

# NATURA IMPACT REPORT

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## IN SUPPORT OF THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

FOR THE

## DRAFT LAOIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027

**for: Laois County Council**

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# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

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

## 1.2 Legislative Context

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

AA is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse or negative effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European Site. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

## 1.3 Approach

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and grey literature<sup>1</sup> was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives (including spatial data collected for the most recent Article 17 conservation status reporting cycle, 2019).

In addition to being informed by these reports, the Natura impact Report was also informed by the Council's new Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027 and accompanying the SEA Environmental Report and the Council's current County Development Plan 2017-2023 and associated SEA Environmental Report and AA Natura Impact Report.

All of these data sources are likely to be useful for AAs that must be undertaken for lower-tier plans/projects under the Plan.

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

- Identification of European Sites within 15 km of the Plan boundary with identification of potential pathway links for specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15 km from the Plan boundary;
- Review of the NPWS site synopsis and conservation objectives for European Sites with identification of potential pathways from the Plan area; and
- Examination of available information on protected species.

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<sup>1</sup> Various documents where publishing, in journals for example, is not the primary activity of the producing body. Examples include: conference presentations; regulatory data; unpublished trial data; government publications; and dissertations/theses.

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

**Stage One: Screening**

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

**Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment**

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

**Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**

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

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

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

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

The assessment of potential effects on European Sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor<sup>2</sup> model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

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

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

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009;
- "Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018;
- "Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission Environment DG, 2002; and
- "Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission, 2000.

The scope of the AA was informed by the submissions received on the scope of the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment<sup>3</sup> (SEA) process being undertaken on the Draft Plan, including a submission from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that provided various information and suggestions relevant to the AA.

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<sup>2</sup> Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works; Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European Sites.

<sup>3</sup> Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt it.

## Section 2 Description of the Draft Plan

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

The Plan consists of a written document with supporting appendices and maps, as set out in the table of contents. There are three Volumes, accompanied by Appendices, contained in the Plan:

- Volume 1: The Written Statement which comprises of 14 Chapters, providing policy objectives for each Chapter as follows:
  1. Introduction
  2. Core and Settlement Strategy
  3. Climate Change
  4. Housing
  5. Quality of Life
  6. Economic Development
  7. Retail
  8. Tourism
  9. Rural Laois
  10. Infrastructure
  11. Biodiversity and Natural Heritage
  12. Built and Cultural Heritage
  13. General Location and Pattern of Development
  14. Implementation of Monitoring
- Volume 2: Written Statements and maps for the settlements within the County which have been categorised as Self-Sustaining Growth towns, Self-Sustaining towns, towns and villages and rural areas.
- Volume 3: This SEA Environmental Report, the, AA Natura Impact Report and the SFRA Report.

The Vision of the Plan is:

*"To improve the quality of life for all citizens in County Laois by creating sustainable communities and an environment that supports a vibrant, growing and well connected economy, making it a County where people want to live, work, visit and do business, without compromising the environmental integrity of the County."*

In order to achieve this Vision, the County Development Plan has the following Objectives:

- To provide a framework for the future sustainable development of the County, defining acceptable forms of development and where they should be directed;
- To support and facilitate and promote a transition to a low carbon society;
- To provide a detailed basis for the promotion and management of development;
- To implement National and Regional development policy provisions at a County level;
- To promote and assist Laois's economic development opportunity and encourage increased resilience in the County's enterprise.

The Strategic Aims for the Plan set out by Laois County Council are as follows:

- I. To guide the future development of Laois in line with national and regional objectives set out in the NPF and RSES and other national guidelines and Policy Objectives;
- II. To promote and facilitate the development of the County in accordance with the provisions of the Core Strategy, including directing development in line with the settlement hierarchy and promoting development at an appropriate scale that is reflective of the terms of the Core Strategy Table and zoning maps.
- III. To apply the Settlement Hierarchy to determine the scale, rate and location of proposed developments and apply appropriate development management measures to ensure compliance with the Settlement Hierarchy including the population targets for the County.
- IV. To promote the delivery of at least 30% of all new homes that are targeted in settlements within their existing built-up footprints;
- V. To ensure that development is promoted, supported or facilitated through the Laois County Development Plan that provides for climate action including the increased risk of flooding and the promotion of sustainable transport options and renewable energy where possible in order to achieve a successful transition to a low carbon economy;
- VI. To support the achievement of more self-sustaining towns and villages through residential and employment opportunities together with supporting social and community facilities
- VII. To monitor and maintain a record of residential development permitted in settlements designated under the Settlement Hierarchy in order to ensure compliance with the population allocations defined by the Core Strategy and to adjust the approach to permitting development proposals in instances where Core Strategy objectives are not being met.

Underpinning the Strategic Aims above in relation to population growth, housing requirements and the future spatial development of the County are the following complimentary Strategic Aims which are integral in delivering the Vision for the County during the period 2021-2027:

- I. To Build on the regional-level linkages between County Laois and other parts of the Eastern and Midlands Region and adjoining regions such as the South Region and Mid-West Region by supporting the implementation of regional spatial and economic strategies, collaborating on support for critical enabling infrastructure, such as inter-regional road and rail linkages, and co-operating on areas of mutual planning interest;
- II. To Target Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to appropriate zoned locations in the Key Towns of Portlaoise and Graiguecullen / Carlow and the Self-Sustaining Growth Town of Portarlington and build on the economic strengths and tourism opportunities of County Laois in a balanced and sustainable manner focusing on the opportunities as outlined in the following sections;
- III. To Facilitate the provision of and improvements to community, social and recreational infrastructure and ensure universal access to all to such facilities throughout the County for all its residents;
- IV. To Facilitate Job creation within the County to ensure that the County grows in a sustainable manner;
- V. To provide for sustainable transport infrastructure and connectivity including walking and cycling infrastructure and initiatives and optimise the return of investment on infrastructure while preserving the natural and built heritage;
- VI. Ensure a good quality of life and good health for the residents of Laois through maintaining and improving waste water treatment and water supplies and to minimise the adverse impacts of development on the environment through Policy Objectives for the management of waste and emissions and management and protection of our water quality and seek to achieve our obligations under the Water Framework Directive;
- VII. To Protect, conserve and enhance the built, natural and cultural environment through promoting awareness, utilising relevant heritage legislation and promoting good quality urban and rural design;
- VIII. To Support the development of key infrastructure such as telecommunications, electricity, gas to enable economic development.

Far in advance of both the submission of the pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval and the placing of the Draft Plan on public display, Laois County Council undertook various background work for a variety of sectors in order to inform the preparation of the Plan, including:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
- Appropriate Assessment (AA);
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA);
- Core Strategy;
- Economic Strategy;
- Settlement Strategy;
- Housing Strategy;
- Rural Housing Design Guidelines;
- Retail Strategy;
- Landscape Character Assessment;
- Climate Action and Sustainable mobility provisions;
- Infrastructure including Green Infrastructure provisions; and
- Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will contribute towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County.

## Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

### 3.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any potential significant effects to European Sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.

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

The following NPWS Generic Conservation Objectives have been considered in the screening:

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

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat<sup>4</sup> or species<sup>5</sup> at that site have been considered.

### 3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km buffer zone to be considered. Although sites beyond this buffer zone would be considered if relevant, a review of all sites within this zone has allowed a determination to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of the Plan will not impose effects beyond the 15 km buffer.

Details of European Sites that occur within 15 km of the County are provided in Table 3.1 and mapped on Figure 3.1. Details of European Sites that occur outside the 15 km buffer zone of the County, but are hydrologically connected are also provided in Table 3.1, and mapped on Figure 3.2. European Sites and Rivers and Catchments are also mapped in Figure 3.1. Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) have been considered by both the AA screening assessment (provided under this section) and Stage 2 AA (provided under Section 4). Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following National Parks and Wildlife Service documents:

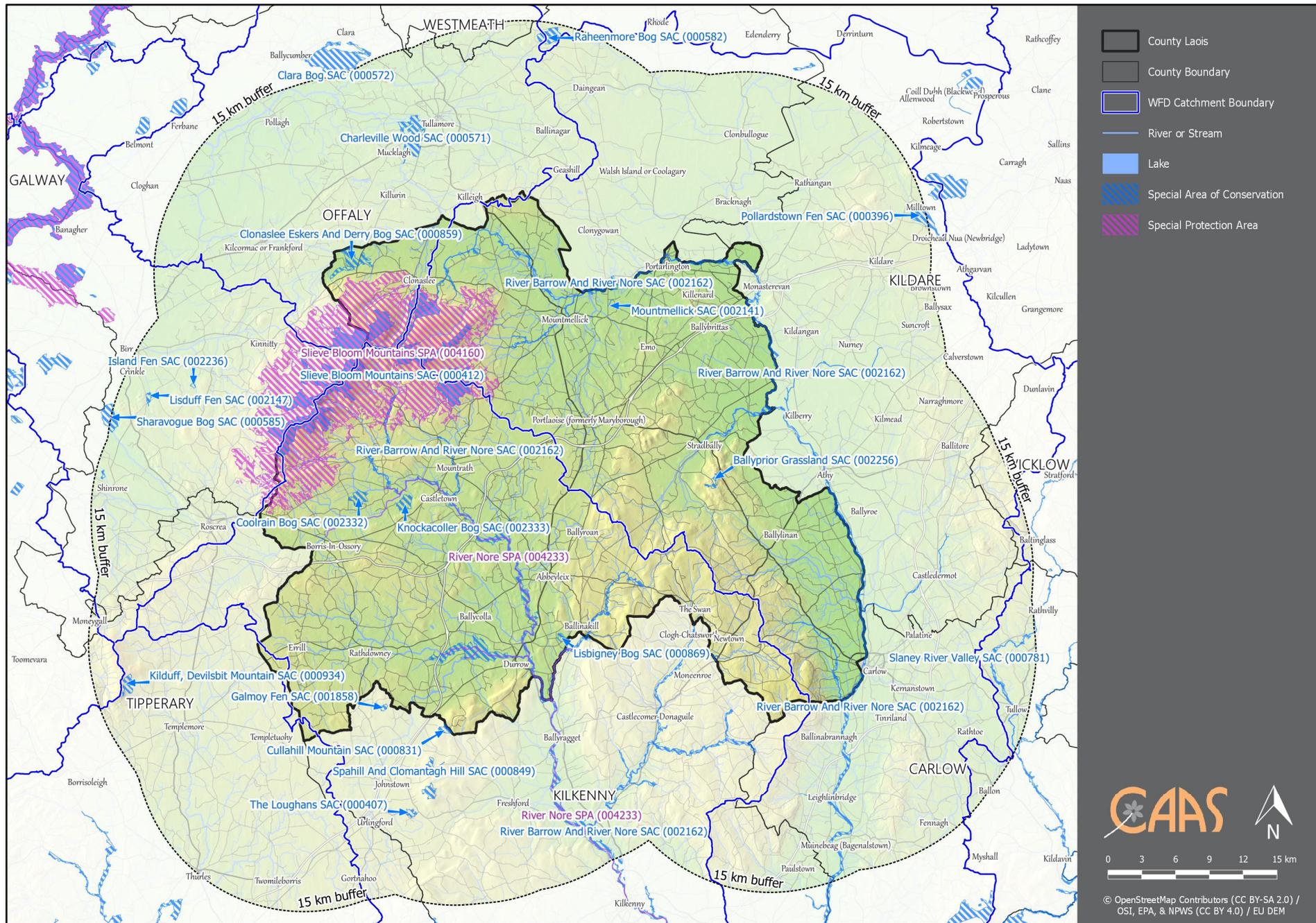
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Pollardstown Fen SAC [IE0000396] Version 7.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for The Loughans SAC [IE0000407] Version 6.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC [IE0000412] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Charleville Wood SAC [IE0000571] Version 7.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Clara Bog SAC [IE0000572] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Raheenmore Bog SAC [IE0000582] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Sharavogue Bog SAC [IE0000585] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Slaney River Valley SAC [IE0000781] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Cullahill Mountain SAC [IE0000831] Version 6.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC [IE0000849] Version 6.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Clonastee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC [IE0000859] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lisbigney Bog SAC [IE0000869] Version 6.

<sup>4</sup> Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

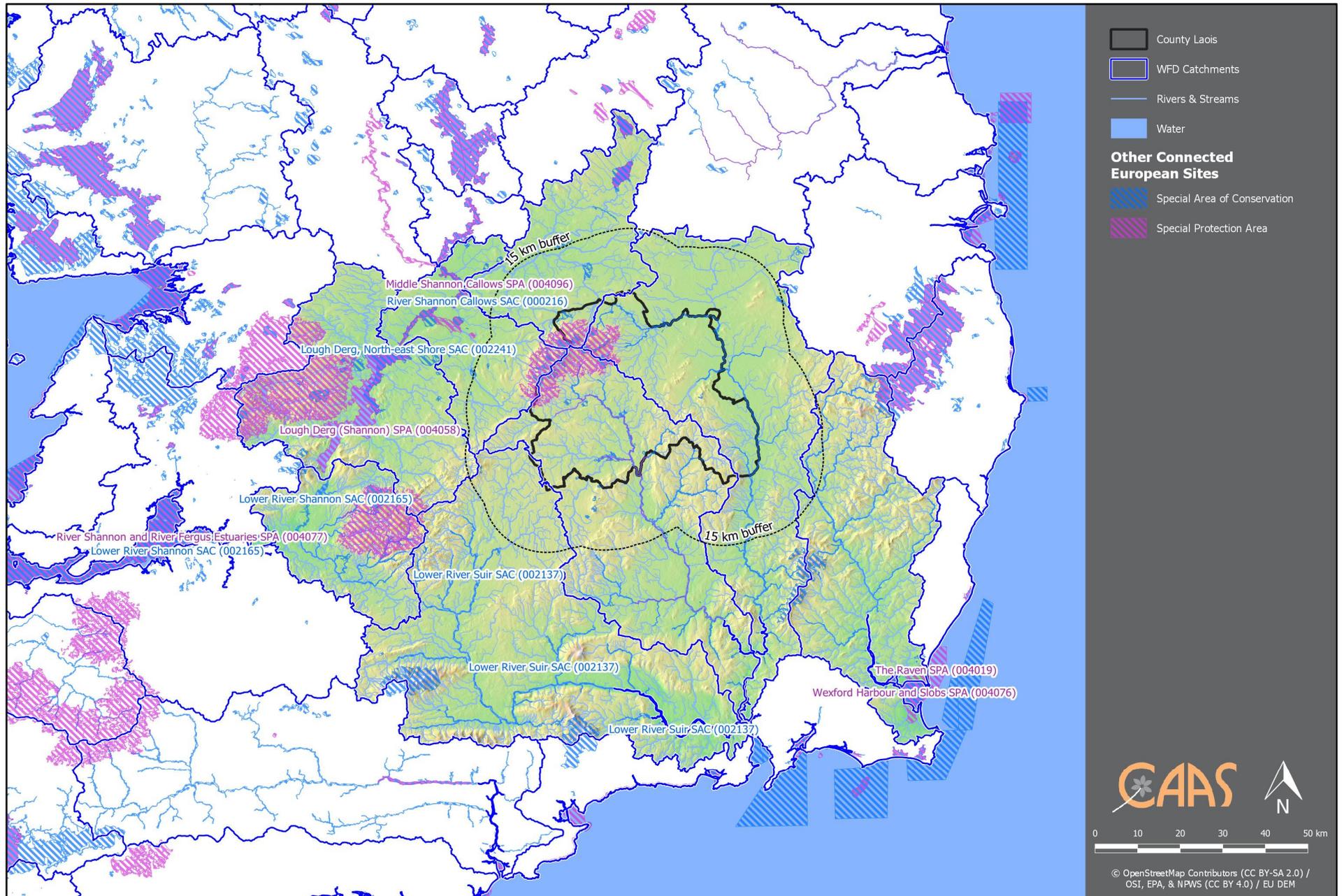
<sup>5</sup> The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC [IE0000934] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Galmoy Fen SAC [IE0001858] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Mountmellick SAC [IE0002141] Version 7.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Lisduff Fen SAC [IE0002147] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for River Barrow and River Nore SAC [IE0002162] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Island Fen SAC [IE0002236] Version 6.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Ballyprior Grassland SAC [IE0002256] Version 6.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Coolrain Bog SAC [IE0002332] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Knockacoller Bog SAC [IE0002333] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA [IE0004160] Version 7.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for The Raven SPA [IE0004019] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA [IE0004058] Version 7.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA [IE0004076] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA [IE0004077] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Lower River Shannon SAC [IE0002165] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Lower River Suir SAC [IE0002137] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC [IE0002241] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for River Shannon Callows SAC [IE0000216] Version 6.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Middle Shannon Callows SPA [IE0004096] Version 6.

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



**Figure 3.1 European Sites within 15 km buffer zone of County Laois**



**Figure 3.2 European sites hydrologically linked to County Laois**

### **3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening**

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

The overarching objective of the Plan is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to coordinate and plan the future development of Laois. Therefore, the Plan is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites.

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

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

- Provisions for sectors such as climate action, urbanisation including residential and economic development, streetscape works, community facilities, transport, green infrastructure, energy, environmental infrastructure, recreational, natural resource, which introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation.

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

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

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

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

**Table 3.1 Screening of European Sites**

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000412	Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC	0	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000831	Cullahill Mountain SAC	0	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000859	Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC	0	Alkaline fens [7230], Geyer`s whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000869	Lisbigney Bog SAC	0	Desmoulin`s whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> ) [1016], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
002141	Mountmellick SAC	0	Desmoulin`s whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> ) [1016]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	0	Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ) [1029], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Reefs [1170], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], European dry heaths [4030], Twaite shad ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> ) [1103], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Desmoulin`s whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> ) [1016], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Estuaries [1130], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> )) [1330], Killarney fern ( <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> ) [1421]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
002256	Ballyprior Grassland SAC	0	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
002332	Coolrain Bog SAC	0	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
002333	Knockacoller Bog SAC	0	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
004160	Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA	0	Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) [A103], Merlin (Falco columbarius) [A098], Hen harrier (Circus cyaneus) [A082]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
004233	River Nore SPA	0	Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A053]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
001858	Galmoy Fen SAC	0.3	Alkaline fens [7230]	This site is designated for terrestrial grassland and terrestrial species. They are sensitive to direct land use management action such as drainage and graze management etc. This fen has a distinct hydrological connection with the Laois-Kilkenny County border, via a minor stream, amongst mostly agricultural land. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000849	Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC	2.5	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	This site is designated for terrestrial grassland and terrestrial species. They are sensitive to direct land use management action such as drainage and graze management etc. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. These habitats are not influenced by surface water quality of the adjacent aquatic habitats. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
000571	Charleville Wood SAC	5.63	Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles) [91A0], Desmoulin's whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016]	This site is designated for terrestrial woodland and terrestrial species. They are sensitive to direct land use management action such as drainage and woodland management etc. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. These habitats are not influenced by surface water quality of the adjacent aquatic habitats. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
000407	The Loughans SAC	7.5	Turloughs [3180]	Laois County is hydrologically isolated from the SAC. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
002236	Island Fen SAC	8.87	Alkaline fens [7230], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	This site is designated for terrestrial grassland and terrestrial species. They are sensitive to direct land use management action such as drainage and graze management etc. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	10.68	Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles) [91A0], Common seal (Phoca vitulina)	Laois County is hydrologically isolated from the SAC. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC..	No	No

Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			[1365], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Twaité shad (Alosa fallax) [1103], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], Estuaries [1130], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima)) [1330], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099]	As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.		
000934	Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC	11.53	European dry heaths [4030], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe) [6230]	This site is designated for terrestrial grassland and terrestrial species. They are sensitive to direct land use management action such as drainage and graze management etc. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. These habitats are not influenced by surface water quality of the adjacent aquatic habitats. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
002147	Lisduff Fen SAC	12.08	Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Geyer's whorl snail (Vertigo geyeri) [1013]	Laois County is hydrologically isolated from the SAC. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
000582	Raheenmore Bog SAC	13.11	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitat and upland species. They are sensitive to direct land use management action such as drainage and graze management etc. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	13.54	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (Vertigo angustior) [1014], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Geyers whorl snail (Vertigo geyeri) [1013], Desmoulin's whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Alkaline fens [7230]	Laois County is hydrologically isolated from the SAC. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
000585	Sharavogue Bog SAC	14.12	Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitat and species. They are sensitive to direct land use management action such as drainage and graze management etc. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
000572	Clara Bog SAC	14.83	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Bog woodland (Bog woodland) [91D0], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210], Active raised bogs [7110]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitat and species. They are sensitive to direct land use management action such as drainage and graze management etc. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	17.6	Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Yew-dominated woodland (Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles) [91J0], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles) [91A0], White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) [1092], Twaité shad (Alosa fallax) [1103], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima)) [1330], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095]	This site is hydrologically connected to the County boundary, however due to distance and dilution effects, and lack of direct management by the council for the SAC, it is deemed that the Plan will not introduce any sources for effects to the habitats and species contained therein, or the land use of this SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	21.3	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Limestone pavements [8240]	This site is hydrologically connected to the County boundary, however due to distance and dilution effects, and lack of direct management by the council for SAC, it is deemed that the Plan will not introduce any sources for effects to the habitats and species contained therein, or the land use of this SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	21.3	Hen harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ) [A082], Greenland white-fronted goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Eurasian curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Corn crane ( <i>Crex crex</i> ) [A122], Common redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Northern shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Common snipe ( <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> ) [A153], Eurasian teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], European golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Northern lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Common quail ( <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> ) [A113], Tufted duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061]	This site is hydrologically connected to the County boundary, however due to distance and dilution effects, and lack of direct management by the council for the SPA, it is deemed that the Plan will not introduce any sources for effects to the habitats and species contained therein, or the land use of this SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
002241	Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC	29.9	Limestone pavements [8240], Yew-dominated woodland ( <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles) [910], Alkaline fens [7230], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]	This site is hydrologically connected to the County boundary, however due to distance and dilution effects, and lack of direct management by the council for the SAC, it is deemed that the Plan will not introduce any sources for effects to the habitats and species contained therein, or the land use of this SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	30.5	Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053], Common coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125], Tufted duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Common goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067], Greenland white-fronted goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Eurasian teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Great crested grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005], Great cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Northern lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Common pochard ( <i>Aythya ferina</i> ) [A059]	This site is hydrologically connected to the County boundary, however due to distance and dilution effects, and lack of direct management by the council for the SPA, it is deemed that the Plan will not introduce any sources for effects to the habitats and species contained therein, or the land use of this SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	30.9	Reefs [1170], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], Bottlenose dolphin ( <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> ) [1349], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Subtidal sandbanks (Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time) [1110], Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ) [1029], <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)</i> ) [1330], Coastal lagoons [1150], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]	This site is hydrologically connected to the County boundary, however due to distance and dilution effects, and lack of direct management by the council for the SAC, it is deemed that the Plan will not introduce any sources for effects to the habitats and species contained therein, or the land use of this SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA	44.2	Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Great crested grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005], European golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Red knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Little egret ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> ) [A026], Wood sandpiper ( <i>Tringa glareola</i> ) [A166], Great cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Grey plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Ringed plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus</i>	This site is hydrologically connected to the County boundary, however due to distance and dilution effects, and lack of direct management by the council for the SPA, it is deemed that the Plan will not introduce any sources for effects to the habitats and species contained therein, or the land use of this SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No

Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			ridibundus) [A179], Common shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A053], Ruddy turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Northern shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056], Common goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) [A067], Mew gull (Larus canus) [A182], Ruff (Philomachus pugnax) [A151], Common pochard (Aythya ferina) [A059], Northern pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Northern lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Tufted duck (Aythya fuligula) [A061], Greater scaup (Aythya marila) [A062], Bar-tailed godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Eurasian teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Red-breasted merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069], Greenland white-fronted goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395], Eurasian curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Common coot (Fulica atra) [A125], Common redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Short-eared owl (Asio flammeus) [A222], Tundra swan (Cygnus columbianus bewickii) [A037], Common greenshank (Tringa nebularia) [A164], Eurasian oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Gadwall (Anas strepera) [A051], Eurasian wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050]			
004019	The Raven SPA	60.1	Ringed plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Eurasian wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Greenland white-fronted goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395], Slavonian grebe (Podiceps auritus) [A007], European golden plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Great cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Little tern (Sterna albifrons) [A195], Red knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Great northern diver (Gavia immer) [A003], Grey plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Black-headed gull (Larus ridibundus) [A179], Northern lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Black (common) scoter (Melanitta nigra) [A065], Common shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Red-breasted merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069], Great crested grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005], Mew gull (Larus canus) [A182], Eurasian curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Bar-tailed godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Eurasian oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A053], Red-throated diver (Gavia stellata) [A001]	This site is hydrologically connected to the County boundary, however due to distance and dilution effects, and lack of direct management by the council for the SPA, it is deemed that the Plan will not introduce any sources for effects to the habitats and species contained therein, or the land use of this SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	64.5	Northern pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Bar-tailed godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Eurasian curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Common shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Common redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Northern shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056], Greater scaup (Aythya marila) [A062], Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A053], Greylag goose (Anser anser) [A043], Common greenshank (Tringa nebularia) [A164], Ringed plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Northern lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Great cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Eurasian wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], European golden plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Black-headed gull (Larus ridibundus) [A179], Greylag goose (Anser anser) [A043], Eurasian oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Red-breasted merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069], Grey plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Whooper swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Ruddy turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Red knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Eurasian teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Great crested grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005], Mew gull (Larus canus) [A182]	This site is hydrologically connected to the County boundary, however due to distance and dilution effects, and lack of direct management by the council for the SPA, it is deemed that the Plan will not introduce any sources for effects to the habitats and species contained therein, or the land use of this SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No

### **3.4 Other Plans and Programmes**

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely affect European Sites. Appendix II outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the Plan to cause in-combination effects to European Sites. These plans / programmes / strategies 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 RSEs 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 County Development Plan.

As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Draft County Development Plan is consistent with and conforms with national and regional Policy Objectives, 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 Local Area Plans that will be subject to their own lower-tier environmental assessments.

In order to be realised, projects included in the County Development Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, Policy Objectives, 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 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 relationship with other plans and programmes is provided at Appendix II.

### **3.5 AA Screening Conclusion**

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

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European Site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 11 (no.) European Sites.

Therefore, a Stage 2 AA is required for the Plan (see Section 4 of this report). An AA Screening Determination undertaken by the planning authority is provided at Figure 3.3.



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Áras an Chontae  
Port Laoise  
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# COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

## Screening for Appropriate Assessment

### Determination

under  
the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,  
for the

### Emerging Draft Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027

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

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

The screening process concluded that an AA of the emerging Draft Plan would be required, as the Plan: is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites; and may, on the basis of objective information, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects, if unmitigated have significant adverse effects on 12 (no.) European sites.

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

- Provisions for sectors such as climate action, urbanisation including residential and economic development, streetscape works, community facilities, transport, green infrastructure, energy, environmental infrastructure, recreational, natural resource, which introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation.

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

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

Signatory:

  
Joe Delaney  
Director of Services

Date:

12<sup>th</sup> November 2020

*'I bpáirt leis an bpobal'*

Arna phriontáil ar pháipéar atá 100% athchúrsáilte – Do Chomhshaoil a chothú



Figure 3.3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination

## Section 4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

### 4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the Plan alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 12 European Sites brought forward from screening (those considered on Table 3.1 for which there is "Potential Pathway for Significant Effects" and/or "Potential for In-Combination Effects"), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

### 4.2 Characterisation of European Sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified 12 European Sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Plan. Appendix I characterises each of the qualifying features of the 12 European Sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites' vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website<sup>6</sup>.

### 4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts<sup>7</sup>:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>6</sup> Last accessed 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>

<sup>7</sup> These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2016) "Guidelines for ecological impact assessment"; Environmental Protection Agency (2002) "Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements"; and National Roads Authority (2009) "Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes".

**Generic Conservation Objective for SACs:**

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

**Generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:**

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

**4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects**

Assessment of potential adverse effects on European Sites is conducted utilising a standard source-pathway model (see approach referred to under Sections 1.3 and 3). The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and climate change. Each of these potential changes are considered below and in Table 4.1 with reference to the QIs/SCIs of all of the European Sites brought forward from Stage 1 of the AA process (see Section 3).

**4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area**

The Plan provides for development across the County with specific settlements identified to facilitate more intensive development in these areas. The development of all infrastructural works such as those relating to water services, energy, residential and commercial structures, roads, access tracks and pathways have associated construction phase effects. These potential effects include land take, habitat destruction, disturbance effects, light pollution, dust, hydrological interactions, airborne pollution, excessive noise. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects due to construction on the ecological integrity of any European site.

As identified above County Laois has several European sites within it; therefore, there is potential for effects to European sites as a result of the Plan; however, several mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that its implementation will not result in the loss of any habitat necessary for the ecological integrity of any European site, such as BNH 1<sup>8</sup>, BNH 2<sup>9</sup>, BNH 3<sup>10</sup>, BNH 4<sup>11</sup> and BNH 5<sup>12</sup>.

These Policy Objectives will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

**4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation**

As previously stated, the Plan provides for developments which have associated effects. These effects could result in the fragmentation of habitat and or species through light pollution, habitat loss and/or removal of stepping stone habitats, for example. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects in relation to fragmentation on the ecological integrity of any European site.

The Plan recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. The Plan provides Policy Objectives to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors

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<sup>8</sup> Protect, conserve, and seek to enhance the County's biodiversity and ecological connectivity.

<sup>9</sup> Conserve and protect habitats and species listed in the Annexes of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended) and the Flora Protection Orders.

<sup>10</sup> Support and co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage proposed or designated sites in order to achieve their conservation objectives.

<sup>11</sup> Protect and maintain the conservation value of all existing and future Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites, Wildfowl Sanctuaries and Biogenetic Reserves in the County.

<sup>12</sup> Projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects). Screening for AAs and AAs undertaken shall take into account invasive species as relevant.

such as riparian zones and pollinator greenways. These include BNH 10<sup>13</sup>, BNH 15<sup>14</sup>, BNH 20<sup>15</sup>, BNH 26<sup>16</sup> and BNH 30<sup>17</sup> (see full list of measures reproduced at Section 5 of this report). Inappropriate lighting will be minimised through the implementation of Policy Objectives set out in Chapter 10 of the Plan, specifically ES 49<sup>18</sup>.

Further to these provisions there are Policy Objectives related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as: waterways, BNH 23; hedgerows, BNH 19; agriculture, RL 2; and trees, BNH 17<sup>19</sup>. These Policy Objectives apply to all plans, programmes and/or projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan and will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation will not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

#### **4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species**

Disturbance effects are caused by any activity that has potential to alter the movement patterns/distribution of species. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. This is particularly relevant in relation to tourism and recreation as many of the County's destinations or attractions are in or adjacent to European sites. Many European sites within the Laois area have recreational related pressures such as water sports or hiking trails as known threats and pressures; and Policy Objectives such as ABT 6<sup>20</sup> and NH 3<sup>21</sup> have the potential to add to these sources for effects. However, policy NRPO 4<sup>22</sup> focuses on promoting sustainable tourism while protecting European Sites.

The Plan accounts for noise pollution effects through its Policy Objectives affording protection to European sites by ensuring any projects that arise from the implementation of the Plan avoid or minimise noise in compliance with the Environmental Noise Directive and associated National Regulations through the County Laois Council Noise Action Plan 2019-2022 (prepared under SI No. 140 of 2006). Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality due to anthropocentric sensitivities for protected birds and mammals. Policy Objectives to ensure the protection of habitat quality, such as ES 43<sup>23</sup>, have been built into the Plan; identified above (further details see Section 5).

These measures are robust to ensure that any sensitive habitat features or species will be identified and only compliant applications will be granted. All of the Policy Objectives related to positive effects for Biodiversity are detailed in Section 5.

#### **4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density**

Species densities are reliant on species distributions, habitat condition, connectivity of ecological resources and availability of resources such as prey/food. The Plan introduces potential sources for

<sup>13</sup> Support the objectives of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 by encouraging the planting of pollinator friendly trees and plants within grass verges along public roads and existing and future greenways, new hedgerows, public parks and public open spaces in towns and villages, including part of mixed use and residential developments.

<sup>14</sup> Encourage, pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, the management of features of the landscape, such as traditional field boundaries and laneways, important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.

<sup>15</sup> Ensure that hedgerow removal to facilitate development is kept to an absolute minimum and, where unavoidable, a requirement for mitigation planting will be required comprising a hedge of similar length and species composition to the original, established as close as is practicable to the original and where possible linking in to existing adjacent hedges. Native plants of a local provenance should be used for any such planting.

<sup>16</sup> Protect riparian corridors by reserving land along their banks for ecological corridors and maintain them free from inappropriate development. Where developments are proposed adjacent to waterways in previously undeveloped areas, the Planning Authority will require a general setback distance of a minimum of 10 metres from the waterways edge, subject to site-specific characteristics and the nature and design of the development.

<sup>17</sup> Protect the migration of fish in the River Barrow Nore SAC from high risk barriers such as weirs and bridge sills.

<sup>18</sup> Ensure that external lighting and lighting schemes are designed so that light spillage is minimised, thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties and wildlife, including protected species.

<sup>19</sup> Undertake a study within the lifetime of the Plan and for all Local Area Plans to document and map trees and groups of trees that require preservation and prepare Tree Preservation Orders for individual trees, groups of trees or woodland areas where expedient and in the interests of visual amenity, biodiversity and the environment.

<sup>20</sup> Promote and investigate the feasibility of, subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives, sustainable developing and improving of facilities and infrastructure supporting water-based tourism activities, (including shore side interpretive centres and jetties). Development proposals outside settlement centres will be required to demonstrate a need to locate in the area and will be required to ensure that the ecological integrity and water quality of the river or lake, including lakeshore and riparian habitats, is not adversely affected by the development.

<sup>21</sup> Promote and facilitate the continued development of the Slieve Bloom Mountains bike trail as a key tourism asset for the County and as part of the tourism offer on the Slieve Bloom Mountains, in conjunction with Offaly County Council.

<sup>22</sup> Prepare an Open Space Plan for the County having regard to the town parks, riverside walks and other amenity spaces and resources and ensure that any plan or project associated with open space planning or tourism is subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in compliance with the Habitats Directive, and subsequent assessment as required.

<sup>23</sup> Require an assessment of impact of the developments on noise levels, having regard to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003 and the EPA Noise Regulations 1994 when assessing planning applications

effects to affect these four determinant factors in the form of construction phase effects such as: habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat encroachment, trampling. However, the Plan mitigates effects by requiring compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives – for example Policy Objectives ABT 6<sup>24</sup>, ABT 3<sup>25</sup>, TM 15<sup>26</sup> and RL 7<sup>27</sup>. Overall, this Plan identifies the rigorous approach that will be taken when assessing the ecological impacts of a proposed development and the precautions surrounding this approach.

Furthermore, the plan contains provisions to enhance biodiversity, landscape and the environment within Laois through native planting, preservation of hedgerows and natural features, green roofing, and participation in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Similarly, the Plan recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of species diversity overall through connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources in developments (e.g. Section 4.5 of the Plan). Further to these provisions there are policy objectives related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as waterways (detailed above) or existing trees and hedgerows (Section 11.6 of the Plan). These Policy Objectives apply to all plans, programmes and projects that may arise due to the implementation of the plan. Measures relating to light pollution, noise pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation are addressed above (further detailed in Section 5). In addition to this the Plan identifies policy objectives to protect and improve water quality interactions, which can influence species densities. There are also a number of provisions relating to protective buffer zones, further assessment requirements as well as commitments to increasing water quality standards. Further details in relation to relevant mitigation measures are in Section 5 below.

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

Water quality is the primary macro indicator of conservation value. The Plan contains many robust Policy Objectives to ensure the protection of both surface and ground water quality. Groundwater quantity is also a potential issue as most of the drinking water in the County comes from groundwater sources. Abstractions for drinking water could individually and/or cumulatively could impact upon ecology, including European sites. Development within the vicinity of groundwater or surface water dependant European sites will not be permitted where there is potential for a likely significant impact upon the groundwater or surface water supply to the European sites (ES 21<sup>28</sup>). Policy Objectives that specifically relate to the protection of water quality which account for potential effects to European sites include: ABT 6, WS 3, WS 21, ES 17, ES 18, ES 19, ES 20, ES 21, WS 22, ES 23, ES 24, ES 25, ES 26, ES 27, ES 28, ES 29, ES 30, ES 31, ES 32, ES 33, ES 34, ES 35, ES 36 AND ES 37.

Similarly, emissions to air and hazardous waste have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European sites; however, the Plan contains Policy Objectives such as: ES 30<sup>29</sup> and BNH 5<sup>30</sup>, which account for this. Increased development pressures could place additional loadings onto the existing waste water treatment plant facilities. Section 4 of the SEA identifies the currently loadings for the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) in the County which indicates there is additional capacity within the existing infrastructure (see Table 4.2 of the associated SEA Environmental Report for further details).

<sup>24</sup> Promote and investigate the feasibility of, subject to compliance with the habitats and Birds Directives, sustainable developing and improving of facilities and infrastructure supporting water based tourism activities, (including shore side interpretive centres and jetties). Development proposals outside settlement centres will be required to demonstrate a need to locate in the area and will be required to ensure that the ecological integrity and water quality of the river or lake, including lakeshore and riparian habitats, is not adversely affected by the development

<sup>25</sup> Develop on-road cycle trails in the Slieve Blooms along existing lightly-trafficked roads in partnership with cycling clubs, Offaly County Council, Laois Sports Partnership, Laois Partnership Company and the National Trails Office, subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directive.

<sup>26</sup> Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the Plan shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate

<sup>27</sup> Encourage, subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives, access to forestry including private forestry for amenity and educational purposes including the provision of walking routes, cycling routes, mountain biking routes, mountain trails, nature trails and orienteering.

<sup>28</sup> Ensure the protection of all High Status Water Bodies in the County by complying with the requirements of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977, (as amended), the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009, the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010; which standards and objectives are included in the River Basin Management Plans, and other relevant Regulations.

<sup>29</sup> Ensure that all industrial development is appropriately located, to seek effluent reduction and 'clean production' where feasible, and require that waste water treatment facilities are adequate, and that effluents are treated and discharged in a satisfactory manner

<sup>30</sup> Projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects). Screening for AAs and AAs undertaken shall take into account invasive species as relevant.

Additionally, the Policy Objectives provide broader scope to ensure the protection of the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions; such as ES 18<sup>31</sup> and ES 23<sup>32</sup>.

#### **4.3.1.6 Climate change**

The Plan includes provisions that potentially conflict with climate mitigation and provisions that will help to contribute towards climate mitigation. Policy Objective BNH 5 provides that 'Projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) <sup>33</sup>'. Greenhouse gas emissions arising from the Plan will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European Sites considered.

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<sup>31</sup> Maintain and improve the water quality in rivers and other water courses in the County, including ground waters. The Council will have cognizance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

<sup>32</sup> Ensure, through the implementation of the relevant River Basin Management Plan and their associated Programmes of Measures and any other associated legislation, the protection and improvement of all drinking water, surface water and ground waters throughout the County.

<sup>33</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

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

Site Code	Site Name <sup>34</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>35, 36</sup>
000412	Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are species composition change (succession), burning down, other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, trampling, overuse, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, forestry clearance, mining and quarrying, invasive non-native species, garbage and solid waste, forest and plantation management and use and off-road motorized driving.</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrological interactions, recreational use and tourism, agriculture, natural processes, direct land use management, invasive species, mining and quarrying, forestry and waste disposal to be the known threats and pressures for the site. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: BNH 1; BNH 2; BNH 3; BNH 4; and BNH 5. The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities however Policy Objectives contained within the plan, such as ES 32 and ES 33, ensure that intensive agriculture and agricultural run-off will be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; ABT 6, WS 3, WS 21, ES 17, ES 18, ES 19, ES 20, ES 21, WS 22, ES 23, ES 24, ES 25, ES 26, ES 27, ES 28, ES 29, ES 30, ES 31, ES 32, ES 33, ES 34, ES 35, ES 36 AND ES 37. Policy RL 6 identifies that forestry development within the County will be progressed with environmental considerations with an aim to increase broadleaf woodland cover. Similarly, RL 7 identifies the objective to promote the use of existing forestry resources as recreational hubs. The Plan details a number of provisions relating to tourism and recreation, specifically but not limited to chapters 5 Quality of life and 8 Tourism; there are a number of provisions to ensure recreational pressures are addressed such as NRPO 4, NRPO 7, NRPO 13, ABT 6, TM 15, CH 2 (see table 5.1 for a full list of Policy Objectives). Mining and quarrying Policy Objectives such as RL 14, ensure that GSI-ICF Quarrying Guidelines are followed and AA considerations are made. There are no provisions in the plan that provide for garage or solid waste being introduced to the SAC therefore there are no sources for effects. However, the plan does promote sustainable waste management and aims to minimise waste for future developments within the lifetime of the plan (e.g. HPO 14 and DMHS 11). Development Management Standard DM HS 19 identifies that residential developments will be required to produce a landscape plan which includes consideration with regard to invasive species management. Policy Objective BNH 5 requires that Screening for AAs and AAs to be undertaken take into account invasive species as relevant. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000831	Cullahill Mountain SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are removal of hedges and coppices or scrub, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, non-intensive mowing.</p> <p>These pressures relate to agriculture, natural processes, direct land use management, and waste disposal to be the known threats and pressures for the site. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: BNH 1; BNH 2; BNH 3; BNH 4; and BNH 5. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing will be managed through Policy Objectives such as BNH 20, BNH 21, BNH 22, BNH 23, BNH 24, BNH 25, BNH 26, BNH 27, BNH 28, BNH 29, and BNH 30. There are no provisions in the plan which relate to mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000859	Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, species composition change (succession), non-intensive horse grazing, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, garbage and solid waste, burning down, dispersed habitation, mechanical removal of peat.</p> <p>These pressures relate to agriculture, natural processes, direct land use management, and waste disposal to be the known threats and pressures for the site. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: BNH 1; BNH 2; BNH 3; BNH 4; and BNH 5. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing will be managed through Policy Objectives such as BNH 17, BNH 18, BNH 19, BNH 20, BNH 20 and BNH 22. There are no provisions in the plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities however Policy Objectives contained within the plan, such as ES 32 and ES 33, ensure that intensive agriculture and agricultural run-off will be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; ABT 6, WS 3, WS 21, ES 17, ES 18, ES 19, ES 20, ES 21, WS 22, ES 23, ES 24, ES 25, ES 26, ES 27, ES 28, ES 29, ES 30, ES 31, ES 32, ES 33, ES 34, ES 35, ES 36 AND ES 37. There are a number of Policy Objectives in the plan relating to the protection of peatlands such as LCA 23, LCA 24, LCA 25, LCA 26, LCA 27, BNH 31, BNH 32, BNH 33, BNH 34, BNH 35, BNH 36, BNH 37 and BNH 6.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000869	Lisbigney Bog SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are disposal of household or recreational facility waste, burning down, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, disposal of inert materials, species composition change (succession).</p> <p>These pressures relate to agriculture, natural processes, direct land use management, and waste disposal to be the known threats and pressures for the site. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: BNH 1; BNH 2; BNH 3; BNH 4; and BNH 5. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing will be managed through Policy Objectives such as BNH 17, BNH 18, BNH 19, BNH 20, BNH 20 and BNH 22. There are no provisions in the plan which relate to mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

<sup>34</sup> For qualifying features for each European Site (QIs and SCIs), please refer to Table 3.1

<sup>35</sup> Informed by, inter alia, The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland, Overview Volume 1 (NPWS, 2019).

<sup>36</sup> Refer to Section 5 for Policy Objectives

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Site Code	Site Name <sup>34</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>35, 36</sup>
001858	Galmoy Fen SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are underground mining, grazing, silviculture, and forestry.</p> <p>These pressures relate to forestry and mining. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: BNH 1; BNH 2; BNH 3; BNH 4; and BNH 5. Mining and quarrying Policy Objectives such as RL 14, ensure that GSI-ICF Quarrying Guidelines are followed and AA considerations are made. There are no provisions in the plan that provide for garage or solid waste being introduced to the SAC therefore there are no sources for effects. Policy RL 6 identifies that forestry development within the County will be progressed with environmental considerations with an aim to increase broadleaf woodland cover. Similarly, RL 7 identifies the objective to promote the use of existing forestry resources as recreational hubs.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
002141	Mountmellick SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are modification of hydrographic functioning, general, garbage and solid waste.</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrological interactions and waste disposal to be the known threats and pressures for the site. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: BNH 1; BNH 2; BNH 3; BNH 4; and BNH 5. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; ABT 6, WS 3, WS 21, ES 17, ES 18, ES 19, ES 20, ES 21, WS 22, ES 23, ES 24, ES 25, ES 26, ES 27, ES 28, ES 29, ES 30, ES 31, ES 32, ES 33, ES 34, ES 35, ES 36 AND ES 37. There are no provisions in the plan that provide for garage or solid waste being introduced to the SAC therefore there are no sources for effects. However, the plan does promote sustainable waste management and aims to minimise waste for future developments within the lifetime of the plan (e.g. HPO 14 and DMHS 11).</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are industrial or commercial areas, agricultural intensification, dykes and flooding defence in inland water systems, removal of hedges and coppices or scrub, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Sand and gravel quarries, reduction in migration or migration barriers, forestry activities not referred to above, invasive non-native species, peat extraction, netting, forest replanting (native trees), human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, port areas, changes in abiotic conditions, modifying structures of inland water courses, Leisure fishing, pollution to surface waters (limnic and terrestrial; marine and brackish), forest and plantation management &amp; use, intensive cattle grazing, dredging or removal of limnic sediments, water abstractions from surface waters, use of fertilizers (forestry), intensive fish farming, intensification, erosion.</p> <p>These pressures relate to agriculture, forestry, hydrological interactions, habitat fragmentation, fisheries and erosion. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: BNH 1; BNH 2; BNH 3; BNH 4; and BNH 5. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing will be managed through Policy Objectives such as BNH 17, BNH 18, BNH 19, BNH 20, BNH 20 and BNH 22. Furthermore, habitat connectivity will be maintained through Policy Objectives such as BNH 15, LCA 17, LCA 18, LCA 19, LCA 25 BNH 20, BNH 21, BNH 22, BNH 23, BNH 24, BNH 25, BNH 26, BNH 27, BNH 28, BNH 29, and BNH 30. There are no provisions in the plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities however Policy Objectives contained within the plan, such as ES 32 and ES 33, ensure that intensive agriculture and agricultural run-off will be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; ABT 6, WS 3, WS 21, ES 17, ES 18, ES 19, ES 20, ES 21, WS 22, ES 23, ES 24, ES 25, ES 26, ES 27, ES 28, ES 29, ES 30, ES 31, ES 32, ES 33, ES 34, ES 35, ES 36 AND ES 37. Policy RL 6 identifies that forestry development within the County will be progressed with environmental considerations with an aim to increase broadleaf woodland cover. Similarly, RL 7 identifies the objective to promote the use of existing forestry resources as recreational hubs. There are no provisions related to fish farming within the Plan these threats are identified in the downstream reaches of the SAC to which are outside the boundaries of the plan. Similarly, there are no provisions for leisure fishing with the Plan provisions; moreover, leisure fishing in Ireland is strictly controlled by IFI using a monitored licencing process therefore there are no likely significant effects identified in this regard. There are a number of Policy Objectives in the plan relating to the protection of peatlands such as LCA 23, LCA 24, LCA 25, LCA 26, LCA 27, BNH 31, BNH 32, BNH 33, BNH 34, BNH 35, BNH 36, BNH 37 and BNH 6. Development Management Standard DM HS 19 identifies that residential developments will be required to produce a landscape plan which includes consideration with regard to invasive species management. Policy Objective BNH 5 requires that Screening for AAs and AAs to be undertaken take into account invasive species as relevant.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
002256	Ballyprior Grassland SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are removal of hedges and coppices or scrub, fertilisation, restructuring agricultural land holding, grazing, mowing or cutting of grassland, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Forest replanting.</p> <p>These pressures relate to agriculture, habitat connectivity, forestry and recreation. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: BNH 1; BNH 2; BNH 3; BNH 4; and BNH 5. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing will be managed through Policy Objectives such as BNH 17, BNH 18, BNH 19, BNH 20, BNH 20 and BNH 22. Furthermore, habitat connectivity will be maintained through Policy Objectives such as BNH 15, LCA 17, LCA 18, LCA 19, LCA 25 BNH 20, BNH 21, BNH 22, BNH 23, BNH 24, BNH 25, BNH 26, BNH 27, BNH 28, BNH 29, and BNH 30. There are no provisions in the plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities however Policy Objectives contained within the plan, such as ES 32 and ES 33, ensure that intensive agriculture and agricultural run-off will be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; ABT 6, WS 3, WS 21, ES 17, ES 18, ES 19, ES 20, ES 21, WS 22, ES 23, ES 24, ES 25, ES 26, ES 27, ES 28, ES 29, ES 30, ES 31, ES 32, ES 33, ES 34, ES 35, ES 36 AND ES 37. . Policy RL 6 identifies that forestry development within the County will be progressed with environmental considerations with an aim to increase broadleaf woodland cover. Similarly, RL 7 identifies the objective to promote the use of existing forestry resources as recreational hubs. The Plan details a number of provisions relating to tourism and recreation, specifically but not limited to chapters 5 Quality of life and 8 Tourism; there are a number of provisions to ensure recreational pressures are addressed such as NRPO 4, NRPO 7, NRPO 13, ABT 6, TM 15, CH 2 (see table 5.1 for a full list of Policy Objectives).</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name <sup>34</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>35, 36</sup>
002332	Coolrain Bog SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are mechanical removal of peat, garbage and solid waste, invasive non-native species, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, Burning down, other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, silviculture, forestry.</p> <p>These threats relate to forestry, hydrological interactions, peat extraction, waste disposal and invasive species. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: BNH 1; BNH 2; BNH 3; BNH 4; and BNH 5. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; ABT 6, WS 3, WS 21, ES 17, ES 18, ES 19, ES 20, ES 21, WS 22, ES 23, ES 24, ES 25, ES 26, ES 27, ES 28, ES 29, ES 30, ES 31, ES 32, ES 33, ES 34, ES 35, ES 36 AND ES 37. There are no provisions in the plan that provide for garage or solid waste being introduced to the SAC therefore there are no sources for effects. However, the plan does promote sustainable waste management and aims to minimise waste for future developments within the lifetime of the plan (e.g. HPO 14 and DMHS 11). Policy RL 6 identifies that forestry development within the County will be progressed with environmental considerations with an aim to increase broadleaf woodland cover. Similarly, RL 7 identifies the objective to promote the use of existing forestry resources as recreational hubs. There are a number of Policy Objectives in the plan relating to the protection of peatlands such as LCA 23, LCA 24, LCA 25, LCA 26, LCA 27, BNH 31, BNH 32, BNH 33, BNH 34, BNH 35, BNH 36, BNH 37 and BNH 6. There are no provisions in the plan that provide for garage or solid waste being introduced to the SAC therefore there are no sources for effects. However, the plan does promote sustainable waste management and aims to minimise waste for future developments within the lifetime of the plan (e.g. HPO 14 and DMHS 11). Development Management Standard DM HS 19 identifies that residential developments will be required to produce a landscape plan which includes consideration with regard to invasive species management. Policy Objective BNH 5 requires that Screening for AAs and AAs to be undertaken take into account invasive species as relevant.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
002333	Knockacoller Bog SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, non-intensive horse grazing, burning down, biocenotic evolution, succession, mining and quarrying.</p> <p>No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: BNH 1; BNH 2; BNH 3; BNH 4; and BNH 5. There are no provisions in the plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities however Policy Objectives contained within the plan, such as ES 32 and ES 33, ensure that intensive agriculture and agricultural run-off will be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; ABT 6, WS 3, WS 21, ES 17, ES 18, ES 19, ES 20, ES 21, WS 22, ES 23, ES 24, ES 25, ES 26, ES 27, ES 28, ES 29, ES 30, ES 31, ES 32, ES 33, ES 34, ES 35, ES 36 AND ES 37. The Plan details a number of provisions relating to tourism and recreation, specifically but not limited to chapters 5 Quality of life and 8 Tourism; there are a number of provisions to ensure recreational pressures are addressed such as NRPO 4, NRPO 7, NRPO 13, ABT 6, TM 15, CH 2 (see table 5.1 for a full list of Policy Objectives). Mining and quarrying Policy Objectives such as RL 14, ensure that GSI-ICF Quarrying Guidelines are followed and AA considerations are made.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
004160	Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are dispersed habitation, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, grazing, roads, motorways, peat extraction, silviculture, forestry.</p> <p>These pressures relate to agriculture, land use management, habitat connectivity, forestry and recreation. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: ATB 3, BNH 1; BNH 2; BNH 3; BNH 4; and BNH 5. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing will be managed through Policy Objectives such as BNH 17, BNH 18, BNH 19, BNH 20, BNH 20 and BNH 22. Furthermore, habitat connectivity will be maintained through Policy Objectives such as BNH 15, LCA 17, LCA 18, LCA 19, LCA 25 BNH 20, BNH 21, BNH 22, BNH 23, BNH 24, BNH 25, BNH 26, BNH 27, BNH 28, and BNH 29. The Plan details a number of provisions relating to tourism and recreation, specifically but not limited to chapters 5 Quality of life and 8 Tourism; there are a number of provisions to ensure recreational pressures are addressed such as NRPO 4, NRPO 7, NRPO 13, ABT 6, TM 15, CH 2 (see table 5.1 for a full list of Policy Objectives). There are a number of Policy Objectives in the plan relating to the protection of peatlands such as LCA 23, LCA 24, LCA 25, LCA 26, LCA 27, BNH 31, BNH 32, BNH 33, BNH 34, BNH 35, BNH 36, BNH 37 and BNH 6. Policy RL 6 identifies that forestry development within the County will be progressed with environmental considerations with an aim to increase broadleaf woodland cover. Similarly, RL 7 identifies the objective to promote the use of existing forestry resources as recreational hubs.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
004233	River Nore SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, port areas.</p> <p>These threats and pressures relate to the coastal areas of the SPA which are outside of the plan boundary. However, the SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects through noise pollution which are mitigated for by Policy Objectives such as ES 43, ES 44, ES 45, ES 46, ES 47, ES 48, and ES 49.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

## Section 5 Mitigation Measures

This section outlines measures that have been incorporated into the Draft Plan in order to mitigate against potential effects to European Sites as identified above. The Draft Plan was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European Site from implementation of the Plan. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European Sites are identified in Table 5.1 below. Some of these measures, many of which were integrated into the current 2017-2023 Plan through the SEA and AA processes for that Plan, have been retained and/or updated.

Some of the key text integrated into the Plan as a direct result of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and AA recommendations for the Draft Plan 2021-2027 are detailed on Table 5.2.

**Table 5.1 Mitigation Measures that will protect European sites<sup>37</sup>**

Component <sup>38</sup>	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
<b>Biodiversity and flora and fauna</b>	<p>CS 17 Promote higher densities at appropriate locations, owing to position on public transport network where appropriate to do so having regard to Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas (DEHLG, 2009) and ensure that any plan or project associated with the provision of new housing is subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in compliance with the Habitats Directive, and subsequent assessment as required.</p> <p>CS 21 Promote higher densities at appropriate locations, owing to position on public transport network where appropriate to do so having regard to Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas (DEHLG, 2009) and ensure that any plan or project associated with the provision of new housing is subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in compliance with the Habitats Directive, and subsequent assessment as required;</p> <p>CA ST 1 Protect and enhance the County’s floodplains subject to flooding as “green infrastructure” where appropriate and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive;</p> <p>RH 4 Provide for sustainable rural housing in the County in accordance with the Sustainable Rural Housing: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2005) , EPA Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment Systems for Single Houses (2009) and ensure that any plan or project associated with the provision of new housing is subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in compliance with the Habitats Directive, and subsequent assessment as required;</p> <p>NRPO 4 Prepare an Open Space Plan for the County having regard to the town parks, riverside walks and other amenity spaces and resources and ensure that any plan or project associated with open space planning or tourism is subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in compliance with the Habitats Directive, and subsequent assessment as required</p> <p>NRPO 7 Investigate the feasibility of the following specific recreation and leisure projects subject to the Habitats and Birds Directives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the ongoing development of an athletic track, including provision of dressing rooms and tartan resurface in Portlaoise;</li> <li>• Investigate and facilitate where appropriate the provision of strategic greenways throughout the County.</li> </ul> <p>NRPO 13 Facilitate the development of greenways / blueways along the main waterways through the County – Grand Canal, River Barrow and River Nore and their tributaries subject to the Habitats and Birds Directives and the proper planning and development of the areas</p> <p>ABT 2 Support in principle and investigate the feasibility of, subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directive, developing and marketing off-road Slieve Bloom Mountain Biking Trail by Coillte, Mountmellick –Portlaoise – Abbeyleix Greenway and Durrow Green Network Cycle Trail in co-operation with relevant stakeholders including Durrow Development Forum.</p> <p>ABT 3 Develop on-road cycle trails in the Slieve Blooms along existing lightly-trafficked roads in partnership with cycling clubs, Offaly County Council, Laois Sports Partnership, Laois Partnership Company and the National Trails Office, subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directive</p> <p>ABT 6 Promote and investigate the feasibility of, subject to compliance with the habitats and Birds Directives, sustainable developing and improving of facilities and infrastructure supporting water based tourism activities, (including shore side interpretive centres and jetties). Development proposals outside settlement centres will be required to demonstrate a need to locate in the area and will be required to ensure that the ecological integrity and water quality of the river or lake, including lakeshore and riparian habitats, is not adversely affected by the development</p> <p>TM 15</p>

<sup>37</sup> For a complete assessment of the Plan, against all environmental components (These components comprise biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors), refer to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report.

<sup>38</sup> The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of water could beneficially impact upon the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, for example. All of the measures included in this table would benefit the protection of European sites.

Component <sup>38</sup>	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the Plan shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate</p> <p>CH 2 Take responsibility for the development of a more sustainable tourism industry which minimises adverse impacts on local communities, the built heritage, landscapes, habitats and species; leaving them undiminished as a resource for future generations, while supporting social and economic prosperity</p> <p>Support the development and marketing of the Barrow Blueway and facilitate related commercial opportunities in Vicarstown, Portarlinton, Graiguecullen and Portlaoise, subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive</p> <p>NH 2 Support the development and marketing of the Erkina River Blueway in association with all relevant stakeholders and facilitate related commercial opportunities in the area, subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directive</p> <p>NH 3 Promote and facilitate the continued development of the Slieve Bloom Mountains bike trail as a key tourism asset for the County and as part of the tourism offer on the Slieve Bloom Mountains, in conjunction with Offaly County Council.</p> <p>In addition, it is the Council policy to (i) promote the further development of walking trails on the mountains, (ii) connect to and develop Clonaslee, Camross, Coolrain and Rosnalis as a service hubs for the area and (iii) promote and facilitate links to / from other existing and proposed greenways, blueways and peatways (iv) Support the development of visitor centre facilities in Baunreagh, , subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directive</p> <p>RL 2 Facilitate the development of agriculture while ensuring that natural waters, wildlife habitats and conservation areas are protected from pollution.</p> <p>RL 7 Encourage, subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives, access to forestry including private forestry for amenity and educational purposes including the provision of walking routes, cycling routes, mountain biking routes, mountain trails, nature trails and orienteering;</p> <p>RL 14 Support in principle the expansion of the aggregates and concrete products industry which offers opportunity for employment and economic development generally subject to environmental , traffic and planning considerations and ensure that any plan or project associated with extractive industry is subject to Appropriate assessment screening in compliance with the Habitats Direction and subsequent assessment as required , applicants for planning permission shall have regard to the GSI-ICF Quarrying Guidelines;</p> <p>TRANS 45 Investigate the feasibility of developing a National Scale Centre for Off-Road Mountain-Biking in the Slieve Bloom Mountains, subject to planning permission &amp; the Habitats’ and Birds Directives;</p> <p>TRANS 47 Continue to audit, maintain and promote walking trails and walking events in the Slieve Blooms, subject to planning permission &amp; the Habitats’ and Birds Directives</p> <p>TRANS 48 Designate the following graded on-road cycling trails in the Slieve Blooms; install related signage and improve road surfaces along these trails, as resources allow; produce trail maps and market the trails , subject to the Habitats’ and Birds Directives;</p> <p>TRANS 52 Establish a new Woodenbridge Walking Trail linking Durrow and Ballacolla, subject to the Habitats’ Directive</p> <p>BNH 15 Encourage, pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, the management of features of the landscape, such as traditional field boundaries and laneways, important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.</p> <p>LCA 17 Maintain the rivers throughout the County whilst ensuring that all works are carried out subject to appropriate environmental assessment in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, in respect of any proposed development likely to have an impact on a designated natural heritage site, site proposed to be designated and any additional sites that may be designated during the period of this Plan</p> <p>LCA 18 Preserve riverside historic features and their landscape settings. Conserve valuable habitats focused on and around river corridors and estuaries including European and national designations</p> <p>LCA 19 Recognise the potential constraints on development created by river flood plains and the value of these flood plains as increasingly rare habitats</p> <p>LCA 24 Conserve valuable habitats including any European and national designations</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Biodiversity and Designated Sites</b></p> <p>BNH 1 Protect, conserve, and seek to enhance the County’s biodiversity and ecological connectivity</p> <p>BNH 2 Conserve and protect habitats and species listed in the Annexes of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended) and the Flora Protection Orders.</p> <p>BNH 3 Support and co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage proposed or designated sites in order to achieve their conservation objectives.</p> <p>BNH 4 Protect and maintain the conservation value of all existing and future Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites, Wildfowl Sanctuaries and Biogenetic Reserves in the County.</p> <p>BNH 5 Projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects)<sup>39</sup>. Screening for AAs and AAs undertaken shall take into account invasive species as relevant.</p> <p>BNH 6 Assess, in accordance with the relevant legislation, all proposed developments which are likely to have a significant effect (directly or through indirect or cumulative impact) on designated natural heritage sites, sites proposed for designation and protected species.</p> <p>BNH 7 Protect Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) from developments that would adversely affect their special interests.</p> <p>BNH 8 Recognise and protect the significant geological value of sites in County Laois and safeguard these sites, in consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland and in accordance with the National Heritage Plan and “Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry”.</p> <p>BNH 9 Engage with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to ensure Integrated Management Plans are prepared for all Natura sites (or parts thereof) and ensure that plans are fully integrated with the County Development Plan and other plans and programmes, with the intention that such plans are practical, achievable and sustainable and have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and economic considerations and with special regard to local communities.</p> <p>BNH 10 Support the objectives of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 by encouraging the planting of pollinator friendly trees and plants within grass verges along public roads and existing and future greenways, new hedgerows, public parks and public open spaces in towns and villages, including part of mixed use and residential developments</p> <p>BNH 11 Support measures to protect Swift population such as the creation of Swift nest cavities in all new commercial and public buildings (schools/libraries, etc).</p> <p>Development Management Standard for Designated Sites</p>

<sup>39</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Component <sup>38</sup>	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p><b>Policy Objectives for Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows</b></p> <p>BNH 17 Undertake a study within the lifetime of the Plan and for all Local Area Plans to document and map trees and groups of trees that require preservation and prepare Tree Preservation Orders for individual trees, groups of trees or woodland areas where expedient and in the interests of visual amenity, biodiversity and the environment.</p> <p>BNH 18 Protect individual trees, groups of trees and woodland in the interests of landscape conservation (including townscapes) and nature conservation as part of the development management process</p> <p>BNH 19 Protect existing hedgerows, particularly of historical and archaeological importance of townland boundaries, from unnecessary removal in order to preserve the rural character of the countryside and promote biodiversity</p> <p>BNH 20 Ensure that hedgerow removal to facilitate development is kept to an absolute minimum and, where unavoidable, a requirement for mitigation planting will be required comprising a hedge of similar length and species composition to the original, established as close as is practicable to the original and where possible linking in to existing adjacent hedges. Native plants of a local provenance should be used for any such planting</p> <p>BNH 21 Promote and develop urban forests in parkland and street trees in urban settlements to enhance public realm and increase tree canopy coverage and diversity.</p> <p>BNH 22 Ensure that hedgerow and mature tree removal to facilitate development is kept to an absolute minimum and, where unavoidable, a requirement for mitigation planting will be required comprising a hedge of similar length and species composition to the original, established as close as is practicable to the original and where possible linking in to existing adjacent hedges. Native plants of a local provenance should be used for any such planting</p> <p><b>Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows Development Management Standards</b></p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Waterways and Wetlands</b></p> <p>BNH 23 Protect waterbodies and watercourses from inappropriate development, to ensure they are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values and to conserve and enhance where possible, the wildlife habitats of the County's rivers and riparian zones, lakes, canals and streams which occur outside of designated areas to provide a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the County.</p> <p>BNH 24 Promote and develop the Barrow Blueway initiative and work with State Agencies, landowners, local communities and other relevant groups to protect and manage inland waters, river corridors and their floodplains from degradation and damage, and to recognise and promote them as natural assets of the urban and rural environment</p> <p>BNH 25 Facilitate the development of the Grand Canal for cycling, walking and nature study. Investigate the possibility of developing long distance walking routes/Greenway, within the lifetime of the Plan, along the disused Mountmellick Grand Canal Line.</p> <p>BNH 26 Protect riparian corridors by reserving land along their banks for ecological corridors and maintain them free from inappropriate development. Where developments are proposed adjacent to waterways in previously undeveloped areas, the Planning Authority will require a general setback distance of a minimum of 10 metres from the waterways edge, subject to site-specific characteristics and the nature and design of the development. In previously developed areas, for example, within town centres, this general setback distance is likely to be reduced and should be part of any pre-planning consultations with the Council.</p> <p>BNH 27 Require that development along rivers set aside lands for pedestrian routes and cycleways that could link to the broader area and established settlements in the area.</p> <p>BNH 28 Provide for public access to waterways where feasible and appropriate, in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Waterways Ireland and other relevant stakeholders, whilst maintaining them free from inappropriate development, subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, as appropriate.</p> <p>BNH 29 Protect the Nore Pearl Mussel through the measures set out in the Freshwater Pearl Mussel Nore Sub-Basin Management Plan (2009).</p> <p>BNH 30 Protect the migration of fish in the River Barrow Nore SAC from high risk barriers such as weirs and bridge sills.</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Peatlands</b></p> <p>BNH 31 The County Development will continue to support the objectives of the Strategic Framework for the Future use of Peatlands which identifies new potential future land uses and also seek to progress opportunities under Just Transition Fund.</p> <p>BNH 32 Protect the County's designated peatland areas and landscapes and to conserve their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational heritage.</p> <p>BNH 33 Work with relevant agencies such as Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Bord na Mona, NPWS, Coillte and adjacent Local Authorities to prepare an integrated afteruse framework and management plans for the peatlands and related infrastructure,</p> <p>BNH 34 Support the preparation of a Sustainable Holistic Management Plan for the future use of the Industrial Peatlands in the County, which recognises the role of peatlands in carbon sequestration.</p> <p>BNH 35 Support the designation of a National Park for the peatlands area in the Midlands in conjunction with adjoining Local Authorities.</p> <p>BNH 36 Undertake a feasibility study to identify peatways, where appropriate and examine the tourist potential of same such as a peatway link from Portarlinton to the Grand Canal and River Barrow Greenway.</p> <p>BNH 37 Support relevant agencies to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of large industrial peatlands at Cuil Na Mona.</p> <p><b>Development Management Standard for Peatlands</b></p> <p><b>Light Pollution Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>ES 49 Ensure that external lighting and lighting schemes are designed so that light spillage is minimised, thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties and wildlife, including protected species</p> <p>ES 51 Encourage the maintenance of dark skies in rural areas and limit light pollution in urban and rural areas</p> <p>ES 52 Encourage the maintenance of dark skies in rural areas and limit light pollution in urban and rural areas</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>BNH 11 Ensure that areas and networks of Green Infrastructure are identified, protected, enhanced, managed and created to provide a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits to communities.</p> <p>BNH 12 Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Laois in partnership with key stakeholders and the public which reflects a long-term perspective, including the need to adapt to climate change. Ensure the Green Infrastructure Strategy for Laois protects existing Green Infrastructure resources and plans for future Green Infrastructure provision</p> <p>BNH 13 Require all Local Area Plans and Master Plans to protect, enhance, provide and manage Green Infrastructure in an integrated and coherent manner. Set targets for the provision of Green Infrastructure elements such as trees and green roofs as part of the preparation of Local Area Plans.</p> <p>BNH 14 Promote a network of paths and cycle tracks to enhance accessibility to the Green Infrastructure network, while ensuring that the design and operation of the routes respect and where possible enhances the ecological potential of each site</p> <p>BNH 15 Encourage, pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, the management of features of the landscape, such as traditional field boundaries and laneways, important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.</p> <p>BNH 16 To identify and map Green Infrastructure assets and sites of local biodiversity value over the lifetime of the Plan.</p>

Component <sup>38</sup>	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
Water	<p>ABT 6 Promote and investigate the feasibility of, subject to compliance with the habitats and Birds Directives, sustainable developing and improving of facilities and infrastructure supporting water based tourism activities, (including shore side interpretive centres and jetties). Development proposals outside settlement centres will be required to demonstrate a need to locate in the area and will be required to ensure that the ecological integrity and water quality of the river or lake, including lakeshore and riparian habitats, is not adversely affected by the development</p> <p>WS 3 Protect both ground and surface water resources and to work with Irish Water to develop and roll-out Drinking Water Safety Plans across all water schemes to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchments and to ensure that good water quality is sustained in all public water supplies.</p> <p>WS 21 Continue to draw up and implement annual programmes for the monitoring of water quality in Group Water Schemes in accordance with the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014, as amended and as approved by the EPA.</p> <p><b>Water Quality Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>ES 17 Implement the provisions of water pollution abatement measures in accordance with National and EU Directives and other legislative requirements in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate</p> <p>ES 18 Maintain and improve the water quality in rivers and other water courses in the County, including ground waters. The Council will have cognizance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>ES 19 Minimise the impact on groundwater of discharges from domestic wastewater treatment systems and other potentially polluting sources. The Council will comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 'Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses' (2009) and the Environmental Protection Agency's 'Code for Treatment Systems for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels'</p> <p>ES 20 Assist and support with the Blue Dots Catchment Programme which been established under the current River Basin Management Plan specifically for the protection and restoration of high ecological status water bodies</p> <p>ES 21 Ensure the protection of all High Status Water Bodies in the County by complying with the requirements of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977, (as amended), the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009, the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010; which standards and objectives are included in the River Basin Management Plans, and other relevant Regulations.</p> <p>WS 22 Ensure where private wastewater treatment systems are permitted by virtue of their remoteness from Public Wastewater Schemes to serve commercial and business developments, e.g Motorway Service Stations, Tourism and the Hospitality Sector etc, that their performance is monitored and audited so that they are operated in compliance with their wastewater discharge license, in order to protect water quality.</p> <p><b>Groundwater Protection Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>ES 23 Ensure, through the implementation of the relevant River Basin Management Plan and their associated Programmes of Measures and any other associated legislation, the protection and improvement of all drinking water, surface water and ground waters throughout the County</p> <p>ES 24 Protect and develop, in a sustainable manner, the existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the County and control development in a manner consistent with the proper management of these resources, in accordance with the County Water Source Protection Zones</p> <p>ES 25 Assist and co-operate with the EPA, LAWPRO and IW in the continued implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive</p> <p>ES 26 Minimise the impact on groundwater of discharges from septic tanks and other potentially polluting sources through compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's 'Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses' (2009).</p> <p>ES 27 Ensure the protection of groundwater dependant Natura 2000 sites which rely on the continued supply of groundwater resources to secure the key environmental conditions that support the integrity of the site and through the protection of groundwater standards as defined by the National River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 2021 (and any subsequent Plan). Where no detailed Plan for protection of a specific source is available wastewater discharge will not be permitted within a radius of 200 metres of that source</p> <p>ES 28 Ensure that Source Protection Areas are identified for any public and group scheme water supplies or multiple unit housing developments with private water supplies;</p> <p>ES 29 Continue efforts to improve water quality under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977, (as amended) and by implementing the measures outlined under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and complying with the requirements of the Surface Water Legislation Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009, the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010; which standards and objectives are included in the River Basin Management Plans, and other relevant Regulations</p> <p>ES 30 Ensure that all industrial development is appropriately located, to seek effluent reduction and 'clean production' where feasible, and require that waste water treatment facilities are adequate, and that effluents are treated and discharged in a satisfactory manner</p> <p>ES 31 New developments which include on-site wastewater treatment in an Extreme Vulnerability Inner Source Protection Area shall be restricted to the following categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A dwelling for a full-time farmer;</li> <li>b) An existing inhabited dwelling in need of replacement;</li> <li>c) A second family dwelling on a farm where this is required for management of the farm</li> </ol> <p>Permission may be granted in the above instances subject to the following stipulations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) That an alternative site outside the Extreme vulnerability Inner Protection Area is not available</li> </ol>

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Component <sup>38</sup>	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>b) The existing water quality of the source is not subject to any significant nitrate and /or microbiological contamination</p> <p>c) The existing water quality of the groundwater source is in compliance with the environmental objectives set out in relevant River Basin District Management Plan.</p> <p>ES 32 Control intensive agriculture development e.g. intensive pig unit productions in order to minimise their impact on soil and ground water quality. Developments involving intensive pig units shall be required to show compliance with the following requirements:</p> <p>a) The developer shall demonstrate that all lands available are suitable for landspreading of manures and have satisfactory Nutrient Management Plans for such lands</p> <p>b) Satisfactory arrangements for storage, management and spreading of slurries are provided.</p> <p>ES 33 Encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets, European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2017, as amended and comply with the relevant River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>ES 34 Consult as necessary with other competent authorities with responsibility for environmental management</p> <p>ES 35 To work in co-operation with relevant organisations and major stakeholders, to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the protection and improvement of the County's water resources</p> <p>ES 36 Ensure that developments that may adversely affect water quality will not proceed unless mitigation measures are employed, such as settlements ponds, interceptors etc</p> <p>ES 37 Promote public awareness of water quality issues and the measures required to protect both surface water and groundwater bodies</p>
Air (Noise)	<p><b>Noise Pollution Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>ES 43 Require an assessment of impact of the developments on noise levels, having regard to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003 and the EPA Noise Regulations 1994 when assessing planning applications</p> <p>ES 44 Support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006</p> <p>ES 45 Ensure that relevant planning applications comply with the provisions of any Noise Action Plan or noise maps relating to the area.</p> <p>ES 46 Restrict development proposals causing noise pollution in excess of best practice standards</p> <p>ES 47 Regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise, other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA.</p> <p>ES 48 Ensure new development does not cause an unacceptable increase in noise levels affecting noise sensitive properties. Proposals for new development with the potential to create excessive noise will be required to submit a construction and/or operation management plan to control such emissions.</p> <p>ES 49 Require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures and monitors. The provision of a noise audit may be required where appropriate</p>
Material Assets (Waste Water)	<p><b>Public Wastewater Objectives</b></p> <p>WS14 Support and facilitate social and economic growth in line with National, Regional and Local spatial planning policy and the Core Strategy in Chapter 2 of this plan through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure 1: Facilitate Growth: Wastewater Growth Programme: - Upgrade to the Portlaoise WWTP – phase 1 as proposed in the Feasibility Study. Roll-out agreed priorities for IWs Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme 2020 to 2024 and subsequent Programmes.</li> <li>• Measure 2: Network and Treatment Programmes: Roll-out improvements to network in Portlaoise WW Network as identified in the Portlaoise Drainage Area Plan (DAP). Complete DPAs for Portarlinton and Mountmellick Wastewater Networks and complete modeling for improvements to these networks.</li> <li>• Measure 3: Irish Water Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme Under IWs Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme 2020 to 2024 and subsequent programmes agree priorities for delivering upgrades/replacements of WWTPs with insufficient headroom or plants that are non-compliant and damaging to the receiving environment so as to enhance and provide for growth in small towns and villages throughout the County.</li> </ul> <p>WS 15 Work in conjunction with Irish Water and with the DHPLG during the lifetime of the plan for the provision, extension and upgrading of waste water collection and treatment systems in the County that have existing facilities to serve existing populations and facilitate sustainable development of those towns, in accordance with the requirements of the Settlement Strategy and associated Core Strategy. In particular</p> <p>A. Wastewater Discharge Authorisation Compliance (EPA Licensed Plants)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Complete upgrade to Portlaoise – phase 1 as proposed in the Feasibility Study;</li> <li>ii. Upgrades to Ballinakill;</li> <li>iii. Ballyroan – Phase 3, 4 and 5;</li> <li>iv. Castletown – Sludge and Storm Tank Programmes;</li> <li>v. Mountmellick – Ortho P and Ammonia Compliance</li> </ol> <p>B. Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive Compliance: Complete upgrades to COA WWTPs (plants with &lt;500pe design) under the National Certificate of Authorisation Programme (NCAP) on a priority basis as agreed with the Local Authority.</p> <p>WS 16 Promote use of wetland systems for treatment of waste-water in accordance with Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidelines "Integrated Constructed Wetlands –Guidance Document for Farmyard Soiled Water and Domestic Wastewater Applications" [2010].</p>

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Component <sup>38</sup>	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>WS 17 Deliver Energy efficient Capital Programmes where appropriate and as follows</p> <p>i. Borris-in-Ossory – Install Fine Bubble Diffused Aeration</p> <p>WS 18 Work in accordance with IW/LA MoU and Protocol on an agreed programme with LA planning to take in charge private housing estates Wastewater Infrastructure and transfer assets to IW.</p> <p><b>Rural Water and Wastewater Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>WS 19 Work in conjunction with the NFGWSs and with the support and funding of the DHPLG by way of the Rural Water Multi-Annual Programme 2019 to 2021 and subsequent programmes to - through various measures - improve the quality, reliability and efficiency of water services for rural dwellers where Irish Water services are not available and thereby sustain and enhance the social, economic and future prosperity of the rural water sector.</p> <p>WS 20 Support, monitor, advise and administer Group Water Schemes on behalf of the DHPLG in conjunction with the NFGWSs by implementation of Source Protection Works, Water Treatment Improvements, Amalgamation/Rationalisation of schemes and administering of Capital Replacement Costs</p> <p>WS 21 Continue to draw up and implement annual programmes for the monitoring of water quality in Group Water Schemes in accordance with the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014, as amended and as approved by the EPA.</p> <p>WS 22 Embed water conservation at the heart of water policy through prioritising resource management, abstraction control, source protection, tackling leakage and encouraging behavioural change.</p> <p>WS 23 Promoting water conservation and water resource management reflected in investment for leak detection and repair, network improvements, cost effective metering and awareness campaigns among the GWS.</p> <p>WS 24 Ensuring that rural water services investment decisions are aligned with the broad strategic aims of Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework and Improve the resilience of rural water supplies by supporting the implementation of the following measures:</p> <p>a) New Group Water Schemes and extensions</p> <p>b) Transition of Group Water and Group Sewerage schemes to the Public (Irish Water) Water Sector</p> <p>c) Community Connections (Water &amp; Wastewater) Networks</p> <p>d) Innovation and Research.</p> <p>WS 25 Ensure that the scheme relating to private wells is administered effectively and that improvements to sources and/or treatment works are carried out in accordance with IW and EPA standards</p> <p>WS 26 Work in conjunction with stakeholders through various measures to improve the quality, reliability and efficiency of water services for consumers of Small Private Supplies where Irish Water services are not available and thereby sustain and enhance the social, economic and future prosperity of the rural water sector.</p> <p>WS 27 Support, monitor, advise and raise awareness among owner/operators of SPSs of their duties as water suppliers under the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 as amended to ensure that a safe and dependable water supply is available to those persons who avail of the service (Customers/service users/children etc).</p> <p>WS 28 Collaborate with stakeholders including LA Water and Environmental Services staff, the HSE, LEO staff, Laois Chamber, representatives from the educational, tourist, childcare and hospitality sectors to raise awareness among their members of the duties of the Owners/Operators in relation to the provision of clean and wholesome drinking water</p> <p>WS 29 Maintain and update its register of SPSs and will focus their enforcement powers on those schemes that are non-compliant with the Drinking Water Regulations by carrying out Audits on these schemes and by further enforcement measures if improvements are not implemented. Where the option exists to connect to a public water supply, the water supplier will be encouraged to make an application to IW for a connection.</p>
Tourism	<p>TM 15 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the Plan shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>TM 16 It is a Policy Objective to ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>DM TM 1 A comprehensive justification of the need for the development by its nature and space requirements to be located outside towns and villages, for example, golf courses, swimming, angling, sailing/boating, pier/marina development, water sports, equestrian and pony trekking routes, adventure/interpretative centres and associated ancillary uses, tourist related leisure facilities including walking and cycling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact upon the scenic value, heritage value and the environmental, ecological or conservation quality of primary tourism asset(s) and its their general environment.</li> <li>• Evidence that potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes have been considered and mitigation measures proposed. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</li> </ul> <p>TI 1 Encourage and promote tourism related facilities and accommodation within existing settlements and in rural areas where there is a clear and demonstrated need and benefits to the local community and where the development is compatible with the policies set out for the protection of the environment.</p> <p>ABT 1 Support the development of the amenities and recreational potential of the River Barrow, in co-operation with the National Parks and Wildlife Services, Irish Water, adjoining Councils and other relevant authorities.</p> <p>ABT 2 Support in principle and investigate the feasibility of, subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directive, developing and marketing off-road Slieve Bloom Mountain Biking Trail by Coillte, Mountmellick –Portlaoise – Abbeyleix Greenway and Durrow Green Network Cycle Trail in co-operation with relevant stakeholders including Durrow Development Forum.</p> <p>ABT 3 Develop on-road cycle trails in the Slieve Blooms along existing lightly-trafficked roads in partnership with cycling clubs, Offaly County Council, Laois Sports Partnership, Laois Partnership Company and the National Trails Office, subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directive.</p> <p>ABT 6 Promote and investigate the feasibility of, subject to compliance with the habitats and Birds Directives, sustainable developing and improving of facilities and infrastructure supporting water based tourism activities, (including shore side interpretive centres and jetties). Development proposals outside settlement centres will be required to demonstrate a need to locate in the area and will be required to ensure that the ecological integrity and water quality of the river or lake, including lakeshore and riparian habitats, is not adversely affected by the development.</p>

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Component <sup>38</sup>	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
Agriculture	<p>RL 1 Maintain a vibrant and healthy agricultural sector based on the principles of sustainable development whilst at the same time finding alternative employment in or close to rural areas to sustain rural communities.</p> <p>RL 2 Facilitate the development of agriculture while ensuring that natural waters, wildlife habitats and conservation areas are protected from pollution.</p> <p>RL 3 Work with the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly and other relevant stakeholders in identifying areas of high value agricultural land in the County to address the need for sustainable food supplies.</p>
Forestry	<p>RL 6 Support In principle the appropriate expansion of the forestry sector and related manufacturing activities subject to environmental, traffic and planning considerations; support an increase in the broadleaf component of any planting programme to a minimum of 33%.</p> <p>RL 7 Encourage, subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives, access to forestry including private forestry for amenity and educational purposes including the provision of walking routes, cycling routes, mountain biking routes, mountain trails, nature trails and orienteering.</p>
Peatlands	<p>LCA 23 Recognise the importance of peatlands for ecology, history, culture and for alternative energy production.</p> <p>LCA 24 Conserve valuable habitats including any European and national designations.</p> <p>LCA 25 Support the identification of projects that have the potential to achieve commercial value such as industrial developments, renewable energy, tourism developments etc. while at the same time promoting high environmental standards and supporting Biodiversity objectives.</p> <p>LCA 26 Support the restoration of peatlands on suitable sites.</p> <p>LCA 27 Recognise that intact boglands are critical natural resources for ecological and environmental reasons and recognise that cutaway and cut-over boglands represent degraded landscapes and/or brownfield sites and thus are potentially robust to absorb a variety of appropriate developments.</p> <p>CA LU 3 Support restoration of peat bogs when turf cutting has ceased and take into account relevant recommendations from the National Peatlands Strategy when implementing the Plan.</p> <p>CM LU 2 Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, climate regulation, archaeological, cultural and educational significance.</p> <p>DM BNH 6 In the consideration of development on or adjacent to peatland areas, the following guiding principles should apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of the potential contribution of peatlands to climate change mitigation and adaptation including renewable energy production; Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027: Draft Stage Chapter 13 Development Management Standards 402</li> <li>• Consideration of habitats and species of environmental significance;</li> <li>• Consideration of the potential contribution of peatlands to an existing or proposed greenway / blueway / peatway network;</li> <li>• Consideration of the ecosystem services and tourism potential provided by peatlands;</li> <li>• Development of peatlands shall ensure that there are no negative impacts on water quality and hydrology;</li> <li>• Consideration of peatland stability;</li> <li>• Achieving of a carbon emissions balance; and</li> <li>• Incorporation of fire mitigation measures such as fire breaks or ensuring access points and routes are suitable for travel by emergency services</li> </ul>
Climate	<p>CA 1 Support and facilitate European and national objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation as detailed in the following documents, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Action Plan (2019 and any subsequent versions);</li> <li>• National Mitigation Plan (2017 and any subsequent versions);</li> <li>• National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions);</li> <li>• Any Regional Decarbonisation Plan prepared on foot of commitments included in the emerging Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region;</li> <li>• Relevant provisions of any Sectoral Adaptation Plans prepared to comply the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, including those seeking to contribute towards the National Transition Objective, to pursue, and achieve, the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by the end of the year 2050; and</li> <li>• Laois Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024.</li> </ul> <p>CM ST 1 Support construction of green routes/cycleways/pedestrian routes throughout the County.</p> <p>CM ST 2 To support and facilitate the integration of land use with transportation infrastructure, through the development of sustainable compact settlements which are well served by public transport.</p> <p>CM ST 3 To promote higher residential development densities in settlement centres along public transport corridors, that are not located in areas sensitive to flooding, or will increase temperatures of urban areas.</p> <p>CM ST 4 Strengthen public transport linkages and promote their use.</p> <p>CM ST 5</p>

Component <sup>38</sup>	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>Support localisation of jobs/shops/services to minimise the need for most common travel patterns. CM ST 6</p> <p>Support the provision of electricity charging infrastructure for electrical vehicles both on street and in new developments in accordance with car parking standards and best practice. CM ST 7</p> <p>Promote and support the provision of Park-and-Ride facilities which improve public transport accessibility without exacerbating road congestion, or which cause increased car travel distances, at appropriate locations within the County. CM ST 8</p> <p>Deliver, in conjunction with the NTA and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport a Public Transportation Hub in Portlaoise to accommodate national, commuter, regional and local bus services. CA ST 1</p> <p>Protect and enhance the County's floodplains subject to flooding as "green infrastructure" where appropriate and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive. CA ST 4</p> <p>Ensure that applications for new critical infrastructure demonstrate resilience to new climatic conditions. CA BE 3</p> <p>Encourage the use of Green Roof technology particularly on apartment, commercial, leisure and educational buildings. CA BE 8</p> <p>Support efforts to maximise water conservation – i.e rainwater harvesting, etc. CA BE 10</p> <p>Plant drought-resistant plants/ trees in public amenity areas to provide shade and increase green infrastructure linkages. CM BE 1</p> <p>Achieve more compact growth by promoting the development of infill and brownfield/ regeneration sites and the redevelopment of underutilised land within and close to the existing built up footprint of existing settlements in preference to edge of centre locations. CM BE 4</p> <p>Promote sustainable land use planning measures which facilitate transportation efficiency, economic returns on transport investment, minimisation of environmental impacts and a general shift towards the greater use of public transportation throughout the County. CM LU 2</p> <p>Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, climate regulation, archaeological, cultural and educational significance. CM LU 3</p> <p>Support the fulfilment of the vision of carbon neutrality in the agriculture, forest and land use sector through better sustainable agricultural, land management and resource efficiency. CA LU 2</p> <p>Encourage afforestation (where environmentally appropriate) to enhance interception and infiltration of precipitation within river basin catchments. CA LU 3</p> <p>Support restoration of peat bogs when turf cutting has ceased and take into account relevant recommendations from the National Peatlands Strategy when implementing the Plan. CA LU 4</p> <p>Support the creation and enhancement of ecological linkages and buffer zones from development. CA LU 5</p> <p>Support the creation and protection of ecological resilient and varied landscapes to help support a wide range of species. CA LU 6</p> <p>Increase the climate resilience of the built environment through natural greening infrastructure in new developments, such as the use of natural features (e.g. street trees, green roofs, rain gardens etc) and other materials such as permeable paving. CM RE 2</p> <p>Promote and encourage the development of energy from renewable sources such as hydro, bio-energy, wind, solar, geothermal and landfill gas subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria in co-operation with statutory and other energy providers. CM RE 5</p> <p>Promote and facilitate wind energy development in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Wind Energy Development (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government 2019) and the Appendix 5 Wind Energy Strategy of this Plan, and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria. DMRE2</p> <p><b>Wind Energy Development</b> (Refer to Section 6 and Section 7 of Appendix 5 Wind Energy Strategy for the full suite of Development Management Standards)</p> <p>When assessing planning applications for wind energy developments the council will have regard to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The wind energy development guidelines for planning authorities;</li> <li>b) The wind energy strategy designations map for Laois showing areas ( a) Area open for consideration and (b) Areas not deemed suitable</li> </ol> <p>In addition to the above, the following considerations will also be taken into account</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Impact on visual amenity;</li> <li>(ii) Impact on residential amenities;</li> <li>(iii) Scale and layout of the project and the cumulative effects due to other projects and the extent to which the impacts are visible across the local landscape;</li> <li>(iv) Visual impact of the proposal on the protected views and aspects;</li> <li>(v) Impact on nature conservation, ecology, soil, hydrology;</li> <li>(vi) Impact on ground conditions and geology;</li> </ol>

Component <sup>38</sup>	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	(vii) Impact on the road network; Impact on human health in relation to noise disturbance (including consistency with the WHO 2018 Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region, showdown flicker and air quality); Other considerations may be taken into account depending on the site and on a case by case basis.

Table 5.2 identifies some of the key text relevant to European sites that was integrated into the Plan as a direct result of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and AA recommendations for the Draft Plan 2021-2027.

**Table 5.2 Selection of Recommendations from the SEA and AA processes**

Chapter	Recommended Text Integrated into the Plan
	Normal black text like this was already part of the emerging Draft Plan; Green text like this was proposed to be added to the Plan; Red strikethrough text <del>like this</del> was proposed to be deleted from the Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reference to "Natura 2000 sites" changed to "European sites" throughout the document</li> <li>Caveats added under ABT 3, NH 2, NH 3 and NH 1 to ensure consistency with Habitats and/or Birds Directives.</li> </ul>
<b>Chapter 2 Core Strategy For Co Laois</b>	<p><b>2.11 Environment and Ecosystems Services Approach</b></p> <p>The development objectives in the Draft Development Plan are consistent, as far as practicable, with the conservation and protection of the environment. The accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) processes have informed the preparation of the Draft Plan (see Chapter 1: Introduction for a description of these processes and Volume 4 for associated documents detailing the findings). All recommendations made by these processes have been integrated into the Draft Plan and this will contribute towards environmental conservation and protection within the County and beyond.</p> <p>Ecosystems are multifunctional communities of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment. Ecosystems provide a series of services for human well-being (ecosystem services) either directly or indirectly contributing towards human wellbeing. The Ecosystems Services Approach followed by the Plan provides a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.</p> <p>Ecosystem Services Approach principles include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consideration of natural systems - by using knowledge of interactions in nature and how ecosystems function (this has been considered in preparing the Plan including at Chapter 11 "Biodiversity and Natural Heritage")</li> <li>Taking into account of the services that ecosystems provide - including those that underpin social and economic well-being, such as flood and climate regulation (including at Plan Chapter 3 "Climate Action and Energy"), resources for food, fibre or fuel (including at Plan Chapters 3 "Climate Action and Energy" and 9 "Rural Laois"), or recreation, culture and quality of life (including at Plan Chapter 5 "Quality Of Life and Sustainable Communities")</li> <li>Involving people - those who benefit from the ecosystem services and those managing them need to be involved in decisions that affect them. Public consultation has informed the preparation of the Draft Plan which will be further refined before adoption, taking into account submissions/observations made on the Draft Plan during public display.</li> </ol> <p>Natural capital consists of renewable and non-renewable resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals) which need to be managed. In recognition of this, policy objectives have been integrated into the Plan that will contribute towards the management of air quality, noise pollution, light pollution, pollination, flood risk, water bodies and river basins and natural resources supporting energy production and recreation.</p> <p>CS 32 Promote an Ecosystem Services Approach in the preparation of lower-level plans, strategies and Development Management</p> <p>CS 33 Contribute, as practicable, towards achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals<sup>40</sup> of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which came into force in 2016.</p>

<sup>40</sup> Including:

- Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

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Chapter	Recommended Text Integrated into the Plan
<p><b>Chapter 3</b> <b>Climate Action &amp; Energy</b></p>	<p>Normal black text like this was already part of the emerging Draft Plan; Green text like this was proposed to be added to the Plan; Red strikethrough text like this was proposed to be deleted from the Plan</p> <p>NRE 3 Ensure the provision, where feasible, of electricity cables been located underground, especially in the urban environment, and generally within areas of public open space. Where undergrounding of cables is being pursued, proposals should demonstrate that environmental impacts including the following are minimised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat loss as a result of removal of field boundaries and hedgerows (right of way preparation) followed by topsoil stripping (to ensure machinery does not destroy soil structure and drainage properties);</li> <li>Short to medium term impacts on the landscape where, for example, hedgerows are encountered;</li> <li>Impacts on underground archaeology;</li> <li>Impacts on soil structure and drainage; and</li> <li>Impacts on surface waters as a result of sedimentation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter 8</b> <b>Tourism</b></p>	<p>TM 15 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the Plan shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate</p> <p>TM 16 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p>
<p><b>Chapter 10</b> <b>Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>TRANS 15 It is a Policy Objective that where projects for new roads or other linear projects, identified under Sections 8, 10.1.3.5, 10.1.7 and 11, are not already provided for by existing plans/programme or are not already permitted, that the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>ES 18: Maintain and improve the water quality in rivers and other water courses in the County, including ground waters. The Council will have cognizance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p>
<p><b>Chapter 11</b> <b>Biodiversity And Natural Heritage</b></p>	<p>11.2.2 National 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. National legislation includes the following: Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and associated Regulations, European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, <del>the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000</del>, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and the Flora Protection Order 2015.</p> <p>BNH 2 Conserve and protect habitats and species listed in the Annexes of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Wildlife Acts 1976 <b>and 2010</b> (as amended) and the Flora Protection Orders.</p> <p>BNH 5 Projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects)<sup>41</sup>;</p> <p><b>BNH 26</b> Protect riparian corridors by reserving land along their banks for ecological corridors and maintain them free from inappropriate development. Where developments are proposed adjacent to waterways <b>in previously undeveloped areas</b>, the Planning Authority will require a <b>general</b> setback distance of a minimum of 15 metres from the waterways edge, <b>subject to site-specific characteristics and</b> <del>This requirement may be subject to change depending on the nature and design of the development.</del> <b>In previously developed areas, for example, within town centres, this general setback distance is likely to be reduced and should be part of any pre-planning consultations with the Council.</b></p>
<p><b>Volume 2</b></p>	<p>Environmental considerations and imitations in the types of uses There are a wide range of land use types identified under each of the Land Use Zoning Objectives. Proposals for development will need to demonstrate compliance with the various written provisions of the Plan, as relevant, including those relating to environmental protection and management. Environmental considerations, such as those related to elevated levels of flood risk or European site ecological designations, may limit the types of uses that may be possible at certain sites. Prospective applicants are encouraged to engage with the planning authority at the earliest opportunity to seek guidance as to the appropriateness of emerging proposals.</p>

- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

<sup>41</sup> Except as provided for in Section Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

## Section 6 Conclusion

Stage 1 AA Screening and Stage 2 AA of the Draft Laois County Development Plan has been carried out. Implementation of the Draft Plan has the potential to result in effects to the integrity of any European Sites, if unmitigated.

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

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Draft County Laois Development Plan 2021-2027 is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>42</sup>. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

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

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

# Appendix I Background information on European Sites

**List of European Sites considered by the assessment; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity**

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	Desmoulins whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> ) [1016], Geyers whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], Alkaline fens [7230], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion <i>davallianae</i> [7210], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ) [1014]	C01.01, F02.03, A04, E01.03, B, D02.01, F03.01, J01, E03.01	Sand and gravel extraction, Leisure fishing, Grazing, Dispersed habitation, Sylviculture, forestry, Electricity and phone lines, Hunting, Fire and fire suppression, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste
000407	The Loughans SAC	Turloughs [3180]	A04.01.01, A04, A08	Intensive cattle grazing, Grazing, Fertilisation
000412	Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	J02.15, G01.02, J01.01, B02.02, C01, G05.01, K02.01, B02, G01.03.02, I01, A04.03, H05.01	Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Burning down, Forestry clearance, Mining and quarrying, Trampling, overuse, Species composition change (succession), Forest and Plantation management & use, Off-road motorized driving, Invasive non-native species, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Garbage and solid waste
000571	Charleville Wood SAC	Desmoulin`s whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> ) [1016], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0]	G02.09, G01.02, G01, F03.02.04, F03.02.03, B02, F04, F05.04	Wildlife watching, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Predator control, Trapping, poisoning, poaching, Forest and Plantation management & use, Taking or Removal of terrestrial plants, general, Poaching
000572	Clara Bog SAC	Bog woodland (Bog woodland) [91D0], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	C01.01.01, F04, E03.01, J02.10, A08, C01.03, E04.01, J02.15, A05.02, A04.03, X, J01.01, D01.01	Sand and gravel quarries, Taking or Removal of terrestrial plants, general, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, Fertilisation, Peat extraction, Agricultural structures, buildings in the landscape, Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Stock feeding, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, No threats or pressures, Burning down, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks
000582	Raheenmore Bog SAC	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	A02.01, J02.01.03, X	Agricultural intensification, Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, No threats or pressures
000585	Sharavogue Bog SAC	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	I02, J02.15, J01.01, B02.02, A08	Problematic native species, Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Burning down, Forestry clearance, Fertilisation
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> )) [1330], Common seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Twaite shad ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> ) [1103], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Estuaries [1130], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ) [1029]	A01, J02.05.02, A08, F01.03, H01, J02.06.01, A09, K01.01, H01.08, F02.03.01, D03.01.03, F03.02.04, C01.01, A10.01, E05, D01.05, J02, I01, B02, J02.11, H01.05, H01.01, J02.12.02, D01.01, J02.06, E03	Cultivation, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Fertilisation, Bottom culture, Pollution to surface waters (limnic and terrestrial; marine and brackish), Surface water abstractions for agriculture, Irrigation, Erosion, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Bait digging or collection, Fishing harbours, Predator control, Sand and gravel extraction, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Storage of materials, Bridge, viaduct, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Invasive non-native species, Forest and Plantation management & use, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Water abstractions from surface waters, Discharges
000831	Cullahill Mountain SAC	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	A10.01, A03.02, A04.03	Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Non intensive mowing, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing
000849	Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	A08, A04.01, X, A10.01	Fertilisation, Intensive grazing, No threats or pressures, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub
000859	Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC	Geyer`s whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013], Alkaline fens [7230]	H05.01, K02.01, C01.03.02, E01.03, J02.15, J01.01, A04.02.03, J02.05	Garbage and solid waste, Species composition change (succession), Mechanical removal of peat, Dispersed habitation, Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Burning down, Non intensive horse grazing, Modification of hydrographic functioning, general
000869	Lisbigny Bog SAC	Desmoulin`s whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> ) [1016], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion <i>davallianae</i> [7210]	J02.01, E03.01, J01.01, K02.01, E03.03, A04.03, X	Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Burning down, Species composition change (succession), Disposal of inert materials, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, No threats or pressures
000934	Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC	Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe) [6230], European dry heaths [4030]	A10, G02.09, G01.02, G01.04.01, F03.02.02, H05.01	Restructuring agricultural land holding, Wildlife watching, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Mountaineering & rock climbing, Taking from nest (e.g. falcons), Garbage and solid waste

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
001858	Galmoy Fen SAC	Alkaline fens [7230]	A04, X, C01.04.02, B	Grazing, No threats or pressures, Underground mining, Sylviculture, forestry
002141	Mountmellick SAC	Desmoulin's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> ) [1016]	H05.01, J02.05	Garbage and solid waste, Modification of hydrographic functioning, general
002147	Lisduff Fen SAC	Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Geyer's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013]	J02.10, A02.01, E03.03, E03.01, A07, C01, A04.03, X, E05, A08	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, Agricultural intensification, Disposal of inert materials, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, Mining and quarrying, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, No threats or pressures, Storage of materials, Fertilisation
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Killarney fern ( <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> ) [1421], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092], Reefs [1170], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Twaite shad ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> ) [1103], Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ) [1029], European dry heaths [4030], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> )) [1330], Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Desmoulin's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> ) [1016]	B05, F02.01.02, J02.05.02, J02.02.01, B02, J02, F02, A04.01.01, J02.06, K01.01, B07, E02, M01, J02.12.02, F01.01, C01.03, A10.01, A02.01, D03.01, B02.01.01, I01, F02.03, C01.01.01, J03.02.01, H01	Use of fertilizers (forestry), Netting, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Dredging or removal of limnic sediments, Forest and Plantation management & use, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Intensive cattle grazing, Water abstractions from surface waters, Erosion, Forestry activities not referred to above, Industrial or commercial areas, Changes in abiotic conditions, Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Intensive fish farming, intensification, Peat extraction, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Agricultural intensification, Port areas, Forest replanting (native trees), Invasive non-native species, Leisure fishing, Sand and gravel quarries, Reduction in migration or migration barriers, Pollution to surface waters (limnic and terrestrial; marine and brackish)
002236	Island Fen SAC	<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Alkaline fens [7230]	F03.01, A04.01, J01.01, A04.03, D01, X, K02.01, C01	Hunting, Intensive grazing, Burning down, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Roads, paths and railroads, No threats or pressures, Species composition change (succession), Mining and quarrying
002256	Ballyprior Grassland SAC	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	A10, B02.01, D01.01, A10.01, A03, A04, A08	Restructuring agricultural land holding, Forest replanting, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Grazing, Fertilisation
002332	Coolrain Bog SAC	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110]	I01, C01.03.02, J02.01, B, J02.15, H05.01, J02.05, J01.01	Invasive non-native species, Mechanical removal of peat, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Sylviculture, forestry, Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Garbage and solid waste, Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, Burning down.
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], Yew-dominated woodland ( <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles) [91J0], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ) [1029], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0], White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092], Twaite shad ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> ) [1103], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> )) [1330], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095]	D03.01, J02.01.02, J02.01, A01, J02.12.02, E03, H01, B, I01, E01, X, A08	Port areas, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Cultivation, Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Discharges, Pollution to surface waters (limnic and terrestrial; marine and brackish), Sylviculture, forestry, Invasive non-native species, Urbanised areas, human habitation, No threats or pressures, Fertilisation
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Limestone pavements [8240]	D01.01, A03.03, J02.01, K03.04, J02.04.01, J02.11, J02.05, A04.03, A10.01, A04.01, G01, A04.02.05, A07, B06, G05.01, A03, J02.05.02, F03.01, C01.03.02, B02.02, A08	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Abandonment or lack of mowing, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Predation, Flooding, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Intensive grazing, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Non intensive mixed animal grazing, Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, Grazing in forests or woodland, Trampling, overuse, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Hunting, Mechanical removal of peat, Forestry clearance, Fertilisation
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	Hen harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ) [A082], Greenland white-fronted goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Eurasian curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Corn crake ( <i>Crex crex</i> ) [A122], Common redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Northern shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Common snipe ( <i>Gallinago</i>	A03, D01.01, A04.03, G01.01, F03.01, G01.02, D01.05, A08, F02.03, E01, A04	Mowing or cutting of grassland, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Nautical sports, Hunting, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Bridge, viaduct, Fertilisation, Leisure fishing, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Grazing

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		gallinago) [A153], Eurasian teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], European golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Northern lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Common quail ( <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> ) [A113], Tufted duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061]		
002241	Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC	Limestone pavements [8240], Yew-dominated woodland ( <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles) [9130], Alkaline fens [7230], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]	A10.01, J02, K02.03, A04.02.05, I02, J02.10, B02.01.01, A04.01, J02.01.03, C01, G02.09, H01.08, I01, D01.01, G01, M01.03, M01.02, A08, D03.01.02, K02.01, H01, M01.01	Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Eutrophication (natural), Non intensive mixed animal grazing, Problematic native species, Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, Forest replanting (native trees), Intensive grazing, Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, Mining and quarrying, Wildlife watching, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Invasive non-native species, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Flooding and rising precipitations, Droughts and less precipitations, Fertilisation, Piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, Species composition change (succession), Pollution to surface waters (limnic and terrestrial; marine and brackish), Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes)
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053], Common coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125], Tufted duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Common goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067], Greenland white-fronted goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Eurasian teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Great crested grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005], Great cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Northern lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Common pochard ( <i>Aythya ferina</i> ) [A059]	F02.03, F03.01, G01.01, A08	Leisure fishing, Hunting, Nautical sports, Fertilisation
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	Reefs [1170], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], Bottlenose dolphin ( <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> ) [1349], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Subtidal sandbanks ( <i>Sandbanks</i> which are slightly covered by sea water all the time) [1110], Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ) [1029], <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Atlantic salt meadows</i> ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> )) [1330], Coastal lagoons [1150], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]	B, A08, F03.01, J02.10, J02.12.01, K02.03, H04, J02.01.02, C01.03.01, E03, E01, D01.01, A04, G01.01, C01.01.02, F02.03, I01, F01, J02.01.01	Sylviculture, forestry, Fertilisation, Hunting, Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Eutrophication (natural), Air pollution, air-borne pollutants, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Hand cutting of peat, Discharges, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Grazing, Nautical sports, Removal of beach materials, Leisure fishing, Invasive non-native species, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Polderisation
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA	Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Great crested grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005], European golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Red knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Little egret ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> ) [A026], Wood sandpiper ( <i>Tringa glareola</i> ) [A166], Great cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Grey plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Ringed plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Common shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053], Ruddy turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Northern shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Common goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067], Mew gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Ruff ( <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> ) [A151], Common pochard ( <i>Aythya ferina</i> ) [A059], Northern pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Northern lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Tufted duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Greater scaup ( <i>Aythya marila</i> ) [A062], Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Eurasian teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Red-breasted merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Greenland white-fronted goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Eurasian curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Common coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125], Common redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Short-eared owl ( <i>Asio flammeus</i> ) [A222], Tundra swan ( <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> ) [A037], Common greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> ) [A164], Eurasian oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Gadwall ( <i>Anas strepera</i> ) [A051], Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050]	A01, A04, B, G03, G01.02, D01.02, E01, J02.12, F01, A08, J02.01.01, F03.01	Cultivation, Grazing, Silviculture, forestry, Interpretative centres, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Roads, motorways, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fertilisation, Polderisation, Hunting
004019	The Raven SPA	Ringed plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Greenland white-fronted goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Slavonian grebe ( <i>Podiceps auritus</i> ) [A007], European golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Great	B, G01.02, G01.01	Sylviculture, forestry, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Nautical sports

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		cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Little tern ( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ) [A195], Red knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Great northern diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003], Grey plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Northern lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Black (common) scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Common shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Red-breasted merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Great crested grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005], Mew gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Eurasian curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Eurasian oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053], Red-throated diver ( <i>Gavia stellata</i> ) [A001]		
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	Northern pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Eurasian curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Common shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Common redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Northern shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Greater scaup ( <i>Aythya marila</i> ) [A062], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053], Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Common greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> ) [A164], Ringed plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Northern lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Great cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], European golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Eurasian oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Red-breasted merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Grey plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Ruddy turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Red knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Eurasian teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Great crested grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005], Mew gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182]	E01, A08, F01, D03.02, G01.01, E03, E02	Urbanised areas, human habitation, Fertilisation, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Shipping lanes, Nautical sports, Discharges, Industrial or commercial areas

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

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Active raised bogs	[7110]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes.
Alkaline fens	[7230]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Twaite Shad ( <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> )	[1103]	Habitat quality, particularly at spawning sites is the most notable threat to this species.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> )	[1330]	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass ( <i>Spartina anglica</i> ); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
White-clawed Crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> )	[1092]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	[7130]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Bog woodland	[91D0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Calcareous fens with species of mariscus sedge and bog cotton ( <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Caricion davallianae</i> )	[7210]	Hydrological changes, pollution to surface waters, urbanisation, roads development, groundwater interactions, grazing and cultivation practices and the inappropriate use of pesticides.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Coastal lagoons	[1150]	Mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal); modification of hydrological flow; drainage; abiotic natural processes (e.g. erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization; accumulation of organic material; extraction activities generating marine pollution; sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	[7120]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes.
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	[7150]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes.

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Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Estuaries	[1130]	Pollution, fishing /aquaculture and habitat quality.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
European dry heaths	[4030]	Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	[6430]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	[5130]	Overgrazing, erosion, scrub clearance, inappropriate land use management, and succession processes.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
River Lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis)	[1099]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change.
Brook Lamprey (Lampetra planeri)	[1096]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change.
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.
Limestone pavements	[8240]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	[6510]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Otter (Lutra lutra)	[1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); unting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
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.
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	[6410]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	[1140]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	[4010]	Reclamation, afforestation and burning; overstocking; invasion by non-heath species; exposure of peat to severe erosion.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Old sessile oak woods with 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.
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	[7220]	Ground water interactions, on site management activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to 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.
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.
Harbour Seal(Phoca vitulina)	[1365]		
Reefs	[1170]	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	[1310]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
Salmon (Salmo salar)	[1106]	Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations.	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	[1110]	Threats were selected based on best expert judgement. Changes to the habitat as a result of natural causes, e.g. natural forces leading to a change in the area or general topographical feature of the habitat, are considered a	

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Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
		neutral impact. Climate change is considered a threat to this habitat although sufficient information is not available to discern the nature and severity of this threat.	
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)* important orchid sites	[6210]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
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.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
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.
Killarney Fern (Trichomanes speciosum)	[1421]	Threatened by habitat loss, deliberate collection, encroachment of invasive or vigorous species, or indirectly by water pollution, removal of woodland or alteration of watercourses.	Land use management and direct impacts.
Turloughs	[3180]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
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.
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.
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.
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.
Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation (Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion)	[3260]	Hydrological and morphological changes, water quality, enrichment, and surface water discharges from industrial site and/or agriculture.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.

List of all Special Conservation Interest of SPAs that have undergone Assessment including Summaries of Current Threats and Sensitivity to Effects

Current threats to Qualifying Interests		Vulnerabilities of species of conservation interest
Red-throated diver ( <i>Gavia stellata</i> ) [A001] Great crested grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005] Northern fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009] Northern gannet ( <i>Morus bassanus</i> ) [A016] Great cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017] Little egret ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> ) [A026] Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038] Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043] Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> [Iceland/UK/Ireland]) [A043] Common shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048] Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050] Gadwall ( <i>Anas strepera</i> ) [A051] Eurasian teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052] Northern pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054] Northern shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056] Common goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067]	Hen harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ) [A082] Red-breasted merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069] Eurasian oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130] Ringed plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137] European golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Grey plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141] Northern lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142] Red knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143] Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144] Ruff ( <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> ) [A151] Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157] Eurasian curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160] Common redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162] Common greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> ) [A164] Ruddy turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169] Mediterranean gull ( <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> ) [A176]	Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] Mew gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182] Lesser black-backed gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183] Herring gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184] Black-legged kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188] Sandwich tern ( <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ) [A191] Roseate tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192] Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193] Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194] Little tern ( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ) [A195] Common guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199] Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200] Atlantic puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204] Short-eared owl ( <i>Asio flammeus</i> ) [A222] Wood warbler ( <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> ) [A314] Greenland white-fronted goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct habitat loss is a serious concern for bird species, as well as the reduction in habitat quality. Habitat degradation could occur through effects such as local enrichment due to agricultural practices or damage to habitat through activities such as trampling.</li> <li>Prey species diversity and availability is a key element of species conservation. Community dynamics and ecosystem functionality are complex concepts and require site specific information. The site synopsis and conservation objectives for the SPAs identified within the ZOI were used to identify any specific prey sensitivities.</li> <li>Availability of nesting/roosting habitat.</li> <li>Vegetation composition, structure and functionality.</li> <li>Bird species are particularly vulnerable to direct disturbance due to noise and/or vibration. These effects are localised, and disturbance effects are foreseen to be low at distances beyond 2km.</li> </ul>
		Direct land take is a common vulnerability to all sites; as well as significant water quality effects. The conservation objective of all SPAs designated for Wetland and Waterbirds is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds using it.

## Appendix II Relationship Other Plans and Programmes

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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>European Level</b>			
<b>SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</li> <li>Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission.</li> <li>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects.</li> <li>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme.</li> <li>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive.</li> <li>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> <li>Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA.</li> <li>For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III.</li> <li>The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest.</li> <li>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species.</li> <li>Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.</li> <li>Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present.</li> <li>Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats.</li> <li>Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation.</li> <li>The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.</li> <li>Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas).</li> <li>Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes.</li> <li>Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year</li> <li>set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk</li> <li>set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.</li> </ul>	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an integrated approach</li> <li>best available techniques,</li> <li>flexibility; and</li> <li>public participation</li> </ul>	<p>framework for environmental protection and management.</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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and</li> <li>the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products.</li> <li>Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets.</li> <li>All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets.</li> <li>The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables.</li> <li>EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans.</li> <li>Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption.</li> <li>The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor.</li> <li>Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive;</li> <li>Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014;</li> <li>Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels;</li> <li>Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020.</li> <li>Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures</li> <li>EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs</li> <li>The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services</li> <li>Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering</li> <li>National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits</li> <li>Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it</li> <li>Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.</li> </ul>	framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.</li> </ul>	<p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU Policy Objectives, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;</li> <li>The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism;</li> <li>The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure;</li> <li>Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law;</li> <li>Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy.</li> <li>Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services.</li> <li>The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity</li> <li>Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure</li> <li>Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry</li> <li>Sustainable management of fish stocks</li> <li>Reducing invasive alien species</li> <li>Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy</b>	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.</li> <li>Supporting EU-level GI projects.</li> <li>Improving access to finance for GI projects.</li> <li>Improving information and promoting innovation.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UN Kyoto Protocol (2<sup>nd</sup> Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</b>	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II).</li> <li>EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and Policy Objectives arising from the ECCP.</li> <li>Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020.</li> <li>Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels.</li> <li>Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%.</li> <li>Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps.</li> <li>Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU.</li> <li>Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020.</li> <li>Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries.</li> <li>Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and</li> </ul>	<p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following Policy Objectives for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS).</li> <li>New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<p>at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.</li> </ul>	<p>cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC)</b> <b>(EU Air Framework Directive)</b></p> <p><b>Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive).</li> <li>• Sets new air quality objectives for PM<sub>2.5</sub> (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives.</li> <li>• Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values.</li> <li>• Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM<sub>10</sub>) or up to five years (NO<sub>2</sub>, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission.</li> <li>• The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole.</li> <li>• Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria.</li> <li>• Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures.</li> <li>• Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public.</li> <li>• Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases.</li> <li>• Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</b></p>	<p>The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.</p>	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels;</li> <li>• Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and</li> <li>• Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.</li> </ul> <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks</li> <li>• Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3.</li> <li>• Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above.</li> <li>• Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats.</li> <li>• Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies.</li> <li>• Promote sustainable water usage.</li> <li>• The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive</li> <li>○ Sampling Drinking Water Directive</li> <li>○ Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive</li> <li>○ Shellfish Directive</li> <li>○ Freshwater Fish Directive</li> <li>○ Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive</li> <li>○ Dangerous Substances Directive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>• Achieve "good status" for all waters.</li> <li>• Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts.</li> <li>• Involve the public and streamline legislation.</li> <li>• Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas.</li> <li>• Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas.</li> <li>• Recover costs for water services.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect, control and conserve groundwater.</li> <li>• Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</li> <li>• Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive.</li> <li>• Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption.</li> <li>Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I.</li> <li>Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a).</li> <li>Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5.</li> <li>Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause.</li> <li>Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action.</li> <li>Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health.</li> <li>Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.</li> <li>The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment.</li> <li>Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges.</li> <li>Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent.</li> <li>Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures.</li> <li>Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.</li> <li>The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive.</li> <li>The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator.</li> <li>The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met.</li> <li>The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.</li> </ul>	The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning Policy Objectives. 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote Policy Objectives 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 Policy Objectives" including consultations regarding the thrust of the Policy Objectives to be implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reinforcement and promotion of Policy Objectives for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.</li> <li>The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.</li> <li>A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</li> <li>Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.</li> <li>Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal.</li> <li>Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society.</li> <li>Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Landscape Convention 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.</li> <li>Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</b>	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital</li> <li>to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy</li> <li>to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better implementation of legislation.</li> <li>Better information by improving the knowledge base.</li> <li>More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy.</li> <li>Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other Policy Objectives.</li> </ul> <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make the Union's cities more sustainable.</li> <li>To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</b>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats</li> <li>to promote cooperation between states</li> <li>to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species</li> </ul>	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development Policy Objectives and pollution control.</li> <li>Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.</li> <li>Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other Policy Objectives.</li> <li>Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.</li> <li>Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations.</li> <li>Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Bali Road Map (2007)</b>	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and</li> <li>To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.</li> </ul>	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mitigation</li> <li>adaptation</li> <li>technology</li> <li>financing</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation</li> <li>Transparency of actions</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Finance</li> <li>Adaptation</li> <li>Forests</li> <li>Capacity building</li> </ul>	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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</b>	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"> <li>Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020);</li> <li>Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets;</li> <li>Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt;</li> <li>Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and</li> <li>Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Common Agricultural Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and</li> <li>To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future;</li> <li>Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.</li> </ul>	The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration,</li> <li>Evaluation,</li> <li>Authorisation; and</li> <li>Restriction of chemicals.</li> </ul> REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Stockholm Convention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention</li> <li>Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention</li> <li>Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention</li> <li>Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner</li> <li>To target additional POPs</li> <li>Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ramsar Convention</b>	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;</li> <li>Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;</li> <li>Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory

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<b>European 2020 Strategy for Growth</b>	<p>Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;</li> <li>Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;</li> <li>Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.</li> </ul>	<p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed;</li> <li>3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&amp;D;</li> <li>the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right);</li> <li>the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree;</li> <li>20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.</li> </ol>	<p>framework for environmental protection and management.</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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019</b>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution.</li> <li>It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Level</b>			
<b>Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, (replacing the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020) and the National Development Plan (2018-2027)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between.</li> <li>The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.</li> </ul>	<p>National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compact Growth</li> <li>Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>Enhanced Amenity and Heritage</li> <li>Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society</li> <li>Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources</li> <li>Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</li> </ol>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation]</b>	<p>The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government Policy Objectives and will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term;</li> <li>Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and,</li> <li>Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.</li> </ol>	<p>In preparation</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas.</li> <li>There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission.</li> <li>Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects.</li> <li>Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.</li> <li>These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning.</li> <li>Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the</p>

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			achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites.</li> <li>The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Waste Management Act 1996, as amended</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997).</li> <li>Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.</li> <li>Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.</li> </ul>	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution.</li> <li>Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values.</li> <li>Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3<sup>rd</sup> Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources</li> </ul>	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited</li> <li>Limits on the land application of fertilisers</li> <li>Storage requirements for livestock manure; and</li> <li>Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.</li> </ul>	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective,</li> <li>The policy of the Government on climate change,</li> <li>Climate justice,</li> <li>Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and</li> <li>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Climate Action Plan 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an all of Government plan to tackle climate change and bring about a step change in Ireland's climate ambition over the coming years.</li> <li>The plan sets out an ambitious course of action over the coming years to address the diverse and wide-ranging impacts climate disruption is having on Ireland's environment, society, economic and natural resources.</li> <li>The Climate Action Plan sets out clear 2030 targets for each sector with the ultimate objective of achieving a transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient, and environmentally sustainable society and economy by 2050.</li> </ul>	<p>Climate actions contained in the Climate Action Plan also seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce five year carbon budgets;</li> <li>Implement a carbon rate of at least €80 per tonne by 2030;</li> <li>Reduce Ireland's reliance on fossil fuels by phasing out coal and peat burning plants;</li> <li>Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill to 10% of all waste by 2035;</li> <li>Ban specific single use plastics and ensure all plastic packaging is reusable or recyclable by 2030;</li> <li>Reduce food waste by 50% by 2030; and</li> <li>Phase out the installation of oil and gas boilers in new houses by 2022 and 2025 respectively.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2020</b>	<p>The Bill legally commits the State to move to a climate resilient and climate neutral economy by 2050.</p>	<p>The Bill includes the following key elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a 2050 emissions target;</li> <li>Introduces system of successive 5-year, economy-wide carbon budgets starting in 2021;</li> <li>Strengthens the role of the Climate Change Advisory Council in proposing carbon budgets;</li> <li>Introduces a requirement to annually revise the Climate Action Plan and prepare a National Long Term Climate Action Strategy at least every decade;</li> <li>Introduces a requirement for all Local Authorities to prepare individual Climate Action Plans which will include both mitigation and adaptation measures; and</li> <li>Gives a stronger oversight role for the Oireachtas through an Oireachtas Committee.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</li> <li>The Plan provides a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national Policy Objectives for each of the targets.</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs;</li> <li>Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals;</li> <li>Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and</li> <li>Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</li> <li>It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)</b>	<p>These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in Natura 2000 sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries;</li> <li>Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required;</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may</p>

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	by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation;</li> <li>Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan;</li> <li>Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan;</li> <li>Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment;</li> <li>Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities;</li> <li>Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and</li> <li>Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc.</li> </ul>	arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers.</li> <li>Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs.</li> </ul>	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing on and offshore wind,</li> <li>Building a sustainable bioenergy sector,</li> <li>Fostering R&amp;D in renewables such as wave &amp; tidal,</li> <li>Growing sustainable transport; and</li> <li>Building out robust and efficient networks.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives.</li> </ul>	<p>The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Action Policy Framework</li> <li>Decarbonising Electricity Generation</li> <li>Decarbonising the Built Environment</li> <li>Decarbonising Transport</li> <li>An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050.</li> <li>Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.</li> </ul>	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity;</li> <li>Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future;</li> <li>Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and</li> <li>Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary Policy Objectives and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation.</li> <li>The Strategy should also help tackle climate change.</li> <li>The Strategy will consider a wider range of national Policy Objectives that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture.</li> <li>In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory

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<b>EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; "<i>Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way.</i>"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.</li> </ul>	<p>framework for environmental protection and management.</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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>All Island Grid Study 2008</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Key conclusions of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO2 emissions compared to portfolio 1</li> <li>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered.</li> <li>Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users.</li> <li>It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure;</li> <li>Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity;</li> <li>Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and</li> <li>Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and</li> <li>Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Water Resources Plan [in preparation]</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment.</li> <li>The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.</li> </ul>	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions</li> <li>Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry</li> <li>Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources</li> <li>Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events</li> <li>Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water</li> <li>Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies</li> <li>Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)</b>	<p>Vision: "<i>Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU.</i>"</p>	<p>General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development</li> <li>Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products</li> </ul>	<p>cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry.</li> <li>The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.</li> </ul>	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong;</li> <li>Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;</li> <li>The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects;</li> <li>Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms;</li> <li>Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;</li> <li>Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and</li> <li>Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate Policy Objectives as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions.</li> <li>Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>"Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."</i></li> </ul>	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development;</li> <li>Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape;</li> <li>Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape;</li> <li>Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement Policy Objectives relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020</b></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. Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally;</li> <li>To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste;</li> <li>To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export;</li> <li>To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.</li> </ul>	<p>The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevention</li> <li>Collection</li> <li>Self-sufficiency</li> <li>Regulation</li> <li>Legacy issues</li> <li>North-south cooperation</li> <li>Guidance and awareness</li> <li>Implementation</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the</p>

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<b>HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vision is: "A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility."</li> </ul>	<p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life</li> <li>Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities</li> <li>Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing</li> <li>Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland</li> </ul>	<p>achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</b>	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved.</li> <li>Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce overall travel demand.</li> <li>To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.</li> <li>To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</li> <li>To reduce transport emissions.</li> <li>To improve accessibility to transport.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking</li> <li>improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies</li> <li>strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.</li> </ul>	<p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition);</li> <li>Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and</li> <li>Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network.</li> </ul> <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts;</li> <li>Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and</li> <li>To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland.</li> <li>Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security of Supply</li> <li>Sustainability of Energy</li> <li>Competitiveness of Energy Supply</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand</li> <li>Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland</li> <li>Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation</li> <li>Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks</li> <li>Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production</li> <li>Being prepared for energy supply disruptions</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change.</li> <li>• Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions.</li> <li>• Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change.</li> <li>• Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)</b>	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95%</li> <li>• Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.</li> </ul>	Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems</li> <li>• Give statutory protection to NHAs</li> <li>• Enhances wildlife species and their habitats</li> <li>• Includes more species for protection</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors.</li> <li>• To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity.</li> <li>• To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.</li> <li>• To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside.</li> <li>• To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment.</li> <li>• To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species.</li> <li>• To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Broadband Plan (2012)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband.</li> <li>Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.</li> <li>The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.</li> <li>A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)</b>  <b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</b>  <b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation.</li> <li>Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water.</li> <li>Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans.</li> <li>Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs.</li> <li>Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies.</li> <li>Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances.</li> <li>Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies.</li> <li>Outlines surface water quality standards.</li> <li>Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> <li>Sets groundwater quality standards.</li> <li>Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.</li> </ul>	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosecute for water pollution offences.</li> <li>Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.</li> <li>Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution.</li> <li>issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices;</li> <li>Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.</li> <li>Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Water Services Act 2007</b>  <b>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</b>  <b>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides the water services infrastructure.</li> <li>Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services.</li> <li>Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply.</li> <li>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.</li> </ul>	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced.</li> <li>Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive.</li> <li>Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures.</li> <li>Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems.</li> <li>Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services.</li> <li>Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</li> </ul>	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet Customer Expectations.</li> <li>Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply.</li> <li>Provide Effective Management of Waste water.</li> <li>Protect and Enhance the Environment.</li> <li>Support Social and Economic Growth.</li> <li>Invest in the Future.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning.</li> <li>Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Food Harvest 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan</b>	<p>Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment</p>	<p>not applicable</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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)</b>  <b>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)</b>  <b>Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection.</li> <li>GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.</li> <li>Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment.</li> <li>Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans.</li> <li>Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Rural Development Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas</li> </ul>	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation;</li> <li>Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and</li> <li>Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020.</li> </ul>	Measures include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Afforestation and Creation of Woodland</li> <li>NeighbourWood Scheme</li> <li>Forest Roads</li> <li>Reconstitution Scheme</li> <li>Woodland Improvement Scheme</li> <li>Native Woodland Conservation Scheme</li> <li>Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions</li> <li>Producer Groups</li> <li>Innovative Forest Technology</li> <li>Forest Genetic Reproductive Material</li> <li>Forest Management Plans</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>River Basin Management Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive.</li> <li>Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD.</li> <li>Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD.</li> <li>Involve the public through consultations.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</b>	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	Objectives of the Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management.</li> <li>To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils.</li> <li>To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their Policy Objectives and actions.</li> <li>To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly.</li> <li>To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use.</li> <li>To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required.</li> <li>To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs.</li> </ul> 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.</li> </ul>	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020</b>	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.</li> </ul>	Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs.</li> <li>To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy.</li> <li>To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016</b>	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply

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<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030</b>	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFV forecasts</li> <li>• Electricity targets</li> <li>• Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>• Hydrogen targets</li> <li>• Biofuels targets</li> <li>• LPG targets</li> <li>• Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</li> </ul>	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.  Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</b>	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85% increase in exports to €19 billion.</li> <li>• 70% increase in value added to €13 billion.</li> <li>• 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion.</li> <li>• The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland</li> <li>• Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020</li> <li>• Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable.</li> <li>• By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.</li> </ul>	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce overall travel demand</li> <li>• Maximise the efficiency of the transport network</li> <li>• Reduce reliance on fossil fuels</li> <li>• Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>• Improve accessibility to transport</li> </ul> <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021</b>	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Context</li> <li>• Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination</li> <li>• Enhancing the Visitor Experience</li> <li>• Research in the Irish Tourism Sector</li> <li>• Supporting Local Communities in Tourism</li> <li>• Wider Government Policy</li> <li>• International Context</li> <li>• Co-ordination Structures</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</b>	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year</li> <li>• net of inflation excluding carrier receipts;</li> <li>• 250,000 people employed in tourism; and</li> <li>• 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCA)</b>	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.  Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030</b>	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFV forecasts</li> <li>• Electricity targets</li> <li>• Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>• Hydrogen targets</li> <li>• Biofuels targets</li> <li>• LPG targets</li> </ul> Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>People Place and Policy - Growing Tourism to 2025, (DTTAS, 2014)</b>	Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.	The framework establishes the overall tourism goal of Government; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment in the tourism sector will be 250,000 by 2025, compared with around 200,000 at present.</li> <li>• There will be 10 million visits to Ireland annually by 2025.</li> </ul> The Government's ambition is that overseas tourism revenue will reach €5 billion in real terms by 2025.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020</b>	The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i> .	Four objectives of the Plan include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice.</li> <li>• Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement.</li> <li>• Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset.</li> <li>• Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Development and Innovation – A strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)</b>	This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.	The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience;</li> <li>• To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs;</li> <li>• To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and</li> <li>• To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Regional/ County/Local Level</b>			

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy,</b>	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midlands Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</b>	The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus;</li> <li>• Light Rail;</li> <li>• Heavy Rai;</li> <li>• Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment;</li> <li>• Integrated Service Plan; and</li> <li>• Integration and Accessibility.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>A Strategic Plan for Tourism in Laois 2018-2023</b>	The Strategy sets out a collaborative approach to tourism that enables Laois to harness the potential of its built and natural heritage to become an all year-round tourism destination	The Vision will be achieved through the fulfilment of the following key objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attract visitors into the heart of Ireland’s story through quality authentic Irish heritage and outdoor activity experiences.</li> <li>• Grow tourism visitor numbers and value of tourism through the enhancement of the Laois tourism product and service base supported by the structures that contribute to the strategic development of the tourism sector across the County</li> <li>• Tourism leadership and partnership increased visitor numbers increase tourism spend increased tourism employment market presence and position enhanced tourism product base</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</b>	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site</li> <li>• To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest</li> <li>• To describe the site and its management</li> <li>• To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site</li> <li>• To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected.</li> <li>• These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Groundwater Protection Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Laois LECP 2016-2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Land Use Plans (including Development Plans and Local Area Plans in force in County Laois and in other adjoining planning authorities)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport and tourism objectives).</li> <li>Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies.</li> <li>Set out the Policy Objectives and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required.</li> <li>Protect and enhances amenities and environment.</li> <li>Guide planning authority in assessing proposals.</li> <li>Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development.</li> <li>Aim to promote sustainable development.</li> <li>Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Laois Heritage Plan 2020-2025</b>	Aims to protect, increase accessibility to, and maximise the value of our heritage by working in partnership to foster an understanding of heritage through participation, education and research.	Plan's objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase understanding of the heritage of Laois.</li> <li>To record the heritage of Laois.</li> <li>Protect and promote active conservation of the heritage of Laois.</li> <li>Promote community participation in heritage plans and projects.</li> <li>Promote enjoyment and accessibility of heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Local Biodiversity Action Plans for Abbeyleix, Ballacolla, Cullahill, Emo, Killenard, Mountmellick and Portarlinton</b>	Aims to protect, conserve, enhance and restore heritage, biodiversity and ecosystem services across all spectrums.	The main objectives of biodiversity plans are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>gathering information on the biodiversity resource</li> <li>managing the resource</li> <li>education and awareness</li> <li>cooperation to achieve objectives</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Laois and adjoining Counties Landscape Character Assessments</b>	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area.</li> <li>Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Eastern and Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021</b>	These plans give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, Policy Objectives and actions are required.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Laois Noise Action Plan 2019-2022</b>	Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p><b>Laois County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</b></p>	<p>Respond to the impact that climate change is having, and will continue to have. Attempt to climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p>	<p>The Plans' objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure a proper comprehension of the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change;</li> <li>• Bring forward the implementation of climate resilient actions in a planned and proactive manner; and</li> <li>• ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into all plans and Policy Objectives and integrated into all operations and functions of the local authority.</li> </ul>	<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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the Ireland's Ancient East brand</b></p>	<p>Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policy Objectives, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence.</p> <p>The Statutory Policy Objectives, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.</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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</b></p>	<p>These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.</p>	<p>These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.</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 (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>