of national importance. The site is particularly significant for <i>Calidris alpina</i> (11% of national total) <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (7.5% of total) <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (6.5% of total) <i>Tringa totanus</i> (6.1% of total) and <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (6.0% of total). It has <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> in significant numbers. The site was formerly frequented by a population of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> but these have now abandoned the area.	The River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries form the largest estuarine complex in Ireland. The site comprises all of the estuarine habitat west from Limerick City and south from Ennis extending west as far as Killadysert and Foynes on the north and south shores of the Shannon respectively (a distance of some 25 km from east to west). Also included are several areas in the outer Shannon estuary notably Clonderalaw Bay and Poulmasherry Bay. The site has vast expanses of intertidal flats. The main macro-invertebrate community is a <i>Macoma-Scrobicularia-Nereis</i> community which provides a rich food resource for the wintering birds. Eelgrass (<i>Zostera</i> spp.) is present in places.



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		<p>The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the wintering birds and habitat quality for most of the estuarine habitats is good.</p>	<p>The intertidal flats are often fringed with salt marsh vegetation areas which provide important high tide roost sites for the birds. In the innermost parts of the estuaries the tidal channels or creeks are fringed with species such as <i>Phragmites australis</i> and <i>Scirpus</i> spp. <i>Spartina anglica</i> is frequent in parts.</p>
000585	Sharavogue Bog SAC	<p>Sharavogue Bog SAC is a site of considerable conservation significance comprising two subsites: Sharavogue Bog and Cangort (Kilfrancis) Bog which contain raised bog a rare habitat in the EU and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland. It contains good examples of the EU Habitats Directive Annex I habitats Active Raised Bog (7110) Degraded Raised Bog (7120) and Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150). The site already supports a good diversity of raised bog microhabitats including some hummock/hollow complexes and rewetted cutover bog. Ireland has a high proportion of the total EU resource of Atlantic raised bog (over 50%) and so has a special responsibility for its conservation at an international level. Along the eastern margins of Sharavogue there is upwelling of base-rich water into the lagg zone and these areas now support carr woodland and calcareous fen vegetation. Areas of wet lagg vegetation such as this are very rare in Western Europe and the lagg system at Sharavogue is one of the best developed in the country. The protected semi-aquatic plant species Slender Cottongrass (<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>) is growing in fen vegetation in the lagg zone while the nationally rare shrub Alder Buckthorn (<i>Frangula alnus</i>) occurs in dry bog woodland on cutaway. Although the Cangort (Kilfrancis) Bog subsite of the SAC is small (13.12 ha) and currently lacks annex habitats full restoration measures have been implemented and it has the potential to support the retention of Degraded Raised Bog in Cangort Bog NHA (000890).</p>	<p>Sharavogue Bog (SAC) (236.55 ha) is located about 8km south of Birr Co. Offaly in the Little Brosna Valley. It consists of 2 raised bog sites. The main area Sharavogue Bog covers 223.43 ha while a smaller outlier Cangort (Kilfrancis) Bog is located 4km further south and comprises 13.12 ha. Sharavogue Bog is situated between the River Little Brosna and an elevated ridge of Carboniferous limestone. Sharavogue includes 137 ha of uncut raised bog and 86.43 ha of surrounding areas which include cutover bog wet grassland semi-natural woodland and an area of wet lagg vegetation in the cutover along the eastern margin of the bog. The bog is underlain by low permeability limestone and limestone till. Groundwater upwells at the base of the ridge that occurs to the east of the bog. Cangort (Kilfrancis) Bog is the part of Cangort Bog NHA (000890) and it has been restored as part of an EU LIFE project. The site consists of 2.53 ha of high bog and 10.59 ha of cutover most of which was afforested in the 1970s. The underlying geology is carboniferous limestone. Sharavogue Bog is one of the few remaining raised bogs in Ireland situated on a floodplain. It has a well-developed dome of uncut peat which is long and relatively narrow. Active Raised Bog (ARB) is confined to the more southern central part of the dome covers 25.8 ha but lacks any areas of central ecotope as a result of long-term drying out caused by peat cutting and marginal and river drainage. In addition drains were inserted across about 60% of the high bog dome in the early 1990s.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
			<p>All the drains on the high bog and many of the drains on the south eastern area of the cutover were dammed in the late 1990s as part of an EU Cohesion project to restore peat forming conditions on the high bog and cutover. The bog surface has also been damaged by burning in the past and there are invasive native and non-native species are present on the bog dome. The dominant micro-topography consists of Sphagnum hummocks and hollows. Pools are scarce and Sphagnum cuspidatum filled lawn-like depressions are very occasional. Rhynchosporion depressions (7150) are open pioneer type vegetation communities of wet depressions on acid peat in both natural and man modified situations. Rhynchosporion vegetation occurs along pool edges (very scarce in Sharavogue Bog) on lawns and hollows underlain by deep wet and quaking peat. Cangort Bog NHA is a remnant of a larger area of bog much of which has now been cutover and reclaimed for forestry and agriculture. In the SAC section of the NHA all the afforested areas on the high bog and cutover were clear-felled and the associated drains blocked in 2014. Site specific conservation objectives have been set for Sharavogue Bog SAC for Active Raised Bog. One of the key targets is to restore the area of Active Raised Bog to 40.9 ha and it has been determined using modelling techniques that there is potential for 14.7 ha of Degraded Raised Bog to be restored to Active Raised Bog on the high bog following restoration measures. There is also long-term potential for 0.4 ha of Bog peat-forming habitats (BPFH) to develop if restoration measures are undertaken on cutover areas. A restoration plan has been developed to achieve these targets. Detailed objectives have yet to be developed for the Cangort (Kilfrancis) subsite of the SAC but will be produced as part of the restoration plan for the Cangort Bog NHA site. Cangort (Kilfrancis) Bog is being actively managed for conservation by the landowner Coillte as part of an EU LIFE Project and most of the required restoration measures have already been carried out.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
			Sharavogue Bog is part of the current NPWS Restoring Active Raised Bog in Irelands SAC Network 2016-2020 (LIFE NAT/IE/000032).
002236	Island Fen SAC	This site is important as it supports fine examples of the Annex 1 habitat Juniper scrub formations over calcareous grasslands/heath along with some small though species rich areas of alkaline fen - also an Annex 1 habitat. This Juniperus communis site is the only site proposed for this habitat type east of Lough Derg.	The geology of the site is of Lower Carboniferous Limestone and the principle soil is grey brown podzolic. The site overlies an old lake bed lined with shelly marl. Soil cover is generally thin with some rocks protruding locally. Much of the site is dominated by Phragmites australis reedbeds which merge northwards into calcareous grasslands/heath with upright Juniper scrub formations. To the west and south small zones of alkaline fen occur along with a small hazel and ash woodland.
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	Lough Derg is of importance for both breeding and wintering birds. The islands support nationally important breeding colonies of Sterna hirundo Phalacrocorax carbo Podiceps cristatus and probably Aythya fuligula. It is a traditional site for nesting Larus ridibundus but there is no recent survey information. In winter the lake is particularly important for diving ducks with nationally important populations of Aythya fuligula and Bucephala clangula occurring. Cygnus olor also has a population of national importance whilst a range of other species occur in lesser numbers including Cygnus cygnus Anas crecca Fulica atra and Vanellus vanellus. A flock of Anser albifrons flavirostris has traditionally used the site where they feed on grassy islands but birds have seldom been recorded in recent years.	Lough Derg is the largest of the Shannon Lakes being some 40 km long. Its maximum breadth across the Scarriff Bay-Youghal Bay transect is 13 km but for most of its length it is less than 5 km wide. The lake is relatively shallow at the northern end being mostly 6 m in depth but in the middle region it has an axial trench and descends to over 25 m in places. The narrow southern end of the lake has the greatest average depth with a maximum of 34 m. The greater part of the lake lies on Carboniferous limestone but the narrow southern section is underlain by Silurian strata. Most of the lower part of the lake is enclosed by hills on both sides the Slieve Aughty Mountains to the west and the Arra Mountains to the east. The northern end is bordered by relatively flat agricultural country. The lake shows the high hardness levels and alkaline pH to be expected from its mainly limestone catchment basin and it has most recently been classified as a mesotrophic system. The lake has many small islands especially on its western and northern sides. The shoreline is often fringed with swamp vegetation. Aquatic vegetation includes a range of charophyte species.



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	<p>This site is the largest area of semi-natural floodplain grassland in Ireland and has very many features of a natural ecosystem. Along with its main tributaries the River Suck and River Brosna it represents one of the most important wetland systems in the country. It is of International Importance for wintering waterfowl as numbers regularly exceed the 20000 threshold (mean of 34985 for the 5 winters 1994/94-1998/99). Of particular note is the presence of an Internationally Important population of <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>. A further five species have populations of national importance: <i>Cygnus olor</i> <i>Anas penelope</i> <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> and <i>Limosa limosa</i>. There is a well documented spring passage of <i>Limosa limosa</i> along the river valley. The Shannon callows are also of high importance for breeding birds. In particular it has the largest concentration of <i>Crex crex</i> in Ireland. Since 1991 a conservation programme involving annual monitoring of population size practical habitat management and publicity has been in operation. <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> a very rare species in Ireland also breeds in the grasslands. Several wader species notably <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> and <i>Tringa totanus</i> have important breeding populations though these have declined substantially since the 1980s. The scarce breeding species <i>Anas clypeata</i> nests in small numbers each year. The callows is one of the very few sites in Ireland where <i>Limosa limosa</i> has bred. The habitats also support a range of ground nesting passerine species notably <i>Locustella naevia</i> and <i>Alauda arvensis</i>. In autumn and winter <i>Circus cyaneus</i> is a regular visitor.</p>	<p>The site follows the River Shannon from Athlone just below Lough Ree to Portumna just above Lough Derg a distance of over 50 km. It includes much of the flood plain of the river varying in width from approximately 0.5 km to up to 1.5 km in places. A weir at Meelick divides the flooding regime. The main habitat present is humid grassland improved to varying extents that is seasonally flooded. The less improved areas are species-rich. The grassland is used mainly for pasture but some is used for hay-making. The river channel is fringed by swamp and marsh vegetation. There is an extensive system of drainage channels many of which support a diverse flora. The callows often border raised bogs some of which are still intact.</p>
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	<p>This site is the largest area of semi-natural floodplain grassland in Ireland and Britain and has very many features of a natural ecosystem. It has been placed among the most 'natural' floodplains in western Europe. It is subject to regular and prolonged annual winter flooding. Wooded alluvial islands which flood regularly occur at one location. A number of Red Data Book and scarce plant species occur on the site the scarce species including <i>Leucojum aestivum</i> <i>Sium latifolium</i> <i>Botrychium lunaria</i> and <i>Lemna gibba</i>. In addition the site contains a very wide variety of native plant species.</p>	<p>The River Shannon is the largest river in Ireland and its central route drains a large percentage of the whole country. It has proved too powerful to be tamed by drainage schemes in the past and this central section is still free to flood the surrounding lowlands in winter. It is a well-used agricultural resource of low intensity during the summer. This floodplain functions as a semi-natural meadow/marsh habitat (used for grazing or hay-making).</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		<p>A small area of limestone pavement at Clorhane is of particular importance as it is the only example of this habitat in the region. Along with its tributary the Little Brosna (designated separately) this is one of the great waterfowl sites in Ireland with huge numbers of a wide range of species occurring in winter with a mean peak of 34985 waterbirds recorded from 1995/96 to 1999/00. This is the third highest for an inland site in Ireland. The highest is the Little Brosna which is an extension to the Middle Shannon Callows. Only three estuarine sites are higher. In 1996/97 one species was of International Importance (Whooper Swan) and six species were of National Importance. A small flock of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> regularly use a few locations on the site and these are part of the Internationally Important flocks of both the Little Brosna and the River Suck. It is one of very few significant inland sites in Britain or Ireland for <i>Calidris alpina</i>. It is the top site in the country for <i>Cygnus olor</i> and close to that for <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> and <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>. The E.U. Birds Directive Annex I species <i>Circus cyaneus</i> regularly uses the site for hunting in autumn and winter. Perhaps even more important are its nesting <i>Crex crex</i> <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> and breeding waders. In 1987 1204 pairs of breeding waders were recorded (including adjacent parts of the Shannon) mainly <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> <i>Numenius arquata</i> and <i>Tringa totanus</i>. <i>Crex crex</i> has one of its last strongholds here with 70 and 66 calling birds present in 1998 and 1999 respectively. The Shannon Callows is one of the few areas in Ireland where <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> breeds. Numbers vary between years but up to 14 males have been heard. There are high populations of ground-nesting passerines such as <i>Alauda arvensis</i> <i>Anthus pratensis</i> <i>Locustella naevia</i> and <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> on the site. The River Shannon Callows is a breeding site for two Red Data Book waterbird species: <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> and <i>Anas clypeata</i>.</p> <p>The Red Data Book species <i>Anas acuta</i> has also bred on the site though its current status is unknown. The E.U. Birds Directive Annex I species <i>Falco columbarius</i> bred on the site in 1996. Large rivers flowing unfettered through lowland floodplains are now rare anywhere in Europe. This river and its associated habitats are of the highest conservation importance.</p>	<p>There is an extensive system of surface drains. The site is linear running for about 50 km at an average width of about 0.75 km (but reaching 1.5 km in several places). For about half its length it borders raised bogs most of which are in the process of large-scale peat harvesting. Esker ridges lie adjacent to the callows in some places. There are areas of both relict and active levees. A weir at Meelick divides the flooding regime. Ecological diversity is caused and maintained by multiple ownership variation in the flooding regime due to the topography of the callows hundreds of kilometres of drainage ditches differences in the amount of peat and alluvium in the soils and by the extensive nature of the site. The main habitat on the site is humid grassland managed for hay and pasture and these areas have the same management regime as the lowland hay meadows and <i>Molinia</i> meadows.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	The largest spring-fed fen in Ireland largely intact and responding well to restoration measures. Supports one of the largest stands of Cladium fen and is one of the most studied examples of its kind in Ireland. Type locality for the <i>Cirsio dissecti-Schoenetum nigricantis</i> and contains a significant number of rare and threatened species. A number of internationally important invertebrates have been recorded and rare sub-aquatic invertebrates are particularly well represented. Pollardstown is the only known site in Ireland (or Europe) to support all three Annex II <i>Vertigo</i> species (<i>V. geyeri</i> <i>V. angustior</i> <i>V. moulinsiana</i>) and thus provides unique opportunity to study their different habitat and hydrological requirements. Re-flooding of reclaimed areas has increased the ornithological value of the site.	A large spring-fed fen situated in a shallow basin composed of up to 6m of marl/peat overlying clay. The fen contains the feeder channel of the Grand Canal and has survived several attempts at drainage and reclamation. Supports extensive areas of Cladium fen Schoenus fen reed and sedge swamp Molinia grassland and species-rich seepage areas. Restoration of the central fen area following partial reclamation in 1979 has caused re-flooding and allowed the re-establishment and expansion of aquatic and reedswamp vegetation and their associated fauna.
000572	Clara Bog SAC	Clara Bog is a very good example of a large midland raised bog which contains examples of the Annex I habitats active raised bog degraded raised bog woodland depressions on peat substrates (<i>Rhynchosporion</i>) and orchid-rich calcareous grassland. One of the most unusual features of the bog is the presence of an infilling lake which supports mesotrophic fen vegetation. There is an associated soak area which is dominated by a well-developed wet birch woodland. This area of bog woodland is one of the best examples of the habitat in the country and supports a rich invertebrate flora which includes <i>Parhelophilus consimilis</i> and <i>Ampedus pomorum</i> . The moss <i>Tetraplodon angustatus</i> has its only Irish station on the bog while it is also the last known site for the vascular plant species <i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i> (transplanted to the site and now thought to be extinct). The site also provides habitat for important bird species such as <i>Lagopus lagopus</i> and breeding <i>Falco columbarius</i> . Clara Bog has been subject to detailed hydrological and ecological studies.	Most of the site is underlain by low permeability Waulsortian limestone. The southern section is underlain by relatively impermeable massive limestone. This bedrock is overlain by sands gravels and boulder clays which in turn are overlain by a layer of lacustrine clay. Shell marl is seen in a few places. The peat layer developed on top of this. An esker ridge runs roughly east-west along the northern edge of the site and a till mound is seen to the south. The raised bog developed in a former lake. Part of the old cutover bog has been converted to improved pasture which is included in the site for hydrological reasons. A conifer plantation will eventually be removed.
000582	Raheenmore Bog SAC	Raheenmore Bog is a medium-sized midland raised bog site which contains good examples of the priority Annex I habitat active raised bog and the non-priority habitats degraded raised bog and depressions on peat substrates (<i>Rhynchosporion</i>).	This site is underlain by muddy limestone with low permeability. This is overlain by sands gravels and boulder clays. A layer of lacustrine clay lies over this on which the peat layer developed.



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		These habitats are generally of good quality. Most of the site is owned by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and there has been considerable research and restoration carried out on the site over the past 15 years. In addition to the presence of a well-developed flora the site provides habitat for important animal species such as <i>Rana temporaria</i> <i>Lacerta vivipara</i> <i>Lagopus lagopus</i> and is within a breeding territory of <i>Falco columbarius</i> .	The bog developed in a basin between low hills in which a lake would initially have been present. Part of the cutover bog has been converted to improved grassland which is included in the site for hydrological reasons.
000934	Kilduff Devilsbit Mountain SAC	The main importance of the site lies in the fairly extensive area of good quality species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grassland that occurs and in the large population of the nationally rare and protected orchid <i>Pseudorchis albida</i> that it supports. The site is relatively diverse and includes a small area of good quality dry heath. Undamaged unimproved upland grassland sites such as this are becoming increasingly rare in Ireland.	The site is situated on the north-eastern slopes of Devilsbit Mountain a flat-topped ridge composed of silurian grits. The main vegetation type found on the site is species-rich heathy grassland. Degraded <i>Molinia</i> -dominated wet heath dry heath and stands of <i>Quercus</i> sp./ <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> woodland occur in the upper sections of the site. Light scrub is scattered throughout the lower sections of the site and here several streams and flushes are found. A wet broad-leaved Alder woodland in the wet area at the eastern side of the site.
004233	River Nore SPA	The River Nore support nationally important numbers of <i>Alcedo</i> at this. Other species which occur within the site include <i>Cygnus olor</i> <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> <i>Ardea cinerea</i> <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> and <i>Riparia riparia</i> .	The River Nore SPA is a long linear site that includes the following river sections: the River Nore from the bridge at Townparks (north-west of Borris in Ossory) to Coolnamuck (approximately 3 km south of Inistioge) in Co. Kilkenny; the Delour River from its junction with the River Nore to Derrynaseera bridge (west of Castletown) in Co Laois; the Erkina River from its junction with the River Nore at Durrow Mills to Boston Bridge in Co. Laois; a 1.5 km stretch of the River Goul upstream of its junction with the Erkina River; the Kings River from its junction with the River Nore to a bridge at Mill Island Co. Kilkenny. The site includes the river channel and marginal vegetation.
000407	The Loughans SAC	This turlough is the highest in altitude and also at the SE margin of the range of this habitat - 55km from similar sites by Lough Derg. The vegetation shows relatively little diversity (10 out of a possible 32 types) but includes many plants rare in the county for example it is the only site for <i>Rorippa islandica</i> and <i>Chenopodium rubrum</i> .	The Loughans is a shallow basin surrounded by pasture land with low banks of calcareous drift extending out from the northern side. Some of these carry a species-rich heathy grassland with scattered bushes. There are two shallow ponds with aquatic plants but most of the floor dries out in summer and is grazed. Swallow holes occur in the SE corner and on the western side. The internal channels seem to have no real drainage effect.



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
001858	Galmoy Fen SAC	The site contains a good example of alkaline fen vegetation that has developed partly due to cutting of a former raised bog. Fen habitat is rare in the region. The site contains a typical range of species including <i>Schoenus nigricans</i> and supports the Red Data Book species <i>Rana temporaria</i> and <i>Lepus timidus hibernicus</i> .	Galmoy Fen is situated 7 km north of Johnstown in Co. Kilkenny. It lies in a depression and is underlain by Carboniferous limestone. The central part of the site comprises an area of cutover raised bog with numerous peat-cuttings resulting in a mosaic of dry peat banks and wet peaty pools. The pools have become flooded with base-rich groundwater and now support alkaline fen vegetation. A large area of fen vegetation surrounds the central part of the site; this area has a number of large pools that support calcicole species. Other habitats present on the site include scrub wet grassland improved grassland dry calcareous grassland and a small area planted with <i>Picea sitchensis</i> . A stream brings water to the site on its north-east side. Surrounding landuse is mainly agricultural.
002147	Lisduff Fen SAC	A small though relatively intact fen system. Petrifying springs with heavy tufa formations occur along the stream in the southern end of the site. An important site for <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> with a series of recent records including confirmed presence in 1995.	Lisduff Fen is located at Kilcoman crossroad approximately 4 km south-east of Birr. The fen system includes areas dominated by <i>Phragmites australis</i> some wet grassland areas of <i>Betula/Salix</i> scrub and communities tending towards raised bog. There are also some pools. Part of a small stream which enters the fen at the south end is included. Landuse in surrounding areas is mainly pasture for cattle.
002241	Lough Derg North-East Shore SAC	This site supports a wide range of habitats including Alkaline fens Juniper scrub formations limestone pavement Yew woodlands alluvial woodlands and Cladium fen. It also supports the only known population in the country for the Irish Red Data Book species <i>Inula salicina</i> . Other scarce plant species found here include <i>Sorbus aria</i> and <i>Rhamnus catharticus</i> . The endangered fish species <i>Coregonus autumnalis</i> has its European stronghold in Lough Derg. The open water areas of the lake itself are important for wintering wildfowl. Goat island holds a breeding colony of <i>Sterna hirundo</i> . A subflock of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> uses the callow lands around Slevoir Bay in Winter. A good population of <i>Cygnus olor</i> occurs.	This site incorporates part of the water body of Lough Derg and includes most of the northern lake shore and approximately one-third of the northeast shoreline. Lough Derg itself is the lowest order lake on the River Shannon and is one of the largest freshwater bodies in Ireland. Most of the lake overlies Carboniferous Limestone which outcrops along the shores but some old Red Sandstone occurs on the eastern side. The site is of high scenic value and is a well known angling and tourism area.



Appendix 1 - Table 2: Background data for European sites considered in the assessment; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and the known threats and pressures as recorded by the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Limestone pavements [8240], Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510], <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Alkaline fens [7230]	B06, A04.01, G01, G05.01, F03.01, J02.04.01, A04.02.05, C01.03.02, A03.03, J02.05, A04.03, A10.01, J02.01, A08, K03.04, D01.01, J02.05.02, A03, A07, B02.02, J02.11	Grazing in forests or woodland, Intensive grazing, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Trampling, overuse, Hunting, Flooding, Non intensive mixed animal grazing, Mechanical removal of peat, Abandonment or lack of mowing, Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Fertilisation, Predation, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, Forestry clearance, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	Geyer`s whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1013], Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Desmoulin`s whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016]	C01.01, B, E01.03, F03.01, J01, F02.03, A04, E03.01, D02.01	Sand and gravel extraction, Sylviculture, forestry, Dispersed habitation, Hunting, Fire and fire suppression, Leisure fishing, Grazing, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Electricity and phone lines
000407	The Loughans SAC	Turloughs [3180]	A08, A04.01.01, A04	Fertilisation, Intensive cattle grazing, Grazing
000571	Charleville Wood SAC	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Desmoulin`s whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016]	B02, F03.02.03, G01.02, F03.02.04, G01, F04, G02.09, F05.04	Forest and Plantation management & use, Trapping, poisoning, poaching, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Predator control, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Taking or Removal of terrestrial plants, general, Wildlife watching, Poaching



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000572	Clara Bog SAC	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110], Bog woodland [91D0], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	J02.10, A08, X, J02.15, E04.01, A04.03, F04, C01.03, E03.01, A05.02, J01.01, D01.01, C01.01.01	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, Fertilisation, No threats or pressures, Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Agricultural structures, buildings in the landscape, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Taking or Removal of terrestrial plants, general, Peat extraction, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Stock feeding, Burning down, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Sand and gravel quarries
000582	Raheenmore Bog SAC	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	J02.01.03, X, A02.01	Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, No threats or pressures, Agricultural intensification
000585	Sharavogue Bog SAC	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110]	J02.15, I02, B02.02, J01.01, A08	Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Problematic native species, Forestry clearance, Burning down, Fertilisation
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Estuaries [1130], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095]	A01, J02.11, A08, H01.05, D01.05, H01.08, E03, A09, K01.01, C01.01, D03.01.03, A10.01, B02, H01.01, F03.02.04, E05, J02.06.01, F01.03, J02.05.02, J02.06, I01, F02.03.01, D01.01, H01, J02, J02.12.02	Cultivation, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Fertilisation, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Bridge, viaduct, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Discharges, Irrigation, Erosion, Sand and gravel extraction, Fishing harbours, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Forest and Plantation management & use, Pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, Predator control, Storage of materials, Surface water abstractions for agriculture, Bottom culture, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Water abstractions from surface waters, Invasive non-native species, Bait digging or collection, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000849	Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210]	X, A10.01, A04.01, A08	No threats or pressures, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Intensive grazing, Fertilisation
000934	Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230]	G01.04.01, G01.02, G02.09, F03.02.02, A10, H05.01	Mountaineering & rock climbing, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Wildlife watching, Taking from nest (e.g. falcons), Restructuring agricultural land holding, Garbage and solid waste
001858	Galmoy Fen SAC	Alkaline fens [7230]	A04, X, B, C01.04.02	Grazing, No threats or pressures, Sylviculture, forestry, Underground mining
002147	Lisduff Fen SAC	Geyer`s whorl snail (Vertigo geyeri) [1013], Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	A07, X, E03.01, J02.10, E05, A04.03, A08, A02.01, E03.03, C01	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, No threats or pressures, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, Storage of materials, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Fertilisation, Agricultural intensification, Disposal of inert materials, Mining and quarrying
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	Bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus) [1349], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Coastal lagoons [1150], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Estuaries [1130], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Reefs [1170], Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri)	G01.01, B, I01, E01, K02.03, A08, C01.03.01, H04, A04, D01.01, F03.01, F02.03, J02.10, E03, J02.01.02, F01, J02.01.01, C01.01.02, J02.12.01	Nautical sports, Sylviculture, forestry, Invasive non-native species, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Eutrophication (natural), Fertilisation, Hand cutting of peat, Air pollution, air-borne pollutants, Grazing, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Hunting, Leisure fishing, Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, Discharges, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Polderisation, Removal of beach materials, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		[1096], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachium</i> vegetation [3260], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]		
002236	Island Fen SAC	Alkaline fens [7230], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	F03.01, K02.01, A04.03, D01, X, J01.01, C01, A04.01	Hunting, Species composition change (succession), Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Roads, paths and railroads, No threats or pressures, Burning down, Mining and quarrying, Intensive grazing
002241	Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Limestone pavements [8240], Alkaline fens [7230], <i>Juniperus communis</i> 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]	K02.03, G01, J02.10, A08, J02, G02.09, I01, J02.01.03, A10.01, C01, K02.01, B02.01.01, H01.08, I02, A04.01, M01.02, M01.03, D01.01, D03.01.02, M01.01, H01, A04.02.05	Eutrophication (natural), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, Fertilisation, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Wildlife watching, Invasive non-native species, Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Mining and quarrying, Species composition change (succession), Forest replanting (native trees), Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Problematic native species, Intensive grazing, Droughts and less precipitations, Flooding and rising precipitations, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes), Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Non intensive mixed animal grazing
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067]	G01.01, F02.03, A08, F03.01	Nautical sports, Leisure fishing, Fertilisation, Hunting



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]	A08, D03.02, E03, F01, E02, G01.01, E01	Fertilisation, Shipping lanes, Discharges, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Industrial or commercial areas, Nautical sports, Urbanised areas, human habitation
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Corncrake (<i>Crex crex</i>) [A122], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]	A04, E01, F02.03, D01.05, G01.02, G01.01, A04.03, F03.01, A08, D01.01, A03	Grazing, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Leisure fishing, Bridge, viaduct, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Nautical sports, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Hunting, Fertilisation, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Mowing or cutting of grassland
004233	River Nore SPA	Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) [A229]	D03.01, J02.01, X	Port areas, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, No threats or pressures



Appendix 1 - Table 3: Known threats and pressures related to the qualifying interests from each Special Area of Conservation as per article 17 reporting from the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Geyer's Whorl Snail (Vertigo geyeri)	[1013]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (Vertigo angustior)	[1014]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (Vertigo moulinsiana)	[1016]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera)	[1029]	In stream works, hydrological and morphological alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due urbanisation etc. Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Sea Lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)	[1095]	Barriers to upstream migration (e.g. weirs), which limit access to spawning beds and juvenile habitat are main threats to this species.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity.
Brook Lamprey (Lampetra planeri)	[1096]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.
River Lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis)	[1099]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.
Twaiite Shad (Alosa fallax fallax)	[1103]	Habitat quality, particularly at spawning sites is the most notable threat to this species.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
Salmon (Salmo salar)	[1106]	Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations.	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.



Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	[1110]	None identified by the NPWS in the 2019 publication of the Status of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland.	None identified.
Estuaries	[1130]	Pollution, fishing /aquaculture and habitat quality.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	[1140]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
Coastal lagoons	[1150]	Eutrophication. Modification of hydrological flow and drainage.	Erosion and silting up. Accumulation of seaweed. Land use management resulting in hydrological interactions.
Large shallow inlets and bays	[1160]	Pressures on the habitat include nutrient enrichment, dredging and invasive alien species. Overall Status is assessed as Bad and deteriorating, a genuine decline since the 2013 assessment of Inadequate and improving, and is based on more detailed information.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity, surface water runoff, discharge etc. On site management activities.
Reefs	[1170]	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	[1220]	Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	[1230]	A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change. There have been no significant losses in sea cliff habitat since the Directive came into force.	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	[1310]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.



Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	[1330]	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
Bottlenose Dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>)	[1349]	Pressures acting on the species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration or from local/regional prey removal from fisheries.	Large vessel movement effecting distributions. Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	[1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); Hunting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>)	[1365]	Distance to human activities, accidental entanglement in fishing gear competition for prey resources, illegal killing, pollution and habitat degradation.	Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)	[1410]	Over-grazing by cattle or sheep; infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
Turloughs	[3180]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation (<i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i>)	[3260]	Hydrological and morphological changes, water quality, enrichment, and surface water discharges from industrial site and/or agriculture.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.
European dry heaths	[4030]	Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.



Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	[5130]	Overgrazing, erosion, scrub clearance, inappropriate land use management, and succession processes.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)* important orchid sites	[6210]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	[6230]	Bracken encroachment, succession, inappropriate grazing, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	[6410]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	[6510]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Active raised bogs	[7110]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	[7120]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things.



Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	[7150]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and ground water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
Calcareous fens with species of mariscus sedge and bog cotton (Cladium mariscus and Caricion davallianae)	[7210]	Hydrological changes, pollution to surface waters, urbanisation, roads development, groundwater interactions, grazing and cultivation practices and the inappropriate use of pesticides.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	[7220]	Ground water interactions, on site management activities.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Alkaline fens	[7230]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Limestone pavements	[8240]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	[91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Bog woodland	[91D0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	[91J0]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.



Appendix 1 - Table 4: Known threats and pressures related to the qualifying interests from each Special Area of Conservation as per article 17 reporting from the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A017	Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo carbo	D01	Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A038	Whooper Swan	Cygnus cygnus	A02, A11, C03, D02, G01, H07	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other forms of pollution
A046	Light-Bellied Brent Goose	Branta bernicla hrota	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
A048	Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	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	Anas penelope	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
A052	Teal	Anas crecca	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A054	Northern Pintail	Anas acuta	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



Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A056	Northern Shoveler	Anas clypeata	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	Aythya fuligula	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	Aythya marila	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	Bucephala clangula	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 Crake	Crex crex	A03.01, A04.01, K03.04, M01.03	Intensive Mowing or intensification, Intensive grazing, Predation, Flooding and rising precipitations
A137	Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	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	Pluvialis apricaria	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



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
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
A156	Black-Tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	A02, C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, 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
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
A160	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata arquata</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	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



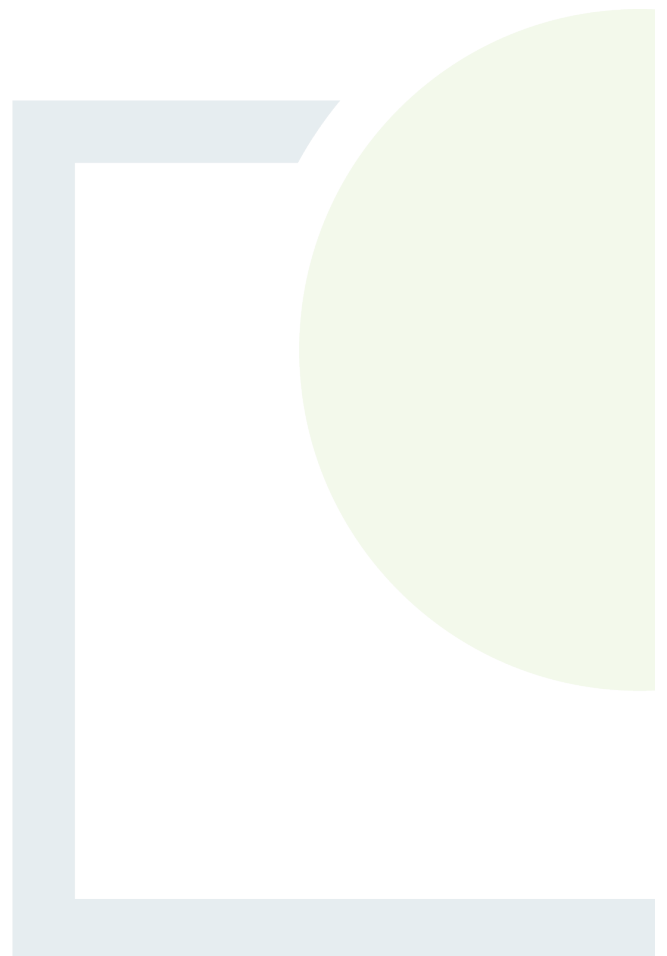
Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A162	Common Redhank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and 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
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
A229	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	A11, D01, G01, H01, I01, J02	Agriculture activities not referred to above, Roads, paths and railroads, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions



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APPENDIX 2

Relationship with other plans
and programmes



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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. • 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. • Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. • Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. • Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. • Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. • Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. 	<p>achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. • Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. • Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. • Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. • 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. • Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. • Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. • Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. • Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). • 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. • 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. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Bathing Water Directive (revised) 2006 [2006/7/EC]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of this Directive is to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing Directive 2000/60/EC 	<p>This Directive lays down provisions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; • the management of bathing water quality; and • the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution. 	<p>Ireland’s Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland’s third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State’s NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk • set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure 	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions	<p>The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection.</p>	<p>The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. <p>All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and • the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest • Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. • 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. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Renewable Energy Directive (EU/2018/2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Directive sets an overall European renewable energy target of 32% by 2030 and includes rules to ensure the uptake of renewables in the transport sector and in heating and cooling. • The directive sets common principles and rules for renewable energy support schemes, sustainability criteria for biomass and the right to produce and consume renewable energy and to establish renewable energy communities. • It also establishes rules to remove barriers, stimulate investments and drive cost reductions in renewable energy technologies and empowers citizens and businesses to participate in the clean energy transformation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. • The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. • 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. • Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Directive 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)	<p>This Directive establishes a common framework for the promotion of energy from renewable sources. It sets a binding European Union target for the overall share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030: Member States shall collectively ensure that the share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030 is at least 32%. Support schemes for energy from renewable sources shall be adopted by Member States. Provisions on joint projects between Member States and between Member States and third countries are laid down too.</p>	<p>The Directive lays down rules on financial support for electricity from renewable sources, on self-consumption of such electricity, on the use of energy from renewable sources in the heating and cooling sector and in the transport sector, on regional cooperation between Member States, and between Member States and third countries, on guarantees of origin, on administrative procedures and on information and training. It also establishes sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels. The latter include fuels produced from waste, from agricultural biomass and from forest biomass.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<p>The Commission shall monitor the origin of biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels consumed in the European Union and the impact of their production, including the impact as a result of displacement, on land use in the Union and in the main third countries of supply.</p>	
<p>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Energy Efficiency Directive (EU) 2023/1791</p>	<p>The new directive introduces a series of measures to help accelerate energy efficiency, including embracing the “energy efficiency first” principle in the energy and non-energy policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing an EU legally-binding target to reduce the EU’s final energy consumption by 11.7% by 2030 (relative to the 2020 reference scenario). This includes for each Member State the requirement to set its indicative national contribution based on objective criteria reflecting national circumstances. If the national contributions do not add up to the EU target, an ambition gap mechanism is applied by the Commission. • Increasing annual energy savings from 0.8% (at present) to 1.3% (2024-2025), then 1.5% (2026-2027) and 1.9% from 2028 onwards. That’s an average of 1.49% of new annual savings for the period from 2024-2030. • Obliging Member States to prioritise vulnerable customers and social housing within the scope of their energy savings measures. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing an annual energy consumption reduction target of 1.9% for the public sector as a whole. • Extending the annual 3% buildings renovation obligation to all the levels of public administration. • Introducing a different approach, based on energy consumption, for business to have an energy management system or to carry out an energy audits. • Bringing in a new obligation to monitor the energy performance of data centres, with an EU-level database collecting and publishing data. • Promoting local heating & cooling plans in larger municipalities. • Progressively increasing the efficient energy consumption in heat or cold supply, also in district heating. 	
<p>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: • Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; • The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; • The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; • Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; • Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)</p>	<p>The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.</p>	<p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • 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. • 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. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy</p>	<p>Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. • Supporting EU-level GI projects. • Improving access to finance for GI projects. • Improving information and promoting innovation. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
			environmental protection and management.
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them; each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage; encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p>
UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity	<p>An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.</p>	<p>The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change</p>	<p>It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.</p>	<p>The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise.</p> <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</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"> • The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). • EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. • 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. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. • Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. • Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. • Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. 	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. • Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. • Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. • Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030: • A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). • 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. • 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. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). • Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. • Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

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Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM10) or up to five years (NO2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. 	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	<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 source.</p>	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain “good status” of water bodies. Promote sustainable water usage. The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive Sampling Drinking Water Directive Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive Shellfish Directive Freshwater Fish Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. Achieve "good status" for all waters. Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. Involve the public and streamline legislation. Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. Recover costs for water services. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater Directive • Dangerous Substances Directive 		
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, control and conserve groundwater. • Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. • 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. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recast Drinking Water Directive is the EU’s main law on drinking water. It concerns the access to and the quality of water intended for human consumption to protect human health. • The EU adopted the recast Drinking Water Directive in December 2020 and the Directive entered into force in January 2021. Member States have to transpose the Directive into national law and comply with its provisions by 12 January 2023. The recast Drinking Water Directive will further protect human health thanks to updated water quality standards, tackling pollutants of concern, such as endocrine disruptors and microplastics, and leading to even cleaner water from the tap for all. 	<p>Key features of the revised Directive are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reinforced water quality standards, in line or, in some cases, even more stringent than the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations • tackling emerging pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors and PFAs, as well as microplastics • a preventive approach favouring actions to reduce pollution at source by introducing the risk-based approach • measures to ensure better access to water, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups • measures to promote tap water, including in public spaces and restaurants, to reduce (plastic) bottle consumption • harmonisation of the quality standards for materials and products in contact with water • measures to reduce water leakages and to increase transparency of the sector 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU	<p>Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 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. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. • The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. • The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. • 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. 	
<p>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. • The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co- operation between states and regions. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	<p>It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; • (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; • (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and • (IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. 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. Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. 	<p>environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Landscape Convention 2000</p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</p>	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing 	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better implementation of legislation. Better information by improving the knowledge base. More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme: • To make the Union's cities more sustainable. • To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. 	
Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats • to promote cooperation between states • to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species 	<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"> • Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. • Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. • Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. • Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. • Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co- operation with other organisations. • Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Bali Road Map (2007)	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mitigation • adaptation • technology 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> financing 	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Cancun Agreements (2010)	<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"> Mitigation Transparency of actions Technology Finance Adaptation Forests Capacity building 	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.	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference: Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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EU Common Agricultural Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)(as amended)	Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation; and Restriction of chemicals. <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p>	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Stockholm Convention	The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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 Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To target additional POPs • 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 	
Ramsar Convention	<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"> • Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; • Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the “Ramsar List”) and ensure their effective management; • Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European 2020 Strategy for Growth	<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"> • Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; • Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; • Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. 	<p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 2. 3% of the EU’s GDP should be invested in R&D; 3. the “20/20/20” climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); 4. the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 5. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019	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"> • 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. • It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. • 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 	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 may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action 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, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Level			
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan (2021 - 2030)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people. 	<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"> 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. Sustainable Mobility 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 6. High-Quality International Connectivity 7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage 8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [In Preparation]	<p>The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, 	<p>In preparation.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. 		
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	<p>The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2022 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects. 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. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011	<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"> • The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. • 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. • 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). 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)</p>	<p>The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). • Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. • Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2016 (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)</p>	<p>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>	<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"> • 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. • 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 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	
S.I. No. 113/2022 - European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of the Regulations is to provide a basic set of measures to ensure the protection of waters, including drinking water sources, against pollution caused by nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural sources, with the primary emphasis on the management of livestock manures and other fertilisers. The set of measures also provide some basic safeguards against possible harmful impacts on water quality arising from agricultural expansion. This basic set of measures has been strengthened over the last two reviews and this new programme provides a further strengthened set of measures to help reduce nitrogen and phosphorus losses from agriculture and contribute to improvements in water quality. 	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited Limits on the land application of fertilisers Storage requirements for livestock manure; and Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (S.I. 79 of 2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations provide for transposition of the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (Directive 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006) which aims: To improve health protection for bathers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations establish a new classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications “poor”, “sufficient”, “good” and “excellent” and generally require that a classification of at least “sufficient” be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a more pro-active approach to management of bathing waters, and • To promote increased public involvement and dissemination of information to the public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities must take appropriate measures with a view to improving waters which are classified as “poor” and increasing the number of bathing waters classified as “good” or “excellent”. • A permanent advice against bathing must be issued in a case where a bathing water is classified as “poor” for five consecutive years. • Local authorities are required annually to identify bathing waters, establish a monitoring calendar, carry out the specified monitoring, report the results to the EPA, carry out appropriate management measures where necessary and provide information to the public. • There must be public participation in the identification of waters and the general implementation of the Regulations. • The EPA is required by the Regulations to classify bathing waters, generally on the basis of the monitoring results for the four preceding bathing seasons, and to publish an annual report in relation to bathing water quality. • Monitoring by local authorities is to commence not later than 2011 with a view to ensuring that a classification is assigned to bathing waters not later than 2015. • Private controllers of access lands may be required to contribute towards the costs incurred by a local authority or the EPA. 	<p>achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I 351 of 2011)	<p>This Regulation defines further the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment.</p>	<p>Further defines the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021	<p>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.</p>	<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"> • 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, • The policy of the Government on climate change, • Climate justice, • Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any • international agreement referred to in section 2; and • The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> emissions, prepared by the Agency. 	
Climate Action Plan 2023	The Climate Action Plan 2023 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.	The Plan lists the actions needed to deliver on our climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated annually, to ensure alignment with Ireland’s legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings	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 may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Ireland’s Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also included a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets. 	<p>The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development; To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs; Greater partnerships for the Goals; To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland’s Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and Strong reporting mechanisms 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Clean Air Strategy for Ireland (2023)	The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through this document Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. 	Implementation of the Guidelines need to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<p>air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. • In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people’s health is paramount, this is a strong theme of the Strategy. 	<p>combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EirGrid ’s Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017 - 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EirGrid ’s mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland. • “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.” 	<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>All Island Grid Study 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network (“the grid”) on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. • The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system. 	<p>Key conclusions of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study. • All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO2 emissions compared to portfolio 1 • All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact. • Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered. • Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security. 	
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. • It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • 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; • Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. 	
National Water Resources Plan (2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment. 	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland’s water resources Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. 	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector. 	
<p>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: “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.” 	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; 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; 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; 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	
<p>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2021 - 2027</p>	<p>This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published.</p> <p>Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; • To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a • view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; • To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; • To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management. 	<p>The revised Plan makes 20 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and Regulation • Prevention • Collection and Treatment • Implementation 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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National Ports Policy 2013	The core objective of National Ports Policy is to facilitate a competitive and effective market for maritime transport services.	National Ports Policy introduces clear categorisation of the ports sector into Ports of National Significance (Tier 1), Ports of National Significance (Tier 2) and Ports of Regional Significance.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Aviation Policy 2015	<p>Specifically, the principal goals of this National Aviation Policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance Ireland’s connectivity by ensuring safe, secure and competitive access responsive to the needs of business, tourism and consumers; • To foster the growth of aviation enterprise in Ireland to support job creation and position Ireland as a recognised global leader in aviation; and • To maximise the contribution of the aviation sector to • Ireland’s economic growth and development. 	<p>The National Aviation Policy commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining safety as the number one priority in Irish aviation and ensuring that safety regulation is robust, effective and efficient; • Creating conditions to encourage the development of new routes and services, particularly to new and emerging markets; • Ensuring a high level of competition among airlines operating in the Irish market; • Optimising the operation of the Irish airport network to ensure maximum connectivity to the rest of the world; • Ensuring that the regulatory framework for aviation reflects best international practice and that economic regulation facilitates continued investment in aviation infrastructure at Irish airports to support traffic growth; • Supporting the aircraft leasing and aviation finance sectors to maintain Ireland’s leading global position in these spheres; and • Maintaining a safe and innovative general aviation sector to support Ireland’s broader aviation industry 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	The vision is: <i>“A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.”</i>	These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life • Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities • Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing • Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Tourism Action Plan 2019 - 2021	Includes a total of 27 actions to be addressed in the period between now and 2018 aimed at securing continued growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment.	23 actions address a range of key issues, including the marketing of Ireland as a visitor destination overseas, visitor access to and within Ireland, the effective presentation of Irish culture, sport, and events to visitors, the role of Local Authorities in supporting tourism, visitor accommodation capacity, and skills development in the tourism sector. The actions are directed at specific tourism stakeholders in the public and private sectors, all of whom are expected to proactively work towards completion of each action within the specified timeframe.	Implementation of the Climate Action 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, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</p>	<p>The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.</p>	<p>The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year • net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; • 250,000 people employed in tourism; and • 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Tourism 2020: Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland's Tourism Strategy until 2020 • Vision is to “Create the new Northern Ireland experience and get it on everyone’s destination wish list” • Details an Action Plan to achieving targets for People, Products and Places, Promotion and Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets targets for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Increasing visitor numbers ◦ Increasing tourism earnings ◦ Accelerating visitor spend ◦ Targeting specific markets and segments ◦ Supporting indigenous high quality businesses ◦ Being visitor inspired • Plan provides for development of at least 22 key sites on Causeway Coastal Route 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIFTI is the Department of Transport's framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network to support the delivery of the National Strategic Outcomes. The NIFTI will guide transport investment in the years ahead to enable the National Planning Framework, support the Climate Action Plan, and promote social, environmental and economic outcomes throughout Ireland. 	<p>The four investment priorities stated in NIFTI are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobility of people and goods in urban areas. Protection and renewal. Enhanced regional and rural connectivity. Decarbonisation. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans (including transport)	<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance based actions. Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)	<p>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>	<p>2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

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<p>Wildlife Act of 1976</p> <p>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</p>	<p>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems • Give statutory protection to NHAs • Enhances wildlife species and their habitats • Includes more species for protection 	<p>environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan</p>	<p>Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors. • To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. • To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. • To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. • To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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National Broadband Plan (2012)	Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.	<p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband. • Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. • The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. • A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process. • Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications. • Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels. • Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. • Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off. • Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains. • Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth. • Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders. • 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. <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</p>	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.	
<p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)</p> <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</p> <p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)(as amended)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. • Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. • Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. • Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. • Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. • Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. • Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. • Outlines surface water quality standards. • Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 to 1990</p>	<p>The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.</p>	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecute for water pollution offences. • Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. • Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. • Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. 	environmental protection and management.
<p>Water Services Act 2007</p> <p>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</p> <p>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</p> <p>Water Services Act 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the water services infrastructure. • Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. • Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply. • 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. 	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. • Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services. • 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 • 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. • Promoting water conservation through Irish Water’s Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. • Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. 	Implementation of the Guidelines need to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER. 	
Irish Water's (now known as Uisce Eireann) Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2020 - 2024)	<p>This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</p>	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Customer Expectations. Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. Provide Effective Management of Wastewater. Protect and Enhance the Environment. Support Social and Economic Growth. Invest in the Future. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas 2017 - 2022	<p>Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Food Harvest 2020	<p>Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.</p>	<p>Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

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			environmental protection and management.
Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri- environment Scheme (GLAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. • GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. • Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. • Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. • Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. • Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Rural Development Programme	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	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; • 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 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	environmental protection and management.
Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027	The new Forestry Programme 2023-2027 came into force in 2023, as soon as State Aid approval by the European Commission has been received. The new Programme sets out increased support for a number of schemes.	<p>The proposed Forestry Programme 2023-2027 contains a series of eight different interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest creation; • Agroforestry; • Infrastructure and technology investments; • Sustainable forest management; • Developing skills and empowering the forest sector for sustainable forest management; • Open forests - social, cultural and heritage forests; • Climate resilient reforestation; • Reconstruction. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
River Basin Management Plan	River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. • Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. • Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. • Involve the public through consultations. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)	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.	<p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To give direction to Ireland’s approach to peatland • management. • To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • To ensure that Ireland’s peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. • To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. • To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. • To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs. <p>To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</p>	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Three high level goals of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	<p>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 2018/2001: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.</p>	<p>Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017-2030	<p>This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.</p>	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFV forecasts Electricity targets Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets Hydrogen targets Biofuels targets LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	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"> • 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. • 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. • 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. • The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high end value added product development. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) NI	The SPPS consolidates some twenty separate policy publications into one document and sets out strategic subject planning policy for a wide range of planning matters. It also provides the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall objective of the planning system is to further sustainable development and improve well-being for the people of the North. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Framework For Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce overall travel demand • Maximise the efficiency of the transport network • Reduce reliance on fossil fuels • Reduce transport emissions • Improve accessibility to transport These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		
Regional/ County/Local Level			
Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies	<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 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>The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Waterford City and County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Tipperary County Council, Wexford County Council, Kerry County Council, Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council.</p> <p>The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its eight constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council, Leitrim County Council, Sligo County Council, Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, and Galway County Council.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Northern Ireland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland. • Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors. 	<p>Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Guidelines need to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2022-2042)	<p>It sets out how transport will be developed across the region, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare, over the period of the strategy and has been approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in accordance with the relevant legislation.</p>	<p>They set out a number of core principles deriving from the strategic vision, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, • national, regional and local needs. • The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country. • The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance. • Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form • Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses. 	
Transport Strategy for the Cork Metropolitan Area 2040	<p>The Strategy addresses all transport modes and its objective will be to provide a long-term strategic planning framework for the integrated development of transport infrastructure and services in the Cork Metropolitan Area, over the next two decades</p>	<p>It will be used to inform transport investment levels and investment prioritisation over both the longer and shorter terms and will be able to inform sustainable integrated land use and transport policy formulation at the strategic (Metropolitan Area) level and at the local level.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow • Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically • The Plan refers to the EuroVelo International Cycle Route Network of the European Cyclists Federation is a network of 15 long distance cycle routes connecting and uniting the whole European continent. Two of these routes are in Ireland • including EV2 from Galway through Dublin to London, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow. 	<p>Aims to identify and determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Urban Cycle Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level • The Inter-Urban Cycle Network linking the relevant sections of the Urban Network including the elements of the National Cycle Network within the Greater Dublin Area including linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and ports • The Green Route Network being cycle routes for development of tourist, recreational and leisure purposes. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Dublin to Galway Greenway Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a segregated cycling and walking trail to international standards, extending from Dublin City to Galway which is of a scale that will allow Ireland to harness the potential of an identified growing tourism market for cycling. • This route forms part of an interconnected National Cycle Network of high quality, traffic free, inter urban • routes, which will establish Ireland as a quality international tourism destination for a broad range of associated recreational activities and pursuits. 	<p>To provide a segregated, substantially off road cycle route from Dublin City to Clifden via Galway City, maximising the use of – where feasible – existing and approved routes and disused railway line corridors and to also use existing plans and/or permitted projects where these have been subject to a consent process that has previously included the carrying out or screening for SEA, EIA and AA.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Northern Ireland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland. • Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors. 	<p>Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Water Quality Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained. • Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards. • Outlines management programmes for water catchments. • Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Port Masterplans (such as Dublin Port Masterplan 2040 and 2017 Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Masterplan sets out a vision for the operations of the port and land utilisation. The Masterplan is a non-statutory plan which has nonetheless been framed within the context of EU, national, regional and local development plan policies. 	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest To describe the site and its management To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Groundwater Protection Schemes	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.	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.	Implementation of the Climate Action 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, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP)	The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities”	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Planning Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines planning objectives for land use development (including transport objectives). • Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. • Sets out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies future infrastructure, development and zoning required. • Protects and enhances amenities and environment. • Guides planning authority in assessing proposals. • Aims to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. • Aims to promote sustainable development. • Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Green Infrastructure Plans/Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes the maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure in an area. • Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats. 	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action 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, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Biodiversity Action Plans	Aims to protect, conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services across all spectrums.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines the status of biodiversity and identifies species of importance. • Outlines objectives and targets to be met to maintain and improve biodiversity. • Aims to increase awareness. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Heritage Plans	Aims to highlight the importance of heritage at a strategic level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and promote heritage as well as increase awareness. • Aim to conserve and protect heritage. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
County Landscape Character Assessments	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. • Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub- Basin Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline. Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland. Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Local Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced by Local Authorities. Outlines areas local flood risk. Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level. 	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes	Aims to improve water quality and ensure the protection or improvement of designated shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth and contribute to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies key and secondary pressures on water quality in designated shellfish areas. Outlines specific measures to address identified key and secondary pressures on water quality. Addresses the specific pressures acting on water quality in each area. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Regional Waste Management Plans	These plans (for the Connacht-Ulster, Southern, and Eastern-Midlands regions) give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Draft Climate Change Action Plans 2019 - 2024	Dublin’s four local authorities have joined together to develop Climate Change Action Plans as a collaborative response to the impact that climate change is having, and will continue to have, on the Dublin Region and its citizens. While each plan is unique to its functional area, they are unified in their approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and their commitment to lead by example in tackling this global issue.	<p>The Climate Change Action Plan features a range of actions across five key areas - Energy and Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature-Based Solutions and Resource Management - that collectively address the four targets of this plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 33% improvement in the Council’s energy efficiency by 2020 • A 40% reduction in the Council’s greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 • To make Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change - related events • To actively engage and inform citizens on climate change 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Noise Action Plans	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.	<p>The main purpose of the Noise Action Plan is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems • Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<p>This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good 	

Relevant EU and National Legislation

Legislation ¹⁹	Context
<p>European & National regulations that are relevant to planning the transmission network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directive 2009/72/EC concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity and repealing Directive 2003/54/EC; • Directive 2009/ 72/ EC; • Directive 2009/ 28/ EC; • Directive 2012/ 27/ EC; • Statutory Instrument (SI) No. 445 of 2000 as amended; and • Statutory Instrument (SI) No. 147 of 2011. 	<p>European regulations, relevant to planning the transmission network.</p>
<p>SEA Directive 2001/42/EC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004) as amended; and • European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 200 of 2011) as amended. 	<p>EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive) established the requirement for SEA as part of high-level decision-making process and the development of plans and programmes.</p>
<p>Energy Efficiency Directive (EU) 2023/1791</p>	<p>The new directive introduces a series of measures to help accelerate energy efficiency, including embracing the “energy efficiency first” principle in the energy and non-energy policies.</p>
<p>Renewable Energy Directive EU/2018/2001</p>	<p>REDII sets an overall European renewable energy target of 32% by 2030 and includes rules to ensure the uptake of renewables in the transport sector and in heating and cooling. The directive sets common principles and rules for renewable energy support schemes, sustainability criteria for biomass and the right to produce and consume renewable energy and to establish renewable energy communities. It also establishes rules to remove barriers, stimulate investments and drive cost reductions in renewable energy technologies and empowers citizens and businesses to participate in the clean energy transformation.</p>
<p>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Env. Quality Standards Directive 2008/105/EC; • The Water Policy Regulations (S.I. No. 722 of 2003); • The Surface Waters Regulations (S.I. No. 272 of 2009) (as amended); and • The Groundwater Regulations (S.I. No. 9 of 2010)(as amended). 	<p>The EU Water Framework Directive requires all Member States to protect and improve water quality in all waters so that we achieve good ecological status by 2015 or, at the latest, by 2027. It applies to rivers, lakes, groundwater, and transitional coastal waters. The Directive requires that management plans be prepared on a river basin basis and specifies a structured method for developing these plans.</p>
<p>Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC):</p>	<p>The EU Birds Directive requires all EU Member States to take measures to protect all wild birds and their habitats. The Birds Directive aims to protect all of the 500 wild bird species naturally occurring in the European Union.</p>

Legislation ¹⁹	Context
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011); and European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (S.I. No. 355 of 2015). 	<p>The EU Habitats Directive requires all EU Member States to ensure the conservation of a wide range of rare, threatened or endemic animal and plant species. Within this Directive, some 200 rare and characteristic habitat types are also targeted for conservation in their own right.</p>
<p>Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2014/52/EU):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not yet transposed as Irish National Legislation, expected before 2017. 	<p>The EU EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) amends the previous EIA Directive (2011/92/EU) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. It introduced changes in EIA requirements across the EU such as the introduction of mandatory ‘Competent Experts’, changes to screening procedures, and mandatory post-EIA monitoring. This Directive was expected to be enforced in Ireland by May 2017 but came into effect in September 2018.</p>
<p>2020 Climate and Energy Package and associated legislation</p>	<p>This package is comprised of a set of binding legislation to ensure the EU meets its climate and energy targets for the year 2020. The package sets three key targets as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels); 20% of EU energy from renewables; and 20% improvement in energy efficiency.
<p>The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act (as amended)</p>	<p>The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act (as amended), provides for the making of five-yearly National Mitigation Plans to specify the policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and a National Adaptation Framework to specify the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by Local Authorities to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change.</p>
<p>Flood Directive (2007/60/EC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010. (S.I. No. 122 of 2010). 	<p>The EU ‘Floods Directive’ requires all EU Member States to assess if all water courses and coast lines are at risk from flooding, to map the flood extent and assets and humans at risk in these areas and to take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce this flood risk.</p>
<p>Non-exhaustive list of Planning related legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and Development Act 2000; Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006; and Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2023. 	<p>Irish Planning related legislation that is relevant to planning the transmission network.</p>
<p>Non-exhaustive list of Cultural Heritage related legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Monuments Act 1930 as amended; Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999; and The Heritage Act 2018. 	<p>Irish Cultural Heritage regulations that are relevant to the planning the transmission network.</p>
<p>Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S.I. No. 739/2022 - Ambient Air Quality Standards Regulations 2022 	<p>Set down air quality standards in Ireland for a wide variety of pollutants.</p>

Legislation ¹⁹	Context
<p>Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, amended by the Protection of the Environment Act 2003; and • Environmental Protection Agency (Integrated Pollution Control) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment)(Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992)(Amendment) Regulations 2020 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. • European Union (Industrial Emissions) Regulations 2013 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing)Regulations 2013. • Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013 	<p>Regulates the licencing of industrial sites, including energy production.</p>
<p>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 140 of 2006). 	<p>EU and Irish environmental noise related legislation.</p>

Relevant Plans and Programmes

Scale	Plan or Programme	Context
International / EU	The Kyoto Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First international agreement in which many of the world's industrial nations concluded a verifiable agreement to reduce their emissions of six greenhouse gases in order to prevent global warming.
	EU Biodiversity Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU Strategy aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and help stop global biodiversity loss by 2020. It reflects the commitments taken by the EU in 2010, within the international Convention on Biological Diversity.
National	National Planning Framework (NPF): Ireland 2040: Our Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-year strategy identifying strategic development requirements, infrastructure requirements and promoting sustainable strategies for the future.
	National Development Plan 2021-2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the National Planning Framework.
	Capital Investment Plan 2016 – 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework for investment in infrastructure in Ireland 2016-2021.
	Framework for Sustainable Development in Ireland (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines Ireland's Framework for Sustainable Development. Its timeframe is to 2020 to tie in with other national and international frameworks, but a longer-term horizon to 2050 is also considered where appropriate, to provide a framework for guiding and reporting on long-term broad development trends such as on climate change.
	National Adaptation Framework (NAF) (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the policy context for a strategic national adaptation response to climate change in Ireland and is designed to evolve over time as planning and implementation progresses, and as further evidence becomes available.
	Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE, ongoing).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this framework is to guide the development of renewable electricity projects.
	Wind Farm Development Guidelines 2006 (currently under review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline the guidelines to planning authorities on planning for wind energy through the development plan process and in determining planning permission.
	Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA) including interim review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes the policy context for the development of offshore wind, wave and tidal energy in Irish waters.
	Water Service Strategic Plan (WSSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides strategic objectives for the delivery of water services up until 2040.
	A National Landscape Strategy (NLS) for Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping out paths toward sustainable development and management of national-human and natural-resources. This includes the Future National Landscape Character Assessment.
	National Biodiversity Plan (NBP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions to raise awareness about the link between plans/programmes and biodiversity impacts.
	National Heritage Plan (published in 2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines stipulations for proper planning, conservation and management of national heritage for all plans/programmes.
The Irish Geological Heritage Programme 1998 - ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes awareness and protection of significant geological heritage sites. 	

Scale	Plan or Programme	Context
	Government Policy Statement on Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorses the major investment underway in the high voltage electricity transmission system under EirGrid 's Grid25 Programme.
	National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport (AFF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets an ambitious target that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero emissions (or zero emissions capable) with the use of fossil fuels vehicles rapidly receding.
	Ireland and the Climate Change Challenge - Connecting How Much with How to (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines the National Economic and Social Council Secretariat's vision for Ireland in 2050 as a carbon-neutral society. The report also outlines proposals for a pragmatic approach toward climate change.
Regional, County and Local	River Basin Management Plans & draft River Basin Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan setting out the status of waters in the River Basin Districts (RBDs); the proposed environmental objectives and the draft programme of measures to achieve those objectives by 2021.
	Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP) 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans which set out a range of proposed measures and actions to manage and reduce flood risk within the catchments and coastal reaches covered by each Plan, focussing on the 300 areas of potentially significant flood risk around Ireland that were previously identified under the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA). These areas are referred to under the programme as Areas for Further Assessment (AFA).
	Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivers on core components of the <u>National Flood Policy</u>, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the <u>EU 'Floods' Directive</u>; central to the medium to long-term strategy for the reduction and management of flood risk in Ireland.
	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as building-blocks for sub-regional spatial and economic planning and statutory committees.
	County Development Plans (various dates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides detailed county-level strategies to allow for the proper planning and sustainable development of an area.
	County Wind Energy Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides recommendations for wind energy development policy and practice.
	County EV Charging Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guides EV Charging infrastructure development
	County Renewable Energy Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides for the preparation of County-level renewable energy strategies.
	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as building-blocks for sub-regional spatial and economic planning and statutory committees.
	County Biodiversity and or Heritage Plans (were available, various dates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines stipulations for proper planning, conservation and management of biodiversity and heritage for all plans/programmes at a county level.
	County Landscape Character Assessments (LCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LCA classifies and describes the landscape in a county.
	County based waste management strategies and mineral plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a framework for the sustainable management of wastes generated in the county.
	County-based recreation strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops a framework to coordinate the objectives and targets of key stakeholders in a cohesive and integrated plan for the county, ensuring the provision, management and use of quality facilities and services for everyone, including future generations.

Scale	Plan or Programme	Context
	Local, City, Town and Electoral Area/Development Plans (where available, various dates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory requirements for proper planning and sustainable development of a local area.
EirGrid Plans	Your Grid, Your Tomorrow: Ireland’s Grid Development Strategy 2016.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the need for, and drivers of, grid development.
	Transmission Development Plan (TDP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual rolling operational document outlining the Draft Grid IP for the development of the ITS and interconnection.



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STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

SEA SCREENING REPORT FOR THE LAOIS LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN 2023-2028

Prepared for:
Laois County Council



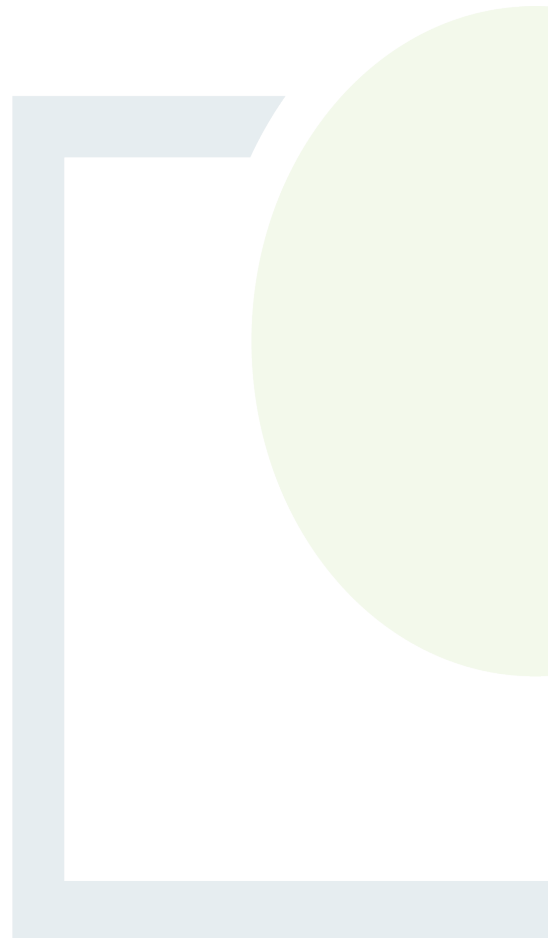
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SEA SCREENING REPORT FOR THE LAOIS LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN 2023-2028

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

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Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this SEA Screening Report to Laois County Council for the Laois Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Background

The Laois Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is a statutory Plan in compliance with the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, and the Guidelines for Local Economic and Community Plans which aims to promote the economic and community development of County Laois. The LECP for a six-year period from 2023 to 2028 is being developed to replace the previous LECP 2016-2021.

Having regard to Article 9 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004) as amended by European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 200 of 2011), Laois County Council (LCC) is required to determine whether the LECP needs to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). An Appropriate Assessment (AA) of plans must also be carried out in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC, transposed nationally by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011).

SEA Screening is required to determine whether a full SEA is required for the plan. This report documents the SEA Screening undertaken to identify the need for full SEA in this case.

1.2 Overview of the SEA Process

The SEA Directive – Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, requires that an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The overarching objective of the 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....with a view to promoting sustainable development'*¹

SEA is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental consequences of implementing Plan or Programme (P/P) initiatives prepared by authorities at a national, regional or local level or which have been prepared for adoption through legislative means.

SEA is described within the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government's (2004) Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities on the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) as the *'formal systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme'*.

¹ Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2004)



The SEA process comprises the following steps:

- Screening – the process whereby a decision is made on whether a particular P/P, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would require SEA. This is the current stage of the SEA process to which this report relates.

If SEA is required following the Screening Determination, the following steps are necessary:

- Scoping – Scope and level of detail in the environmental assessment is decided upon, in consultation with the identified statutory bodies;
- Environmental Assessment - An assessment of the likely significant impacts on the environment as a result of the relevant P/P;
- Preparation of an Environmental Report;
- Consultation of the P/P and associated Environmental Report;
- Evaluation of the submission and observations made on the P/P and environmental report; and
- Provision of an SEA Statement, identifying how environmental considerations and consultation have been integrated into the Final P/P.

SEA is intended to provide the framework for influencing decision-making at an earlier stage when P/Ps – which give rise to individual projects – are being developed. It is noted that SEA should result in more sustainable development through the systematic appraisal of policy options.

1.3 Overview of the SEA Screening Process

The first step of the SEA process is to carry out SEA Screening to determine the requirement for SEA of a P/P.

The first stage in determining whether a P/P requires SEA is the carrying out of a 'Pre-screening Check' (also known as a 'Stage 1 Applicability'). This allows rapid screening-out of P/P that are clearly not going to have any environmental impact and screening-in of those that do require SEA. The second stage in determining whether a P/P requires SEA is known as 'Stage 2 Screening.' The purpose of this stage is to determine whether a P/P is likely to have significant effects on the environment and whether SEA must be carried out in conjunction with a P/P. The application of environmental significance criteria is important in determining whether an SEA is required. Annex II of Directive 2001/42/EC sets out the 'statutory' criteria that should be addressed when undertaking this stage. This process is typically undertaken following an 8-step approach Figure 1-1.

The first environmental significance criterion relates to the characteristics of the P/P, having regard to: the degree to which the P/P sets out a framework for other projects and activities; the influence of the P/P on other projects, plans or activities; the role of the plan for integrating environmental considerations to promote sustainable development; environmental issues of relevance to the P/P and the relevance of the P/P for the implementation of EU legislation on the environment.

The second environmental significance criterion refers to the characteristics of the effects and area likely to be affected, having regard to; the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects; the cumulative nature of the effects; the transboundary nature of the effects; the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values or intensive use; the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European or international protection status.



Figure 1-1: SEA Screening steps as per the EPA's Good Practice Guidance on SEA Screening

1.4 Legislative Context

The screening stage of SEA is primarily addressed through Article 2 and Article 3 of the SEA Directive and Annex II which sets out the considerations in relation to determining significant environmental effects.

Article 2(a) of the SEA Directive establishes two cumulative conditions which P/P must satisfy in order for the further elements of the SEA Directive to be applicable to them:

- They must have been prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure, by a parliament or government; and
- They must be required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.

If these conditions are not satisfied, the measure is not regarded as a P/P which comes within the scope of the SEA Directive.

Once a P/P has been determined to be within the scope of the SEA Directive, Article 3 sets out the criteria for determining which P/P require environmental assessment. Again, several conditions must be met. A P/P must (a) belong to the list of sectors and (b) set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive, or (c) require an AA under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).



Annex II of the SEA Directive presents the criteria for determining the likely significant effects referred to in Article 3(5) of the Directive. The significance of effects is determined with reference to the type and nature of the P/P, its position in the planning hierarchy and its influence on other P/P. It also has regard to the nature of the effects and the sensitivity of the receiving environment as well as the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects. Cumulative and transboundary issues must also be considered.

The SEA Directive is transposed into Irish legislation by the following:

- European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations (S.I. 435/2004)
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations (S.I. 436/2004). Both pieces of legislation were amended in 2011 through the following amendment regulations:
- European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Amendment Regulations (S.I. 200/2011)
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Amendment Regulations (S.I. 01/2011).

The criteria defined in Annex II of the SEA Directive has been transposed into national legislation via Schedule 1 of S.I. 435/2004.

This SEA Screening has been carried out in accordance with above legislation.

1.5 Relevant SEA Guidance

This SEA Screening has been carried out in accordance with and having appropriate regard to the following guidance documents:

- Good Practice Guidance on SEA Screening (EPA, 2021).
- Synthesis Report on Developing A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies For Plans And Programmes In Ireland (EPA, 2013).
- Synthesis Report on Developing A Strategic Environmental Assessment (Sea) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland (EPA, 2003).
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities
- Implementation of Directive 2001/43 on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (European Commission, ND).

1.6 Appropriate Assessment and relationship to SEA Screening

The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires an AA to be carried out where a plan or project is likely to have a significant impact on a European site. European sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

The first step in the process is to establish whether AA is required for the particular plan or project. This first step is referred to as 'AA Screening' and the purpose is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans or projects, could have significant effects on a European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.



Article 3(c) of the SEA Directive requires that an SEA is carried out on a P/P wherever such a P/P requires an AA under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).



2. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE LAOIS LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN

2.1 Overview of the Laois Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028

The Laois LECP 2023-2028 was developed by Laois County Council and the Laois Local Community Development Committee (Laois LCDC) to replace the previous LECP 2016-2021.

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 County Laois, both by Laois County Council directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. The LECP is an important way to set out how Laois County Council and other stakeholders can work together to ensure that their initiatives, programmes, and projects support an improved quality of life for people living and working in the County.

As the framework for the economic development and local/community development of the Local Authority area, the LECP will also be the primary mechanism at local level to bring forward relevant actions arising from the proposed high-level goals and other government policies. The high-level goals, objectives and actions within the LECP will have a direct effect on the services, supports and amenities in County Laois. A review of the LECP 2016-2021 was undertaken showing what was accomplished in the County because of previous High-Level Goals.

Laois LCDC is responsible for implementing the community elements of the plan and the Strategic Policy Committee, or SPC, for Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning is responsible for implementing the economic element of the plan. Both elements were developed in tandem and combined in the final LECP.

Laois LCDC has prepared the following parts in addition to the LECP:

- Appendix A: Socio Economic Statement
 - This statement includes some background information about the preparation of the LECP. It comprises a profile of County Laois including some key facts, trends, strengths and opportunities relevant to economic and community development. It also sets out 10 High-Level Goals and a context for each Goal.
- Appendix B: Socio Economic Profile of Laois
 - This appendix contains graphical representations of certain baseline data for the County based on the 2016 Census.

2.2 High-Level Goals of the LECP

A High-Level Goal is an idea of the future or a desired result that an individual, group or organisation plan and commit to achieve.

10 High-Level Goals for the new LECP have been developed to ensure alignment with policy objectives in the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 (CDP). These high-level goals seek to recognise the challenges the County will face over the lifetime of the new LECP. The goals are broad in scope, given that future stages of the process will develop more detailed Objectives and Actions. The LECP focuses on promotion plans including events, marketing and networking rather than large-scale development. Table 2-1 outlines the High-Level Goals of the LECP 2023-2028.



Table 2-1: Overview of High-Level Goals of the Laois Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028

Goals	Description
Goal 1	Encourage civic participation and support local communities to lead on their own developments.
Goal 2	Develop and promote ways of living and of doing business that support a sustainable environment and resilient communities.
Goal 3	Encourage a sustainable culture of innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the county.
Goal 4	Help the local economy to diversify in a long-term, sustainable manner, broadening employment opportunities in the county.
Goal 5	Recognise and support diversity in the county, promoting equality, integration, and inclusiveness across all sectors.
Goal 6	Sustain, develop, and enhance town and village centres as focal points for their communities.
Goal 7	Support an integrated and holistic approach to education, training, and employment along with life-long learning.
Goal 8	Promote well-being and excellent quality of life within the county.
Goal 9	Strengthen and encourage a strong sense of pride in the county and promote our unique identity.
Goal 10	Promote the county as a key location for foreign and domestic investment.

2.3 Relationship with other Relevant Plans and Programmes

The Laois LECP is part of a series of plans and strategies that have, and are being developed, at national, regional and local level. These include:

- National Planning Framework, National Development Plan, Rural Development Strategy, Enterprise 2025 Strategy, the Action Plan for Jobs and the National Anti-Poverty Strategy
- The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
- The Laois County Development Plan
- The Local Education and Training Strategy
- Any other Local Area Plan provisions responsible for the protection and management of the environment including environmental sensitivities.



3. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING

This section of the report documents the SEA Screening undertaken.

Stage 1 Applicability Analysis was undertaken initially. This analysis is detailed in Section 3.1 of this report (Table 3-1 and Table 3-2).

Stage 2 Screening Analysis was then undertaken. This analysis is detailed in Section 3.2 of this report (Table 3-3, Table 3-4, and Table 3-5).

3.1 Stage 1 - SEA Applicability Analysis

Table 3-1: SEA Applicability Analysis

SEA Applicability Analysis	
Status of Plan/Programme Maker	
Is the P/P prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	<p>The LECP is prepared by Laois County Council and the Laois Local Community Development Committee (Laois LCDC). A competent authority for the purpose of SEA is defined under S.I. 435 of 2004 as <i>'the authority which is, or the authorities which are jointly, responsible for the preparation of a plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme.'</i></p> <p>As such the Plan can be considered a document prepared by an 'authority' at a local level.</p>
Is the P/P required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions?	<p>The Laois LECP was required under the following national legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Government Reform 2014 <p>The purpose of the LECP is to strengthen and develop the economic and community-related aspects of the County over a six-year period. Having regard to the foregoing, the LECP can be considered to be required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.</p>
Nature of the Plan/Programme	
Is the P/P prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use?	<p>The LECP has been prepared for town and county planning. Economic coordination and strategic support inclusive across all sectors.</p>
Does the P/P provide a framework for the development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive?	<p>The LECP does not set the framework for future development consent of projects.</p>



SEA Applicability Analysis	
Is the P/P likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site which leads to a requirement for Article 6 or 7 assessments?	AA Screening Conclusion text here: <i>"It is concluded that the high-level goals will not give rise to any adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Consequently, a Stage 2 AA is not required for the Plan."</i>
Exemptions	
Is the sole purpose of the P/P to serve national defence or civil emergency or is it a financial/budget P/P or is it co-financed by the current SF/RDF programme?	No, for all questions.

Table 3-2: Summary of SEA Applicability Analysis

Summary of SEA Applicability Analysis	
Applicability Analysis Criterion	Outcome (Yes or No)
Is the P/P prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	Yes
Is the P/P required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions?	Yes
Is the P/P prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use?	Yes
Does the P/P provide a framework for the development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive?	No
Is the P/P likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site which leads to a requirement for Article 6 or 7 assessments?	No
Is the sole purpose of the P/P to serve national defence or civil emergency or is it a financial/budget P/P or is it co-financed by the current SF/RDF programme?	No
Conclusion	
Having regard to the SEA Screening steps identified by the EPA guidance in Figure 1-1, Stage 2 SEA Screening Analysis is required to whether the LECP is likely to have significant effects on the environment and whether SEA must be carried out in conjunction with the LECP for this reason.	



3.2 Stage 2 - SEA Screening Analysis

To inform the Stage 2 SEA Screening Analysis, an evaluation of the potential environmental implications of each high-level goal for the LECP has been carried out. This evaluation is presented in Table 3-3.

Table 3-3: Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each High-Level Goal of the LECP 2023-2028

Goals	Description	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of Each High-Level Goal
Goal 1	Encourage civic participation and support local communities to lead on their own developments.	The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
Goal 2	Develop and promote ways of living and of doing business that support a sustainable environment and resilient communities.	The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
Goal 3	Encourage a sustainable culture of innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the county.	The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
Goal 4	Help the local economy to diversify in a long-term, sustainable manner, broadening employment opportunities in the county.	The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.



Goals	Description	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of Each High-Level Goal
Goal 5	Recognise and support diversity in the county, promoting equality, integration, and inclusiveness across all sectors.	The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
Goal 6	Sustain, develop, and enhance town and village centres as focal points for their communities.	The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
Goal 7	Support an integrated and holistic approach to education, training, and employment along with life-long learning.	The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
Goal 8	Promote well-being and excellent quality of life within the county.	The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
Goal 9	Strengthen and encourage a strong sense of pride in the county and promote our unique identity.	The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.
Goal 10	Promote the county as a key location for foreign and domestic investment.	The preparation of any lower tier plans or strategies would need to be subject to SEA and AA processes as appropriate. It is noted that it is normal practice for the Council to ensure that any increases in visitor numbers are managed in terms of potential foreign tourism objectives to avoid significant negative effects including loss of habitat and disturbance.



Goals	Description	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of Each High-Level Goal
		<p>The LECP does not set the framework for consent or land use change. The supports provided will work within existing land use operators and all plans/projects arising from the implementation of the plan will be subject to compliance with the CDP and all relevant LAPs. There are no sources for impacts that are not already considered within the CDP and associated environmental assessments.</p>

Table 3-4: Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Environmental Effects - Characteristics of the Plan

Potential Significant Effects	
Characteristics of the plan or programme having regard, in particular to:	
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources</p>	<p>It is the purpose of the Laois LECP 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 County Laois. It has been developed so as to be consistent with higher level plans, in particular the Laois CDP 2021-2027. The LECP, however, is not a spatial plan, but a focused action plan.</p> <p>The LECP provides a framework in which local and regional stakeholders can work collaboratively to achieve shared strategic objectives. The setting of a project framework is carried out by other, spatial plans such as the CDP. The emphasis of the LECP is on collaboration and partnership, and as such the Plan does not specify the framework for other projects or activities in terms of their location, nature, size, operating conditions or allocation of resources.</p> <p>The LECP will not result in the occurrence of any significant environmental effects in this regard.</p>
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy</p>	<p>The LECP is influenced by a hierarchy of international, national, regional and local level plans, strategies and legislation, to which consideration was given throughout the preparation of the Plan. The LECP supports the aims and objectives of relevant statutory guidance, including the Laois CDP 2021-2027 and the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019-2031.</p> <p>The LECP generally has a negligible influence on other plans or programmes. It aims to tie together existing plans and strategies to assist in the achievement of common goals but sits below the relevant statutory legislation and plans. The role of the LECP is therefore complementary to, rather than having significant influence on, other Plans.</p> <p>The LECP will not result in the occurrence of any significant environmental effects in this regard.</p>



Potential Significant Effects

Characteristics of the plan or programme having regard, in particular to:

<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development</p>	<p>The LECP includes a High-Level Goal to develop and promote ways of living and of doing business that supports a sustainable environment and resilient communities. The Plan also contains measures that will help to achieve for the development of new business and economic activity and in turn will support the transition to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>This is consistent with the Core Strategy and objectives of the Laois CDP. The CDP was subject to SEA and AA to ensure that environmental considerations were fully integrated into the plan during its preparation. The LECP is consistent with the CDP in its consideration of sustainable development, in particular UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but will not result in actions of sustainable development beyond those already contained in the CDP. The LECP will not result in the occurrence of any significant environmental effects in this regard.</p>
<p>Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme</p>	<p>The LECP high-level goals are broadly intended to improve economic and community aspects of the County in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner. The actions of the LECP will be implemented within the framework of appropriately zoned areas and environmental and heritage policy within the CDP and Local Area Plans and thus should not give rise to significant strategic environmental issues.</p>
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g., plans linked to waste-management or water protection)</p>	<p>The LECP does not have the express purpose of facilitating the adoption of any other environmental legislation. They will broadly support the achievement of principles and policies of various pieces of legislation, including relating to habitats, water quality and environmental protection.</p> <p>The LECP will not result in the occurrence of any significant environmental effects in this regard.</p>



Table 3-5: Criteria for Determining Potential for Significant Effects - Characteristics of the Effects

Potential for Significant Effects	
Characteristics of the Effects and the Area likely to be affected, having regard in particular to:	
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	<p>Any actions in the LECP that result in the development of new projects must be carried out in compliance with the statutory planning and environmental framework and higher-level plans, including the CDP, which has been subject to SEA and AA. The LECP will not result in specific environmental impacts.</p> <p>The LECP aims to deliver positive changes that will guide and support economic and community development within the county, thereby creating an overall positive cumulative effect for the people, with a focus on local strategies and plans. The LECP will not create any cumulative or transboundary environmental impacts.</p> <p>It is a High-Level Goal of the LECP to improve health / well-being and the quality of life of the County Laois community, thus will not create any risk to human health or the environment.</p> <p>The LECP is a county-wide plan but is intended to promote sustainable economic and community development in general within the county, as opposed to comprising a spatial land-use plan. The LECP does not zone additional lands, and any projects referenced in the Plan with regard to particular areas will be subject to the statutory planning and environmental framework and higher-level plans, including the CDP.</p> <p>An Appropriate Assessment screening of the Draft LECP has been carried out (see accompanying AA Screening Document), and concluded that implementation of the Plan does not have the potential to give rise to impacts on the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 site i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) The LECP will not have any environmental effect that will affect the sensitivity of the receiving environment or result in the exceedance of any prescribed Environmental Quality Standards. The Plan will also not result in an intensive land use or land use change.</p> <p>The LECP will not give rise to any significant impact on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, EU or international protection status. The Appropriate Assessment screening of the Draft LECP concludes that implementation of the Plan does not have the potential to result in impacts on any European sites or to influence other plans or projects in a manner that could potentially impact thereon</p>
The cumulative nature of the effects	
The transboundary nature of the effects	
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g., due to accidents)	
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive land-use 	
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	



Table 3-6: Summary of SEA Screening Analysis

Summary of SEA Screening Analysis

Having regard to the evaluation undertaken in Table 3-3 and the Stage 2 Screening Analysis undertaken in Table 3-4 and Table 3-5, it is concluded that the LECP will not result in the occurrence of any additional environmental impacts not previously considered or mitigated against in the plan.



4. CONCLUSIONS

SEA Screening was carried out to determine the need for a SEA for the Laois LECP 2023-2028. It has been concluded, based on the pre-screening check, and review against the environmental significance criteria as set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive, that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.



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