

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

FOR THE

WILD ATLANTIC WAY OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 2015-2019

for: Fáilte Ireland

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List of Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
ACA	Architectural Conservation Area
ATSEBI	Assessment of Trophic Status of Estuaries and Bays in Ireland
CFRAM	Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DAHG	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
DCENR	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
DEHLG	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
DECLG	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQS	Environmental Quality Standard
EU	European Union
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NRA	National Roads Authority
NSS	National Spatial Strategy
OPW	Office of Public Works
PAS	Priority Action Substance
RAL	Remedial Action List
RBD	River Basin District
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPA	Register of Protected Areas
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
RPGs	Regional Planning Guidelines
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEO	Strategic Environmental Objective
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SI No.	Statutory Instrument Number
SPA	Special Protection Area
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WSSP	Water Services Strategic Plan

Glossary

Appropriate Assessment

The obligation to undertake Appropriate Assessment derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. AA is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a strategic action (such as a plan or programme) or project, alone and in combination with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives.

Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources including inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems' (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992).

Flora is all of the plants found in a given area.

Fauna is all of the animals found in a given area.

Biotic Index Values (Q Values)

The Biotic Index Values, or Q values, are assigned to rivers in accordance with biological monitoring of surface waters - low Q ratings, as low as Q1, are indicative of low biodiversity and polluted waters, and high Q ratings, as high as Q5, are indicative of high biodiversity and unpolluted waters. Good status as defined by the Water Framework Directive equates to approximately Q4 in the national scheme of biological classification of rivers as set out by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Environmental Problems

Annex I of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain Plans and programmes on the environment (the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) requires that information is provided on 'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme', thus, helping to ensure that the proposed strategic action does not make existing environmental problems worse.

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and ideal targets. If environmental problems are identified at the outset they can help focus attention on important issues and geographical areas where environmental effects of the plan or programme may be likely.

Environmental Vectors

Environmental vectors are environmental components, such as air, water or soil, through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings.

Mitigate

To make or become less severe or harsh.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing a human action, be it a plan, programme or project. Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where there are significant negative effects, consideration should be given in the first instance to preventing such effects or, where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Mitigation measures can be roughly divided into those that: avoid effects; reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effects; repair effects after they have occurred; and compensate for effects, balancing out negative impacts with other positive ones.

Protected Structure

Protected Structure is the term used in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended to define a structure included by a local authority in its Record of Protected Structures. Such a structure shall not be altered or demolished in whole or part without obtaining planning permission or confirmation from the local authority that the part of the structure to be altered is not protected.

Recorded Monument

A monument included in the list and marked on the map which comprises the Record of Monuments and Places that is set out county by county under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition includes Zones of Archaeological Potential in towns and all other monuments of archaeological interest which have so far been identified. Any works at or in relation to a recorded monument requires two months' notice to the former Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (now Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994.

Scoping

Scoping is the process of determining what issues are to be addressed, and setting out a methodology in which to address them in a structured manner appropriate to the plan or programme. Scoping is carried out in consultation with appropriate environmental authorities.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

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.

Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO)

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Programme and the alternatives can be evaluated in order to help identify which provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and where such effects would be likely to occur, if - in the case of adverse effects - unmitigated.

Section 1 SEA Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction and Terms of Reference

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme 2015-2019. It has been undertaken by CAAS Ltd. on behalf of Fáilte Ireland.

The purpose of this report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of the Operational Programme. The SEA is carried out in order to comply with the provisions of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument Number (SI No. 435 of 2004) as amended. This report should be read in conjunction with the Programme.

1.2 SEA Definition

Environmental assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before such decisions are made. *Environmental Impact Assessment*, or EIA, is generally used for describing the process of environmental assessment for individual projects, while *Strategic Environmental Assessment* or SEA is the term which has been given to the environmental assessment of plans and programmes, which help determine the nature and location of individual projects taking place. SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a proposed plan or programme, in order to insure that these effects are adequately addressed at the earliest appropriate stages of decision-making in tandem with economic, social and other considerations.

1.3 SEA Directive and its transposition into Irish Law

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of

27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, referred to hereafter as the SEA Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors, including tourism.

The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument Number (SI No. 435 of 2004) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004). Both sets of Regulations became operational on 21st July 2004. The Regulations have been amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

1.4 Implications for the Programme and Fáilte Ireland

Although the Operational Programme does not provide a decision-making framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive (Fáilte Ireland is co-ordinating future WAW works relating to the Discovery Points through the Operational Programme, but not developing any of these works – they will be developed by the relevant local authorities and others), the undertaking of SEA provides an opportunity that would otherwise be lost to examine inter-regional and inter-county environmental effects.

Furthermore, the Operational Programme would be considered as a 'plan' as per the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (Part 5)¹ and therefore must be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA). Stage 2 AA is required to be undertaken on the Programme – this necessitates the undertaking of SEA as per the requirements of the SEA Directive.

The findings of the SEA are expressed in this Environmental Report, which accompanies the Programme on public display and may be altered in order to take account of recommendations contained in submissions and in order to take account of any changes which are made to the Programme on foot of submissions. Fáilte Ireland have taken into account the findings of this Report and other related SEA output during their consideration of the Programme and before it is finalised. On finalisation of the Programme, an SEA Statement has been prepared which summarises, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Programme.

¹ Plan, subject to the exclusion, except where the contrary intention appears, of any plan that is a land use plan within the meaning of the Planning Acts 2000 to 2011, includes:

- (a) any plan, programme or scheme, statutory or non-statutory, that establishes public policy in relation to land use and infrastructural development in one or more specified locations or regions, including any development of land or on land, the extraction or exploitation of mineral resources or of renewable energy resources and the carrying out of land use activities, that is to be considered for adoption or authorisation or approval or for the grant of a licence, consent, permission, permit, derogation or other authorisation by a public authority, or
- (b) a proposal to amend or extend a plan or scheme referred to in subparagraph (a).

Section 2 The Operational Programme

2.1 Introduction

The Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) is a new tourism brand for the west of Ireland. The most tangible expression of the brand comprises the coordination and linking of a number of existing touring routes stretching approximately 2,500km along the Atlantic coast from Donegal to West Cork (see Figure 2.2). Along the route, candidate Discovery Points (viewing points and lay-bys), all of which are existing and in use, in addition to 28 Embarkation Points to the 26 off-shore islands, are identified. Fáilte Ireland is co-ordinating future WAW works relating to the Discovery Points through the Operational Programme, but not developing any of these works – they will be developed by the relevant local authorities (Part 8 requirements as set out in the Planning and Development Act as amended still apply) and others. The route and the candidate Discovery Points may change if the environmental monitoring strategy produces results that show that visitor activity and/or visitor intensification is predicted or observed to result in a negative impact on the environment in particular locations. For this reason, a mid-term review of the route and the candidate Discovery Points has been built into the Operational Programme.

The Operational Programme for the Wild Atlantic Way sets out a strategy and a framework and programme – including goals and objectives – for sustainable implementation over the period 2015-2019.

The Operational Programme is the first in a series of strategies which will set out a vision for the continued evolution of the Wild Atlantic Way over the decades to come.

The Operational Programme, together with future Programmes, will constitute an iterative process which will continually adapt to meet the needs of visitors, the local community and culture, the environment and the tourism industry and trade, while striving all the time to strike a balance between them.

Fáilte Ireland's evidence is that well managed tourism can lead to better protection of sensitive environments. The proposed

environmental management of the Wild Atlantic Way will help it to:

- Become an international brand of quality;
- Deliver real benefits for local communities and businesses in the west of Ireland;
- Provide visitors with unforgettable experiences; and
- Provide a focus for the protection of the environment.

2.2 Background and Context

2.2.1 Introduction

Tourism is a critical component of the economic health of the West of Ireland with the accommodation and hospitality sectors a key driver of employment. Indirectly, tourism supports key service sectors including retail, transport and food producers. It is also a sector that delivers substantial social and community benefits. International tourism to the West of Ireland declined significantly in both visitor numbers and share of holiday visits to Ireland in the period 2007 -2010. This was further compounded by the challenging economic climate in Ireland since 2008.

In order to arrest and reverse this decline, overseas growth in tourism is required. In an attempt to achieve this, Fáilte Ireland has developed the Wild Atlantic Way as a tourism initiative of scale and singularity which will play a pivotal role in the delivery of Fáilte Ireland's overall strategic objectives of generating incremental international tourist revenues and job creation.

2.2.2 Background to Tourism Growth and Development in Ireland

Tourism and its promotion are existing and long-established activities in Ireland.

It is important to understand that all WAW routes are existing and long-established touring routes, on existing and long established public roads that have been

subject both to recent and long-established promotion activities. Thus the routes, their promotion and the intensity of their use are not new.

Many are unaware of the long-established pattern of tourism promotion in Ireland – and in the west of Ireland, in particular. The first promotion of Irish tourism is generally credited to Thomas 4th Viscount Kenmare who began to promote Killarney and its environs in the 1750s. Touring guides to Ireland date to the late 18th century² and large-scale touring in Ireland dates back to the latter part of the 19th century. At that time railways and associated large hotels³ offered access to areas, such as the West of Ireland, that had hitherto been remote and inaccessible. Indeed one major part of the WAW (between Killarney and Glengarriff) has been in existence since the 1860's – when it was known as *The Prince of Wales Route* (see Figure 2.1).

Many of the routes and viewing points that are proposed as part of the Wild Atlantic Way were also included in a range of itineraries contained in the 1914 edition of the Michelin *Guide to the British Isles*, and have featured in numerous annual travel guides since then.

By the beginning of the 20th century, tourism was being actively branded and promoted on a national scale, initially by the Irish Tourism Association and subsequently by Bord Fáilte since 1955 – who have continually and consistently promoted Ireland as a tourist destination – both as a country and as specific local/iconic destinations.

² *A Tour in Ireland 1776-1779* Arthur Young.

³ Killarney Great Southern Hotel (1854) was one of the first, followed by others at Parknasilla, Waterville and Caragh Lake. In the West, the Midland, Great Western Railway built hotels at Galway (Eyre Square), Recess and Mulranny.



Figure 2.1 Tourists motoring past Long Tunnel Cottage, Glengarriff, Co. Cork, circa 1906/07. NLI ref. LCAB 08742

2.2.3 Intensity of Tourism

Visitors consist of both domestic and international travellers and their numbers can vary significantly from year-to-year in response to factors such as the economy and consumer confidence. Additional factors such as weather can have a further influence on domestic visitors.

Tourist numbers in Ireland peaked at 7.7 million in 2007 but by 2013 had declined 14% to 6.6 million. This is also reflected in the numbers visiting counties hosting the WAW⁴ which peaked at 3.3 million in 2007 and experienced a 13% decline to 2.9 million by 2013.

Preliminary data indicate a 7% increase in tourist numbers to 7.2 million in 2014, still 7% below peak levels of 2007.

It should also be noted that WAW counties received 42% of overseas visitors in 2007, and 43% in 2013, implying that the growth in visitor numbers to the WAW counties to date is following the national trend.

Notwithstanding these trends there is also evidence of individual sites experiencing counter-cyclical trends – such as the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience in County Clare (opened in 2007) which has been growing significantly since 2010⁵. This is an example of 'internal displacement' of visitors that can lead to local growth contrary to regional or national trends.

Name of Attraction	Visitor Numbers per Annum							
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre	808,310	763,758	720,574	809,474	873,988	960,134	940,455	1,000,000+

Table 2.1 Visitor Numbers at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor centre 2007 - 2014⁶

⁴ Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo, Galway, Clare, Limerick, Kerry, Cork

⁵ The Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience exceeded the one millionth visitor mark in October 2014

⁶ Table 2.1 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.

2.2.4 Effects of Branding and Promotion

As stated above, visitor numbers respond to a variety of macro and micro drivers – these may be further influenced by branding and promotion activities.

The good weather in 2014 and the effects of previous promotion initiatives (*The Gathering*) may also have influenced some of the growth from overseas markets as word of mouth and recommendation from family and friends inform the choice of about one third (36%) of our holidaymakers. The good weather in Ireland in 2014 and evidence of improvement in the national economy may also have encouraged the domestic market to holiday at home.

The international promotion of the WAW – beginning in 2014, was intended to have an effect on bookings during late 2014 – with resultant visitors beginning to arrive in Spring 2015 - at the earliest.

Evidence from localised trends within these patterns – such as at the Cliffs of Moher – suggest that some growth has been occurring since well before the WAW branding exercise began.

The West of Ireland has been marketed overseas for over 150 years. Sites such as the Cliffs of Moher (see visitor numbers above), are elements of the iconic imagery of Ireland in the minds of overseas markets and as such have been used in the promotion of Ireland as a tourist destination long before the development of the WAW concept.

New promotional activity - centred about building the “brand” of the WAW is part of a long term strategy that will take time to take hold before effects that can be readily differentiated from the long established endeavour of promoting the west of Ireland as a tourism destination.

2.2.5 Conclusion on Tourism and Promotion

Tourism numbers in Ireland as a whole, and also in the counties hosting the WAW, are growing but this growth appears to represent a recovery to a peak experienced more than 6 years ago. Thus growth, to date, appears to

be part of an existing national and international trend that has been occurring for a number of years rather than as a result of a promotion exercise intended for visitors arriving in 2015.

2.3 Programme Area and Route

The Wild Atlantic Way encompasses the coastline and hinterland of the nine coastal counties of the West of Ireland – Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo, Galway, Clare, Limerick, Kerry and Cork. The route itself stretches for almost 2,500km from the village of Muff on the Inishowen Peninsula in County Donegal to Kinsale in West Cork.

The route (see Figure 2.2) has been selected through the consideration of different options (see Section 6 and Section 7) and extends from the northern end through the village of Muff in County Donegal and from the southern end through the town of Kinsale in County Cork.

The immediate catchment of the Wild Atlantic Way is the area surrounding the spine of the route itself, the landmass to the west of the route as far as the coast and the immediate landmass to the east of the route.

While the immediate catchment of the WAW is the coastal zone, the Programme Area for the purpose of the Operational Programme is the totality of the nine coastal counties. This aids with monitoring and measuring given that most data, including tourism and environmental data sets, are most readily available at the level of the county.

In addition, a number of urban centres have been identified as gateways to the Wild Atlantic Way, namely; Cork, Killarney, Limerick, Ennis, Galway, Westport, Sligo, Donegal and Letterkenny, which, even though some are not located directly on the route, have an important role to play as key accommodation hubs which service the wider area in addition to having an appeal in their own right.

2.4 Route Development

In mid-2012, Fáilte Ireland initiated a collaborative and consultative process to

identify the route of the Wild Atlantic Way. In May 2013, the Route Identification Report was published, which documents the process followed in identifying the route. Four Regional Steering Groups were established which comprised representatives from Fáilte Ireland, the Local Authorities, the Leader Companies, Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Western Development Commission. Four meetings of each group were held to advise on the route options, following which an extensive public consultation process was undertaken.

The route was identified by primarily 'stitching' together a number of pre-existing touring routes, where appropriate, and providing linkages between them to form a contiguous touring route from Donegal to West Cork. While it was considered that all of this route had the capacity to accommodate two-way car and camper van traffic, it was not considered wide enough to accommodate larger coaches. In particular, 31% of the route was identified as not being able to accommodate coach traffic. For this reason, a separate coach route was identified, which diverts from the main 'independent travellers route', taking coaches onto roads that have the capacity to accommodate them. This approach to the use of existing roads allowed for the avoidance of adverse effects that could have occurred were new roads to be developed or existing roads widened. The route identification process also identified 161 candidate Discovery Points (viewing points and lay-bys), all of which are existing and in use, in addition to 28 Embarkation Points to the 26 off-shore islands.

A key objective of the Operational Programme is to identify a series of loops off the main route to further encourage visitors to explore the wider region and to increase the dwell time of international visitors. The reason why this wasn't done immediately was because it was considered that it would result in a dilution of the brand during the formative years if a large portion of the route was inland as opposed to predominately coastal and, thereby, not directly 'on-brand'.

2.5 Wild Atlantic Way Vision and Goals

The vision for the Wild Atlantic Way brand is as follows:

To create a world class, sustainable and un-missable destination brand that engages and energises the visitor so that they become powerful advocates and leaves them wanting to return for more.

The goals for the Wild Atlantic Way brand are as follows:

1. To ensure that the Wild Atlantic Way brand is compelling to our target market segments and that the Wild Atlantic Way itself becomes a world-class visitor experience.
2. To ensure that the Wild Atlantic Way delivers balanced and sustainable revenue and jobs growth with greater geographic and seasonal spread.
3. To ensure that the Wild Atlantic Way delivers benefits to local communities in the west of Ireland and contributes to a better place to live for everyone.
4. To ensure that the implementation of the Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme protects, enhances and raises awareness of the environment of the west of Ireland – as the fundamental asset that is the basis of the Wild Atlantic Way.



Figure 2.2 Wild Atlantic Way Route

2.6 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

The Programme sits within a hierarchy of strategic actions such as plans and programmes, including those detailed on Table 2.2 below⁷ (see also Section 4, Section 5 and Section 9). The Programme must comply with relevant higher level strategic actions and may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions.

The Programme is subject to a number of high level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply, including those which have been identified as Strategic Environmental Objectives in Section 5. Examples of Environmental Protection Objectives include the aim of the EU Habitats Directive - which is to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of Member States - and the purpose of the Water Framework Directive - which is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater which, among other things, prevents deterioration in the status of all water bodies and protects, enhances and restores all waters with the aim of achieving good status by 2015.

⁷ Table 2.1 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.

Table 2.2 Relationship with Legislation and Other Plans and Programmes⁸

European					
Directive/ Programme	Plan/ Programme	Highest Level Aim/ Purpose/ Objective	Lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevant legislation in Ireland	Relevance to the Operational Programme
Habitats (92/43/EEC)	Directive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species Establish a network of Natura 2000 sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV 	<p>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011)</p> <p>The Wildlife Act 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000</p>	Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Birds (2009/147/EC)	Directive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas); ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance. 	European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011)	Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
European Biodiversity to 2020	Union Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry Sustainable management of fish stocks 	Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan, 2011	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

⁸ Table 2.1 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.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Reducing invasive alien species o Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss 		
<p>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC)</p> <p>Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive) • Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives • Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values • Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM10) or up to five years (NO2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. • The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets objectives for ambient air quality • designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole • Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria; • Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and Community measures; • Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public; • Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases; • Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. 	<p>Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011)</p> <p>Arsenic, Cadmium, Mercury, Nickel and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons in Ambient Air Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 58 of 2009)</p>	<p>Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations</p>
<p>UN Kyoto Protocol and the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II)</p>	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) • EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP 	<p>National Policy Position and final Heads of the Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development Bill</p>	<p>Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p>
<p>EU 2020 climate and energy package</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020 • Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels • Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20% • Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency 	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps • Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU • Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020 • Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage 	<p>The Framework for Climate Change Bill</p> <p>European Communities (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 147/2011)</p>	<p>Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p>
<p>Flood Directive (2007/60/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks • Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment • Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 	<p>European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations (S.I. 122/2010)</p> <p>European Union</p>	<p>Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and 3 Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process 	(Environmental Impact Assessment) (Flood Risk) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 470/2012)	
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies Promote sustainable water usage The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive Sampling Drinking Water Directive Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive Shellfish Directive Freshwater Fish Directive Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive Dangerous Substances Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive Achieve "good status" for all waters by December 2015 Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts Involve the public and streamline legislation Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, ground water status and protected areas Recover costs for water services 	European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003) (as amended)	Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, control and conserve groundwater Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II 	European Communities Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9/2010) (as amended)	Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify all bathing waters and define the length of the bathing season Monitor bathing water quality as per Annex 1, Column A at the frequency outlined in Annex IV of the Directive Determine the quality status of the bathing water Achieve at least 'sufficient' standard by 2015 with the aim increase the standard to 'excellent' or 'good' Prepare, review and update a bathing water profile of each in accordance with Annex III Manage bathing water areas in exceptional circumstances to prevent an adverse impact on bathing 	Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 79 of 2008) (as amended)	Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations

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		<p>water quality and on bathers' health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide public information on bathing water quality 		
Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption • Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I • 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) • 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 • Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause • Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action • Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health • Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial 	<p>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 106 of 2007) (as amended)</p> <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003)</p>	<p>Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations</p>
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors • The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment • Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges • Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors 	<p>European Communities (Urban Waste Water Treatment) Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 254/2001)</p>	<p>Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations</p>
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent • Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures • Where environmental damage has occurred the 	<p>European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations, 2008</p>	<p>Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations</p>

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		<p>operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive • The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator • The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met 		
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development • Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out and environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive • Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme • Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission • Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects • Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme • Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive • Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment 	<p>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435/ 2004) (as amended)</p> <p>Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436/2004) (as amended)</p>	<p>Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations</p>

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<p>EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended 2014/52/EU)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made The information to be provided by the developer in accordance with paragraph 1 shall include at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a description of the project comprising information on the site, design and size of the project; a description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy significant adverse effects; the data required to identify and assess the main effects which the project is likely to have on the environment; an outline of the main alternatives studied by the developer and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects; a non-technical summary of the information referred to each of the above. 	<p>European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989 (S.I. No. 349/1989) (as amended)</p> <p>European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Flood Risk) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 470/2012)</p>	<p>Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations</p>
<p>Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of the European Union's ambitious Marine Strategy Framework Directive is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The initial assessment of the current environmental status of national marine waters and the environmental impact and socio-economic analysis of human activities in these waters (by 15 July 2012) The determination of what GES means for national marine waters (by 15 July 2012) The establishment of environmental targets and associated indicators to achieve GES by 2020 (by 15 July 2012) The establishment of a monitoring programme for the ongoing assessment and the regular update of targets (by 15 July 2014) The development of a programme of measures designed to achieve or maintain GES by 2020 (by 2015) 	<p>European Communities (Marine Strategy Framework) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 249/2011)</p>	<p>Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review and preparation of the second cycle (2018 – 2021) 		
National/Regional				
Plan/Programme	Highest Level Aim/ Purpose/ Objective	Lower level relevant objectives , actions etc.	Relevant legislation	Relevance to the Operational Programme
Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2012-16: Medium Term Exchequer Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews infrastructure and capital spending over a medium timeframe to ensure investment is made in the best areas Identifies gaps in existing infrastructure that require addressing to aid economic recovery, social cohesion and environmental sustainability 	<p>The approach identifies four main components of the investment strategy as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic infrastructure – encompassing transport networks, energy provision and telecommunications capacity Investment in the productive sector and human capital – such as direct supports for enterprise development; science, technology and innovation advancement; supports for tourism, agriculture, fisheries and forestry; and capital investment in education infrastructure Environmental infrastructure – including our waste and water systems and investment for environmental sustainability Critical social investment – such as the health service and social housing programmes 	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Sustainable Development – A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an analysis and a strategic framework for sustainable development in Ireland Identifies the approaches required to support sustainable development 	not applicable	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems Give statutory protection to NHAs Enhances wildlife species and their habitats Includes more species for protection 	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To mainstream biodiversity in the decision making process across all sectors To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and 	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

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		ecosystem services		
Smarter Travel Initiative 2012-2016	Sustainable transport investment programme to encourage transport initiatives such as cycling, car sharing, the use of public transport etc.	Limerick, Dungarvan and Westport were targeted demonstration areas for smarter transport initiatives and allocated funds to implement same	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved • Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To reduce overall travel demand. ○ To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. ○ To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. ○ To reduce transport emissions. ○ To improve accessibility to transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 ○ improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies ○ strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets 	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Ireland's First National Cycle Policy Framework (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland • Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020 • Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative 	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Scoping Study for a National Cycle Network (NCN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigated the feasibility of developing a National Cycle Network for recreational routes in rural areas, urban areas and connecting larger urban areas • The scoping study and subsequent workshops resulted in a recommended National Cycle Network 	not applicable	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Climate Change Strategy 2007 – 2012 (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines measures to be undertaken to meet the commitments under the Kyoto Protocol • Identifies specific measures to meet the commitment up to 2012 and further measures to meet the 2020 target 	not applicable	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental

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Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security of Supply Sustainability of Energy Competitiveness of Energy Supply 	The underpinning Strategic Goals are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production Being prepared for energy supply disruptions 	not applicable	protection and management Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Renewable Energy Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic approach for Ireland including measures to meet European targets for 2020 including Ireland’s 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020 	not applicable	Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland 2007 – 2020 (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate 	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing development plans and local area plans and in the assessment of planning applications Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management. 	Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) S.I. No. 122/2010 EC (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010 S.I. No. 470/2012 European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Flood Risk) Regulations 2012.	Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transposes the Water Framework Directive into legislation Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water Identifies the competent authorities in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs 	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing

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European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)	charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies • Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body • Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances • Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater 		regulations
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transposes the requirements of the Water Framework Directive into Irish Legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies • Outlines surface water quality standards • Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality 	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transposes the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality • Sets groundwater quality standards • Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater 	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9/2010) (as amended)	Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division 	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prosecute for water pollution offences; • attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters; • issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution; • issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; • seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects; • prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas 	Water Services Act 2013	Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations

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Groundwater Protection Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater, by using a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a system that brings together land surface zoning and groundwater protection responses Provides a framework to guide relevant Authorities in undertaking functions, decision making 	Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9/2010) (as amended)	Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Water Quality Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards Outlines management programmes for water catchments Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater 	Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
European Communities (Urban Waste Water Treatment) Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 254/2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transposes the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive into Irish Legislation Aims to protect receiving waters from environmental damage arising from Urban Wastewater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the legislative requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems Provides for monitoring programmes of discharges Specifies threshold values and minimum standards for water quality 	Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Water Services Act 2007 Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 Water Services Act 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the water services infrastructure Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland 	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced. Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER. 	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations

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National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning framework for Ireland • Aims to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development across Ireland, supported by effective planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposes that areas of sufficient scale and critical mass will be built up through a network of gateways, hubs and key town 	Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1963 (as amended) Requirement of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act (2010)	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Grid25 Implementation Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework for the development of the electricity transmission grid in the short, medium and long terms, to support a long-term sustainable and reliable electricity supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks to implement the provisions of the 2007 Government White Paper on Energy –“Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland” in terms of development of electricity transmission infrastructure 	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Water Services Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish Water is currently preparing a Water Services Strategic Plan (referred to as the WSSP below) which will set out Irish Water's high level strategies for providing water services to their customers over a 25 year horizon and how they will meet their environmental compliance commitments. 	<p>The objectives of the WSSP are set out under the Water Service (No. 2) Act 2013 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking water quality; • The prevention of risks to human health or the environment relating to the provision of water services; • The existing and projected demand for water services; • Arrangements for the provision of water services by Irish Water; • Existing and reasonably foreseeable deficiencies in the provision of water services by Irish Water; • Water conservation measures; and • Management of the property of Irish Water. 	Water Service (No. 2) Act 2013	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Landscape Strategy aims to implement the European Landscape Convention in Ireland by providing for specific measures to promote the protection, management and planning of the landscape. 	<p>The objectives of the Sstrategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise landscapes in law • Develop a National Landscape Character Assessment • Develop Landscape Policies • Increase Landscape Awareness • Identity Education, Research and Training Needs • Strengthen Public Participation 	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Rural Development Programme (draft/in preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas 	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; • Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and • Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity 	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

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			through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities		
National Programme 2014-2020	Forestry 2014-2020	The Programme identifies the following objectives: i. Afforestation and Creation of Woodland ii. NeighbourWood Scheme iii. Forest Roads iv. Reconstitution Scheme v. Woodland Improvement (Thinning and Tending) vi. Native Woodland Conservation vii. Knowledge Transfer and Innovation viii. Producer Groups ix. Innovative Forestry Technology x. Forest Genetic Reproductive Material xi. Forest Management Plans	not applicable	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Strategy (draft/in preparation)	Peatlands (draft/in preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Draft Strategy, prepared by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, will, when finalised, establish principles in relation to Irish peatlands in order to guide Government policy. The Draft Strategy aims to provide a framework for which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution. 	not applicable	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs 		Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Flood Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme (draft/in preparation)	Risk Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. The Programme is being implemented through CFRAM Studies which are being undertaken for each of the six river basin districts in Ireland. 	CFRAM Studies are being 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. Draft Flood Maps were published in 2015. The final output from the studies will be CFRAM Plans, to be published in December 2016. The Plans will define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

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Our Great Outdoors – The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven year Action Plan for development of outdoor recreation Outlines targets for increased participation, sustainable access and improved infrastructure in Northern Ireland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides recommendations and challenges to be addressed to meet the requirements of the Action Plan to deliver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy active lifestyles for local people from all communities Economic growth through visitors coming to use outdoors Protection of landscapes and ecosystems 		Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets our Northern Ireland's Tourism Strategy until 2020 Vision is to "Create the new Northern Ireland experience and get it on everyone's destination wish list" Details an Action Plan to achieving targets for People, Products and Places, Promotion and Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets targets for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing visitor numbers Increasing tourism earnings Accelerating visitor spend Targeting specific markets and segments Supporting indigenous high quality businesses Being visitor inspired Plan provides for development of at least 22 key sites on Causeway Coastal Route 		Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Harvest 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to innovate and expand the Irish food industry in response to increased global demand for quality foods Sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas in 2015 		European Communities (Food and Feed Hygiene) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 432 of 2009)(as amended) European Communities (Hygiene of Foodstuffs) (S.I. No. 369 of 2006)	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment			Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) Agri-Environmental Options Scheme(AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage 		Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

Regional, County and Local				
Plan/Programme	Highest Level Aim/ Purpose/ Objective	Lower level relevant objectives , actions etc.	Relevant legislation in Ireland	Relevance to the Operational Programme
Regional Planning Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a long-term strategic planning framework for the development of regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to give regional effect to the National Spatial Strategy Guide the Development Plans and lower tier plans of local authorities 	Requirement of the Planning and Sustainable Development Act (2000), as amended	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Northern Ireland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective Outlines eight aims for the RDS 	Strategic Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1999	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Development Plans including those for Donegal, Sligo, Mayo Galway, Clare, Limerick, Kerry and Cork And Northern Ireland Areas Plans (Derry Area Plan 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines planning objectives for County/Town development over six year lifespan (including greenway and other transport objectives) Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines Sets out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies future infrastructure, development and zoning required Protects and enhances amenities and environment Guides planning authority in assessing proposals Aims to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development Aims to promote sustainable development Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage 	Requirement of the Planning and Development Act (2000), as amended Part III of the Planning (NI) Order 1991	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Local Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory document which provides detailed planning policies to ensure proper planning and sustainable development of area Sets out objectives for future planning and development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies issues of relevance to the area and outlines principles for future development of area Is consistent with relevant County/Town Development Plans, National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines 	Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1963 (as amended) Requirement of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act (2010)	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Regional & County Green Infrastructure Plans/Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes the maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure in an area Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats 	not applicable	not applicable	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory

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River Basin Management Plans and associated Programmes of Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies at River Basin District (RBD) level Preserve, prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies in that RBD before 2015 Promote sustainable water usage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive Identifies and manages water bodies in the RBD Establishes a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD Involves the public through consultations 	<p>Requirement of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</p> <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations, 2003 (SI No. 722) (as amended)</p> <p>Guidelines for the Establishment of River Basin District Advisory Councils (RBDAC)</p>	<p>framework for environmental protection and management</p> <p>Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p>
Biodiversity Action Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to protect, conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services across all spectrums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines the status of biodiversity and identifies species of importance Outlines objectives and targets to be met to maintain and improve biodiversity Aims increase awareness 	not applicable	<p>Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p>
Heritage Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to highlight the importance of heritage at a strategic level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage and promote heritage as well as increase awareness Aim to conserve and protect heritage 	not applicable	<p>Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p>
County Landscape Character Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape 	<p>Requirement of the Planning and Development) Act, 2000 (as amended)</p> <p>Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines</p>	<p>Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p>
Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub-Basin Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status 	<p>Requirement of Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</p> <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003)</p> <p>European Communities</p>	<p>Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p>

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			(Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011) The Wildlife Act 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000	
Local Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced by Local Authorities Outlines areas local flood risk Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level 	not applicable	Floods Directive 2007/60/EC Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) S.I. No. 122/2010 EC (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010 S.I. No. 470/2012 European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Flood Risk) Regulations 2012	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-jurisdictional land and marine based framework plan to guide the future development and management of the Shannon Estuary Statutory planning policy to be included in relevant Local Area Plans County/Town Development Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and develop an integrated approach to facilitating economic growth and promoting environmental management within and adjacent to the Shannon Estuary 		Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes	Aims to improve water quality and ensure the protection or improvement of designated shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth and contribute to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies key and secondary pressures on water quality in designated shellfish areas Outlines specific measures to address identified key and secondary pressures on water quality Addresses the specific pressures acting on water quality in each area 	European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2006 (SI 268/2006)(as amended) Requirement of Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC) for designated shellfish waters	Implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Projects	Projects considered by the assessment include the Causeway Coastal Route (included for by the Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020, this is a waymarked coastal drive between Belfast and Londonderry including a number of key sites), the Eurovelo 1 European Cycle route (this runs along existing roads from Donegal to Wexford and picks up greenways where they exist). The Borders, Midland and Western Regional Assembly and the National Trails Office are leading the Ireland part of an application for Interreg funding with a few other countries) and the works referred to under Section 8.7.2 of this SEA Environmental Report and Section 3.1 of the WAW Operational Programme document.			See Section 8.7.2. Also implementation of the Programme to cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

Section 3 SEA Methodology

3.1 Introduction to the Iterative Approach

Figure 3.1 provides an overview of the integrated Programme preparation, SEA and AA processes. The preparation of the Programme, SEA and AA have taken place concurrently and the findings of the SEA and AA have informed the Programme.

The process is currently at a stage where this SEA Environmental Report has been prepared and is being placed on public display alongside the Programme.

Taking into account the content of the previously prepared SEA Scoping Report, scoping submissions from environmental authorities and continuous scoping of the SEA, environmental impacts have been predicted, evaluated and mitigated. The findings of this assessment is presented in this SEA Environmental Report, an earlier version of which accompanied the Programme on public display as part of the required statutory public consultation (this earlier version was updated to take account of both submissions made on

the the SEA and AA documents and changes to the Programme which were made after public display).

A Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report also accompanies the Programme on public display. The Programme and associated SEA and AA documents were prepared in an iterative manner whereby multiple revisions of each document were prepared, each informing subsequent iterations of the others.

Submissions made on the Programme were responded to in a "Report on Submissions" and the Programme was revised as appropriate. On finalisation of the Programme, an SEA Statement has been prepared which summarises, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Programme. The Programme will be implemented and environmental monitoring will be undertaken.

Implementation will involve development at project level including the undertaking of EIA and AA.

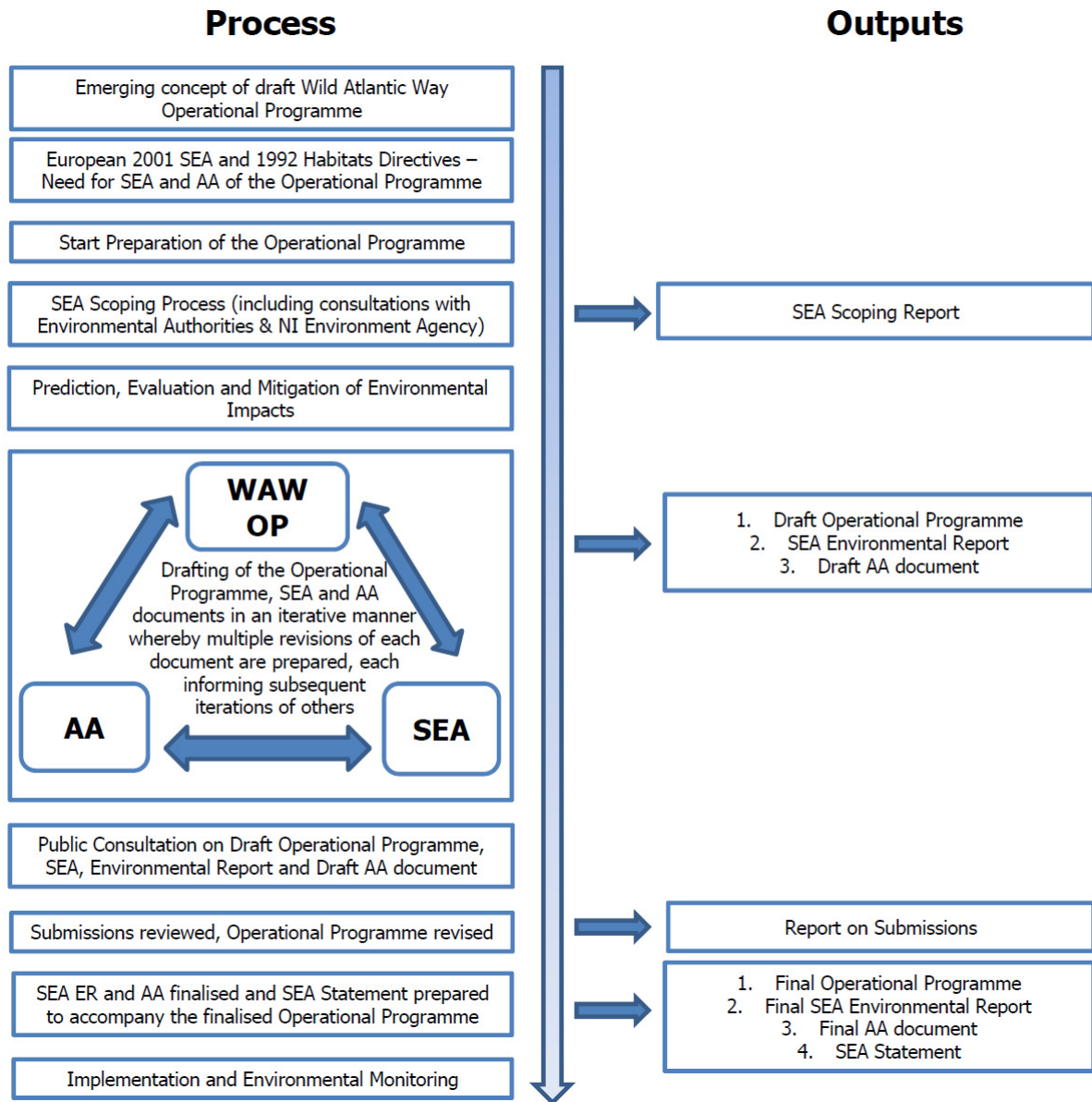


Figure 3.1 Overview of Operational Programme/SEA/AA Process and Outputs

3.2 Appropriate Assessment and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

3.2.1 Appropriate Assessment

A Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Programme.

The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC).

The AA concluded that the Programme will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network⁹.

The preparation of the Programme, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed both the Programme and the SEA. All recommendations made by the AA were integrated into the Programme.

3.2.2 Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

Many elements of Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment as detailed in the EPA's (2013) Practitioner's Manual have been aligned with in the undertaking of the SEA for the Programme. These include:

Scoping

- Biodiversity-relevant issues were identified for consideration at scoping stage and these are now detailed in Section 4.3.
- Reference to a zone of influence is provided, including at Section 4.3.

Current State of the Environment

- Biodiversity data sources relevant for this national level assessment have been identified.
- Designated sites and other habitats and species of ecological value are identified.
- AA information has been incorporated into the SEA.

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

- (a) No alternative solution available;
- (b) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the programme to proceed; and
- (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Alternatives

- Impacts upon biodiversity are considered under each of the alternatives and certain potential conflicts can be mitigated.

Impact assessment

- Effects on biodiversity are identified and assessed and the AA gives consideration to the interrelationship between biodiversity and potential effects on European sites.

Mitigation and monitoring

- Taking into account all measures contained within the Programme, all the proposed mitigation measures deriving from the various processes were generally consistent and compatible.
- Indicators and associated targets have been included in SEA for monitoring European sites.

Reporting

- This SEA ER addresses all biodiversity-related considerations relevant for this level of assessment.
- This SEA ER contains all biodiversity-relevant information, data, figures and maps relevant for this level of assessment.
- This SEA ER has been informed by the AA findings.

Communication and consultation

- Submissions from various environmental authorities have been taken on board.
- The preparation of the Programme, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed both the Programme and the SEA.

3.3 Decision to Undertake SEA

Arising from Article 9 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended, there is a requirement to carry out environmental assessment of certain types of plans. This includes plans and programmes for the tourism sector which are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but, either individually or in combination with other plans, are likely to have a significant effect on any such site.

The WAW initiative has two parts; the first consists of the branding and linking together of a series of existing separate touring routes as a single tourism proposition, and the signing of the consolidated route (comprising Stages 1-3: Proposition and Brand Development; Identification of Route; and Way-finding Strategy). The second part (comprising Stages 4-6: Delivery of Discovery Points; Selling WAW Experiences; and Marketing and Communications) consists of

the implementation of this proposition by planning and implementing, interpretation, development of Discovery Points, marketing, trade engagement and experience development projects to create a consistent and coherent visitor experience. The objectives relating to second part of the initiative are set out in the Operational Programme.

Although Stages 4-6¹⁰ of the WAW initiative, which includes the Operational Programme (Stage 4), do not provide a decision-making framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive (Fáilte Ireland is co-ordinating future WAW works relating to the Discovery Points through the Operational Programme, but not developing any of these works – they will be developed by the relevant local authorities and others), the undertaking of SEA on Stage 4 provides an opportunity that would otherwise be lost to examine inter-regional and inter-county environmental effects.

Furthermore, the Operational Programme (Stage 4) would be considered as a 'plan' as per the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (Part 5)¹¹ and therefore must be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA). Stage 2 AA is required to be undertaken on the Programme – this necessitates the undertaking of SEA as per the requirements of the SEA Directive.

Although the Operational Programme (Stage 4) includes will include various strategies (e.g. Brand Strategy, Wild Atlantic Way Route and Discovery Points Strategy, Visitor Management Strategy, Trade Engagement Strategy, Sales and Marketing Strategy, Community

Engagement Strategy, Culture and Heritage Strategy Environmental Management and Sustainability Strategy and Building Effective Partnerships Strategy), implementation of the selling of WAW Experiences, Marketing and Communications will take place as part of Stages 5 and 6 which will not be subject to SEA and AA as: these stages do not provide a decision making framework and will not give rise to works or physical effects that could impact on the environment; and none of the outputs are considered a 'plan' as per the Bird and Natural Habitats Regulations.

The preceding Branding Stages (Stages 1 to 3¹²) do not provide a decision making framework and will not give rise to works or physical effects that could impact on the environment because these are existing, long established touring routes and other roads with established patterns of use and renewal. Unlike Stages 4-6, these stages will not give rise to the need for other permits, permissions or assessments, are not considered a 'plan' as per the Bird and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 and are therefore outside the scope of this assessment.

Figure 3.2 provides a flow chart which describes SEA and AA requirements with respect to the various stages of the WAW Signature Tourism Experience and WAW outputs.

In addition to this a review of the the Wild Atlantic Way will be undertaken every five years and this will take account of the requirements of the SEA and Habitats Directive.

Projects will generally be undertaken by local authorities. Occasionally projects will be undertaken by others e.g. local development groups, community groups etc. When discussing the undertaking etc. of projects, the Operational Programme and associated documents generally refer to local authorities. Such references should be taken as being applicable to others (e.g. local development groups, community groups etc.) where relevant.

¹⁰ Stage 4 Delivery of Discovery Points (the Operational Programme), Stage 5 (Selling WAW Experiences) and Stage 6 (Marketing and Communications)

¹¹ Plan, subject to the exclusion, except where the contrary intention appears, of any plan that is a land use plan within the meaning of the Planning Acts 2000 to 2011, includes:

(a) any plan, programme or scheme, statutory or non-statutory, that establishes public policy in relation to land use and infrastructural development in one or more specified locations or regions, including any development of land or on land, the extraction or exploitation of mineral resources or of renewable energy resources and the carrying out of land use activities, that is to be considered for adoption or authorisation or approval or for the grant of a licence, consent, permission, permit, derogation or other authorisation by a public authority, or
(b) a proposal to amend or extend a plan or scheme referred to in subparagraph (a).

¹² The following documents were prepared as part of Stages 1-3:

- "WAW Brand Proposition" (2012), prepared by Colliers on behalf of Fáilte Ireland; and
- "WAW (Initial) Route Identification Report" (2013), prepared by Hogarts on behalf of Fáilte Ireland.

Projects undertaken by others (e.g. local development groups, community groups etc.) will be required to comply with relevant Planning and Development Regulations etc.

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

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

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

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

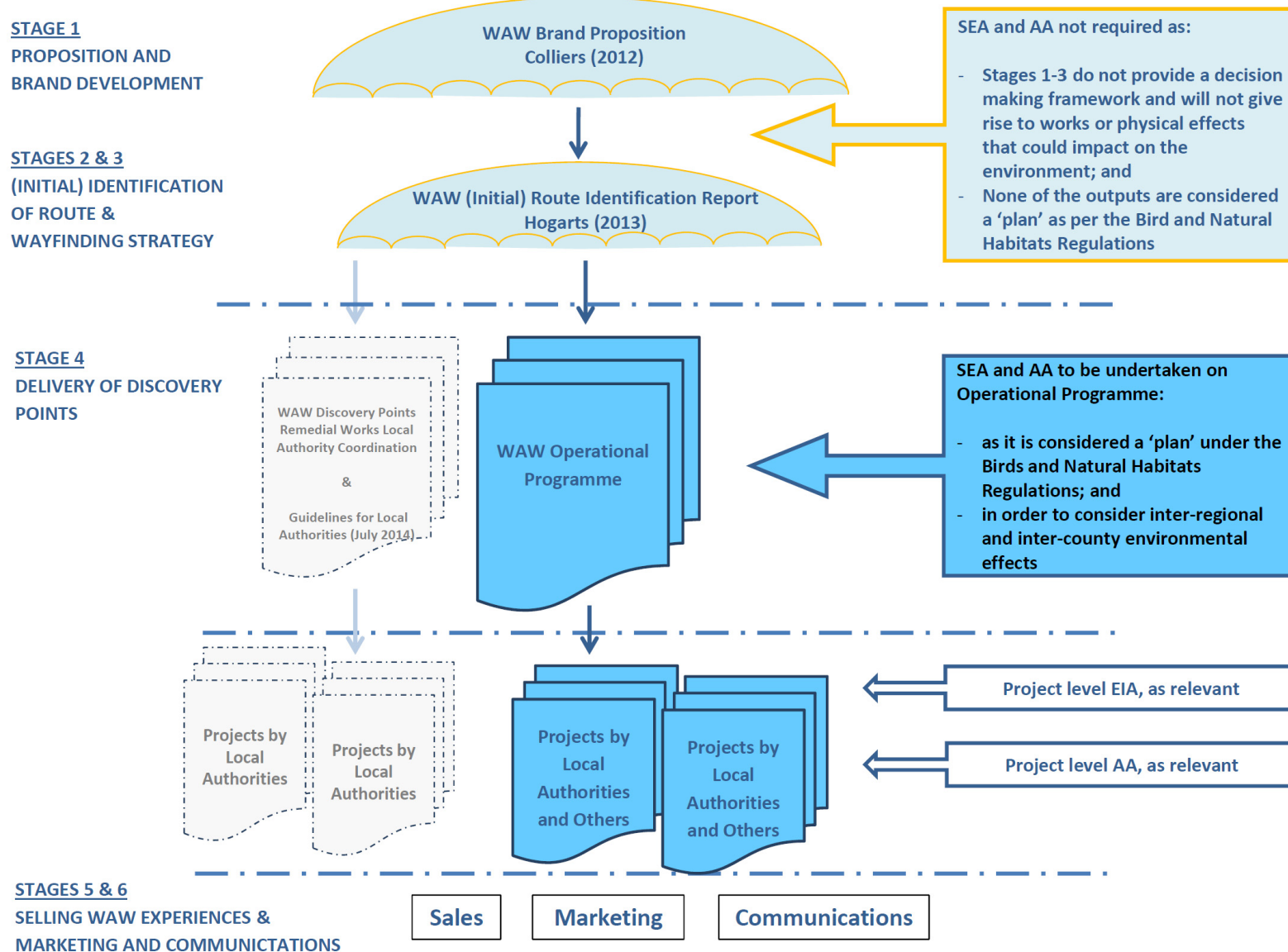


Figure 3.2 SEA and AA Requirements¹³

¹³ In order to contribute towards the coordination of any ongoing or future local authority remedial work projects at or in the vicinity of WAW Discovery Points, Fáilte Ireland have circulated guidelines to local authorities. These guidelines do not fall within the scope of SEA/AA legislation but will contribute towards environmental management and will help local authorities meet their requirements under the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations in the carrying out of their operations and works.

3.4 Scoping

3.4.1 Introduction

The scope of environmental issues to be dealt with by the SEA together with the level of detail to which they are addressed was decided upon taking into account the level of detail included in the Programme and submissions from environmental authorities. Scoping allowed the SEA to become focused upon key issues relevant to the environmental components which are specified under the SEA Directive¹⁴.

3.4.2 Scoping Notices and Submissions

As part of the scoping process, environmental authorities¹⁵ (as well as the relevant transboundary authority in Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency) were notified that a submission or observation in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to Fáilte Ireland.

Submissions were made by the following environmental authorities:

1. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG)
2. Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFF)
3. Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)
4. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
5. Northern Ireland Environment Agency (Department of the Environment Northern Ireland)

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ The following authorities were notified: Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The EPA and DAHG made themselves available for numerous meetings from an early stage in the process and an SEA Scoping Workshop was attended by representatives from the DAHG, DCENR and EPA. The written submissions and the recommendations made at the various meetings and the SEA Scoping Workshop helped in the development and refinement of the Operational Programme and the scope of the SEA and AA.

3.5 Environmental Report

In this SEA Environmental Report, an earlier version of which accompanied the Programme on public display as part of the required statutory public consultation (this earlier version was updated to take account of both submissions made on the the SEA and AA documents and changes to the Programme which were made after public display).

The report includes the likely environmental effects of the Programme and relevant alternatives are predicted and their significance evaluated. The Environmental Report provides Fáilte Ireland, stakeholders and the public with a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of the Programme.

Mitigation measures to prevent or reduce significant adverse effects posed by the Programme are identified in Section 9 - these have been integrated into the Programme.

The Environmental Report was updated in order to take account of recommendations contained in submissions and in order to take account of changes which were made to the original, Programme that was placed on public display. Changes to the original Draft Programme that was placed on public display were examined for the need to undertake SEA and AA. It was determined, taking into account the provisions which were already integrated into the Draft Programme, that the changes would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects nor would they impact upon the Natura 2000 network of sites.

The Environmental Report is required to contain the information specified in Schedule 2 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes)

Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended (see Table 3.1).

3.6 SEA Statement

On finalisation of the Programme, an SEA Statement has been prepared which includes information on:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Programme, highlighting the changes to the Programme which resulted from the SEA process;
- How the SEA Environmental Report and consultations have been taken into account, summarising the key issues raised in consultations and in the Environmental Report indicating what action was taken in response;
- The reasons for choosing the Programme in the light of the other alternatives, identifying the other alternatives considered, commenting on their potential effects and explaining why the Programme as adopted was selected; and
- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing of the Programme.

3.7 Difficulties Encountered

A challenge to the undertaking the SEA and a future challenge for lower tier assessments and decision making by local authorities is the lack of a centralised database including data (for both Ireland and Northern Ireland) that could make all environmental baseline data readily available and in a consistent format. This challenge is one which is encountered for various plans, programmes and projects and is overcome by investing time resources in assimilating information from various sources.

The information used by the assessment and referred to in this report is appropriate for this level of decision making and environmental assessment.

Table 3.1 Checklist of Information included in this Environmental Report

Information Required to be included in the Environmental Report	Corresponding Section of this Report
(A) Outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Sections 2, 5 and 8
(B) Description of relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the evolution of that environment without implementation of the plan or programme	Section 4
(C) Description of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Sections 4, 7 and 8
(D) Identification of any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, particularly those relating to European protected sites	Section 4
(E) List environmental protection objectives, established at international, EU or National level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and describe how those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account when preparing the Plan	Sections 5, 7, 8 and 9
(F) Describe the likely significant effects on the environment	Sections 7 and 8
(G) Describe any measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme	Section 9
(H) Give an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives considered, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken (including any difficulties)	Sections 6, 7 and 8
(I) A description of proposed monitoring measures	Section 10
(J) A non-technical summary of the above information	Non-Technical Summary
(K) Interrelationships between each environmental topic	Addressed as it arises within each Section

Section 4 Relevant aspects of the current state of the Environment

4.1 Introduction

Reflecting the specifications in the SEA Directive, the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment for the following environmental components are identified in this section: biodiversity and flora and fauna, population and human health, soil, water, air and climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

Information which is relevant to lower tier environmental assessments and decision making is identified (note that Article 5 of the SEA Directive, in accordance with the established European principle of subsidiarity, requires that the Environmental Report includes the information that may reasonably be required taking into account, inter alia, the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment).

The information identified will be used by local authorities and others to inform lower tier environmental assessments and decision making.

As noted previously, while the immediate catchment of the WAW is the coastal zone, the Programme Area for the purpose of the Operational Programme is the totality of the nine coastal counties (Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo Mayo, Galway, Clare, Limerick, Kerry and Cork). This aids with monitoring and measuring given that most data, including tourism and environmental data sets, are most readily available at the level of the county.

4.2 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of a new Programme

The likely evolution of the environment in the absence of a new Programme would resemble Option 1 'Continuation of Uncoordinated Approach' which is detailed and evaluated under Sections 6 and 7 of this report.

This option would involve continued uncoordinated trend growth of visitor numbers with associated promotion maintenance, repair and development of tourism projects over 35 touring routes.

This option would not contribute towards improvements in environmental management and protection and would be the most likely option whereby significant residual adverse environmental effects would occur.

Works would be undertaken by a variety of local groups, private landowners and local authorities outside of a framework resulting in the proliferation of viewing points and associated developments – potentially including new and improved access roads – along the entirety of the route. Impacts and mitigation along the western seaboard would not be considered as a whole, only on a case by case basis where works are part of formal consenting procedures.

4.3 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

4.3.1 Relevant aspects

Information on biodiversity and flora and fauna which is relevant to the Operational Programme and lower tier assessments and decision making by local authorities and others includes available information on designated ecological sites and protected species, ecological connectivity (including stepping stones and corridors) and non-designated habitats.

Ecological designations include:

- Candidate Special Areas of Conservation¹⁶ (cSACs) and Special Protection Areas¹⁷ (SPAs);
- UNESCO World Heritage and UNESCO Biosphere sites¹⁸;
- Ramsar Sites¹⁹;
- Salmonid Waters²⁰;

¹⁶ cSACs have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) by the DECLG due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union. The sites are *candidate* sites because they are currently under consideration by the Commission of the European Union. The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with the SPAs designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000.

¹⁷ SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - by the DECLG due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the European Union.

¹⁸ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List comprises sites of outstanding universal value: cultural, natural or mixed. The UNESCO Biosphere Reserves List comprises areas of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems promoting solutions to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use.

¹⁹ Ramsar sites are designated and protected under the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Water Fowl Habitat, which was established at Ramsar in 1971 and ratified by Ireland in 1984. Ireland presently has 45 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance, with surface areas of 66,994 hectares. The objective of a Ramsar site is the conservation of wetlands for wildfowl. While Ireland ratified the Ramsar Convention in 1984 there is no legal backing for Ramsar sites unless they are also Nature Reserves or SPAs and as such are protected by the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000 or the Birds or Habitats Directives.

²⁰ Salmonid waters are designated and protected as under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters)

- Shellfish Waters²¹;
- Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments²²;
- Flora Protection Order²³ sites;
- Wildlife Sites (including Nature Reserves²⁴);
- Certain entries to the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas²⁵;
- Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs)²⁶;
- Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979)²⁷; and
- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)²⁸.

Regulations 1988 (SI No. 293 of 1988). Designated Salmonid Waters are capable of supporting salmon (*Salmo salar*), trout (*Salmo trutta*), char (*Salvelinus*) and whitefish (*Coregonus*).

²¹ In order to protect existing shellfish waters and to ensure the future protection of these areas, the European Union introduced the Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC). The purpose of this Directive is to put in place concrete measures to protect waters, including shellfish waters, against pollution and to safeguard certain shellfish populations from various harmful consequences, resulting from the discharge of pollutant substances into the sea. The Directive applies to the aquatic habitat of bivalve and gastropod molluscs only (includes oysters, mussels, cockles, scallops and clams). It does not include crustaceans such as lobsters, crabs and crayfish.

²² Freshwater pearl mussel is a globally threatened, long-lived and extremely sensitive species that can be impacted by many forms of pollution, particularly sediment and nutrient pollution and by hydrological and morphological changes, which may arise from developments, activities or changes in any part of the catchment.

²³ The current list of plant species protected by Section 21 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 is set out in the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999.

²⁴ A Nature Reserve is an area of importance to wildlife, which is protected under Ministerial order. There are currently 78 Statutory Nature Reserves. Most are owned by the State but some are owned by organisations or private landowners.

²⁵ In response to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive a number of water bodies or parts of water bodies which must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by wildlife have been listed on Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs). RPAs include those for Protected Habitats or Species, Shellfish, Salmonid, Nutrient Sensitive Areas, Recreational Waters and Drinking Water.

²⁶ NHAs are designated due to their national conservation value for ecological and/or geological/geomorphological heritage. They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. NHAs are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. pNHAs were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated. These sites are of significance for wildlife and habitats.

²⁷ Wildfowl Sanctuaries are areas that have been excluded from the 'Open Season Order' so that game birds can rest and feed undisturbed. There are 68 sanctuaries in the State. Shooting of game birds is not allowed in these sanctuaries.

Relevant ecological designations in Northern Ireland include:

- Natura 2000 Sites (these are European Sites – see description above);
- Areas of Special Scientific Interest²⁹;
- Nature Reserves³⁰; and
- Ramsar Sites (see description above).

Protected Species include:

- Annex IV (Habitats Directive) species of flora and fauna, and their key habitats (i.e. breeding sites and resting places), which are strictly protected wherever they occur, whether inside or outside the above sites, e.g. Otter and bats;
- Other species of flora and fauna and their key habitats which are protected under the Wildlife Acts, 1976-2000, wherever they occur; and
- 'Protected species and natural habitats' as defined in the European Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) and European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations, 2008, including: Birds Directive – Annex I species and other regularly occurring migratory species, and their habitats (wherever they occur) and Habitats Directive – Annex I habitats, Annex II species and their habitats, and Annex IV species and their breeding sites and resting places (wherever they occur).

Specific habitats and species in specific locations will be given consideration through project level planning and associated assessments. Depending on the nature of lower tier projects, sensitive species may include, for example, corncrake and breeding waders (such as Dunlin, Curlew, Red Shank, Lapwing, Golden Plover) and Snipe. Sensitive habitats and their species may include

²⁸ TPOs are a planning mechanism whereby individual trees or groups of trees can be identified as important and protected by a TPO.

²⁹ Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) are protected areas that represent the best of Northern Ireland's wildlife and geological sites that make a considerable contribution to the conservation of Northern Ireland's most valuable natural places.

³⁰ Nature reserves are chosen from among the very best examples of Northern Ireland's wildlife, habitats and geology. They contain a wide range of species, communities and geology and their designation is a public recognition of their importance.

machair, dunes and cliffs. Such habitats can support species such as:

- Rare insects like the Great Yellow Bumblebee, Belted Beauty moth and the Red-banded Wasp; and
- Sensitive birds such as Ringed Plovers, Oystercatchers, Twite and Cloughs.

The following information is relevant to ecological networks and connectivity and non-designated habitats:

- CORINE land cover mapping (including areas likely to contain a habitat listed in annex 1 of the Habitats Directive)³¹;
- Watercourses, wetlands and peatlands;
- Other relevant County Development Plan designations;
- The EPA's Framework National Ecological Network for Ireland³²; and
- Other sites of high biodiversity value or ecological importance, e.g. BirdWatch Ireland's 'Important Bird Areas' (Crowe et al., 2009).

Ecological networks are important in connecting areas of local biodiversity with each other and with nearby designated sites so as to prevent islands of habitat from being isolated entities. They are composed of linear features, such as treelines, hedgerows and rivers/streams, which provide corridors or stepping stones for wildlife species moving within their normal range. They are important for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna particularly for mammals, especially for bats and small birds and facilitate linkages both between and within designated ecological sites, the non-designated surrounding countryside and urban areas.

³¹ The CORINE land cover mapping classifies land cover under various headings. This dataset allows for the identification of lands that are likely to be most valuable to biodiversity including those which are likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive e.g. natural grasslands, peat bogs, salt marshes. CORINE Land Cover (CLC) is a map of the European environmental landscape based on interpretation of satellite images. Land cover is the observed physical cover, as seen from the ground or through remote sensing, including for example natural or planted vegetation, water and human constructions which cover the earth's surface.

³² The EPA's Framework National Ecological Network provides a classification of the relative importance of areas by virtue of the biodiversity and flora that they contain and the connectivity they provide. Many of the areas identified are corridors.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife, including for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna. The Directive requires that ecological connectivity and areas of ecological value outside the Natura 2000 network of designated ecological sites are maintained.

Ecological islands or areas of habitat that are not connected to surrounding ecologically valuable habitats can also be important.

4.3.2 Further Detail

4.3.2.1 Natura 2000 sites

Additional information on Natura 2000 sites is provided in the AA Natura Impact Report which accompanies the OP and this Environmental Report on public display.

Figure 4.1 maps Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Wild Atlantic Way in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Also shown on Figure 4.1 are the borders of River Basin Districts including those which are shared with Counties Derry, Tyrone and Fermanagh in Northern Ireland.

The Zone of Influence of the Programme with respect to potential impacts upon ecology via surface waters can be estimated to be all River Basin Districts either wholly within or partially within the study area, including estuarine and coastal water bodies.

4.3.2.2 National Parks and UNESCO Sites

National Parks are designated by the DECLG and there are six located in Ireland. Five out of the six National Parks are in counties associated with the Wild Atlantic Way:

- The Burren National Park, Co. Clare
- Ballycroy National Park, Co. Mayo
- Connemara National Park, Co. Galway
- Glenveagh National Park, Co. Donegal
- Killarney National Park, Co. Kerry

Skellig Michael, one of the two Skellig Islands off the coast of County Kerry is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

4.3.2.3 Land Cover Mapping

Figure 4.2 illustrates the 2012 CORINE classification of landcover under various

headings. Land cover categories which indicate lands that are likely to be most valuable to biodiversity include broad-leaved forests, mixed forests, natural grassland, moors and heathlands, transitional woodland scrub, beaches, dunes, sand, inland marshes, peat bogs, salt marshes, intertidal flats, stream courses, water bodies and coastal lagoons.

4.3.2.4 Natural Heritage Areas and Areas likely to contain Annex I Habitats

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), proposed NHAs and areas likely to contain habitats listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive are illustrated on Figure 4.3. Also shown on this Figure are Water Management Units.

4.3.3 Regional Spatial Assessment of Natural Heritage

A regional spatial assessment of Natural Heritage (prepared as part of this SEA) is provided at Figure 4.4 and Table 4.1.

This very high-level assessment identified two types of zones with regionally similar areas of natural heritage; Zones B and D – which dominantly comprise the working landscapes and largely settled coastal plains of Sligo, Clare and North Kerry.

Zones A, C and E which dominantly consist of peninsular environments of mountains, bogs, rocky coasts and scattered farming with scattered settlements.

All of these are highly sensitive – but also highly designated. Most of the major habitat designations cross both county boundaries and WFD River Basin District boundaries. This means that the management plans and conservation objectives are well integrated – both spatially and thematically – ensuring consistent protection at a regional scale.

At a very general level, the coastal plains are more robust landscapes with a higher capacity for new developments and uses to be readily absorbed by existing settlements and infrastructure – which is more widespread in these areas.

By contrast the natural heritage in the peninsular environments is significantly more

sensitive with correspondingly little capacity to absorb new development outside the immediate environs of the limited number and extent of areas of existing settlement and infrastructure.

The Assessment notes that no significant adverse residual effects are likely at a regional level if uses and developments conform with existing regulatory requirements and Fáilte Ireland Guidelines.

4.3.4 Existing Problems

Previous changes in land uses arising from human development have resulted in a loss of biodiversity and flora and fauna however legislative objectives governing biodiversity and fauna were not identified as being conflicted with.

The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's Article 17 report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (2013) identifies many Irish habitats to be of unfavourable status and many to be still declining, although it also identifies that a range of positive actions are underway. The report identifies that the majority of EU-protected species are, however, in "Favourable" status in Ireland, and stable, although a small number are considered to be in "Bad" status and continue to require concerted efforts to protect them.

The Operational Programme includes robust measures to contribute towards the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna.

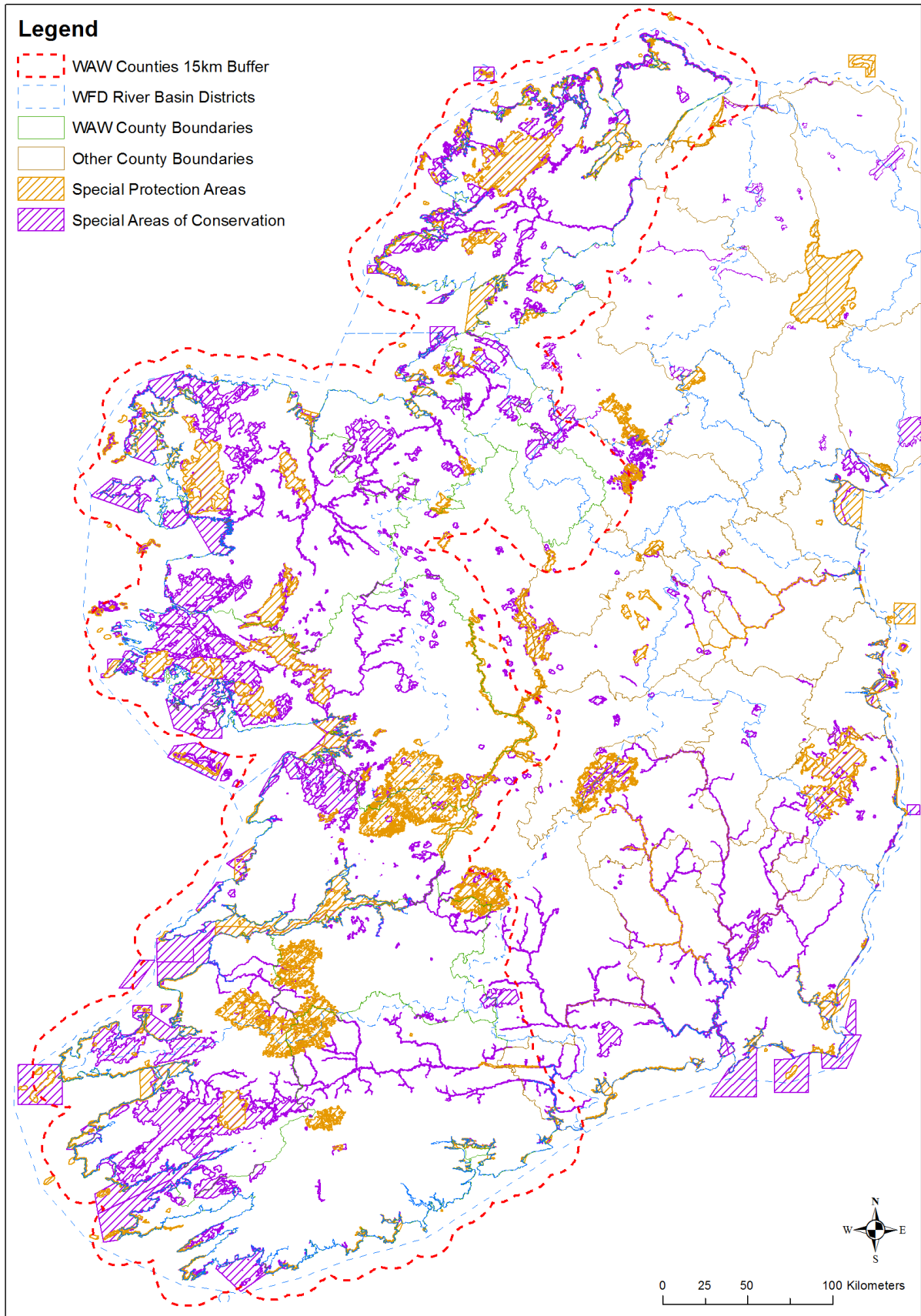


Figure 4.1 Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Wild Atlantic Way Programme Area and River Basin Districts

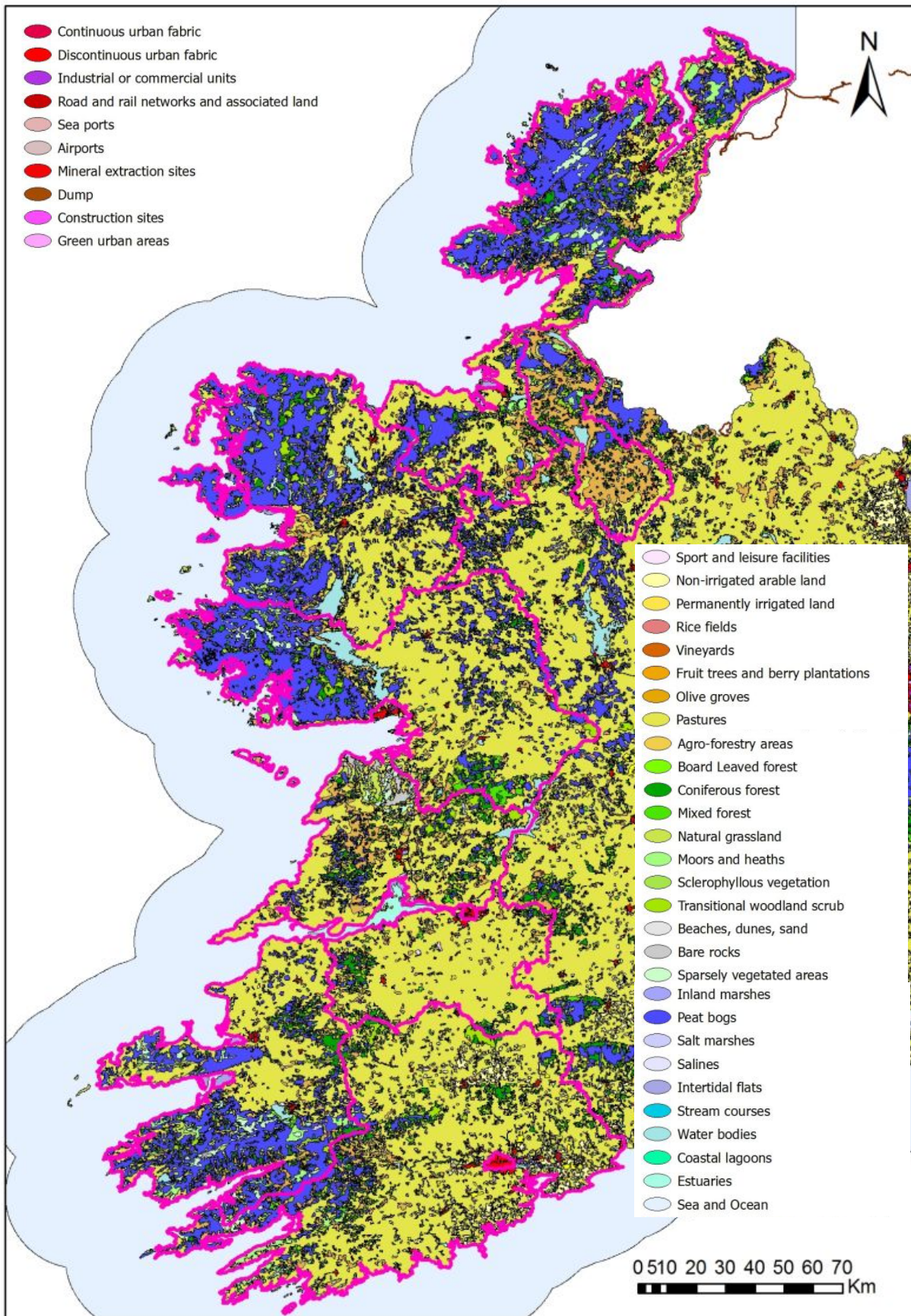


Figure 4.2 CORINE Landcover Mapping 2012

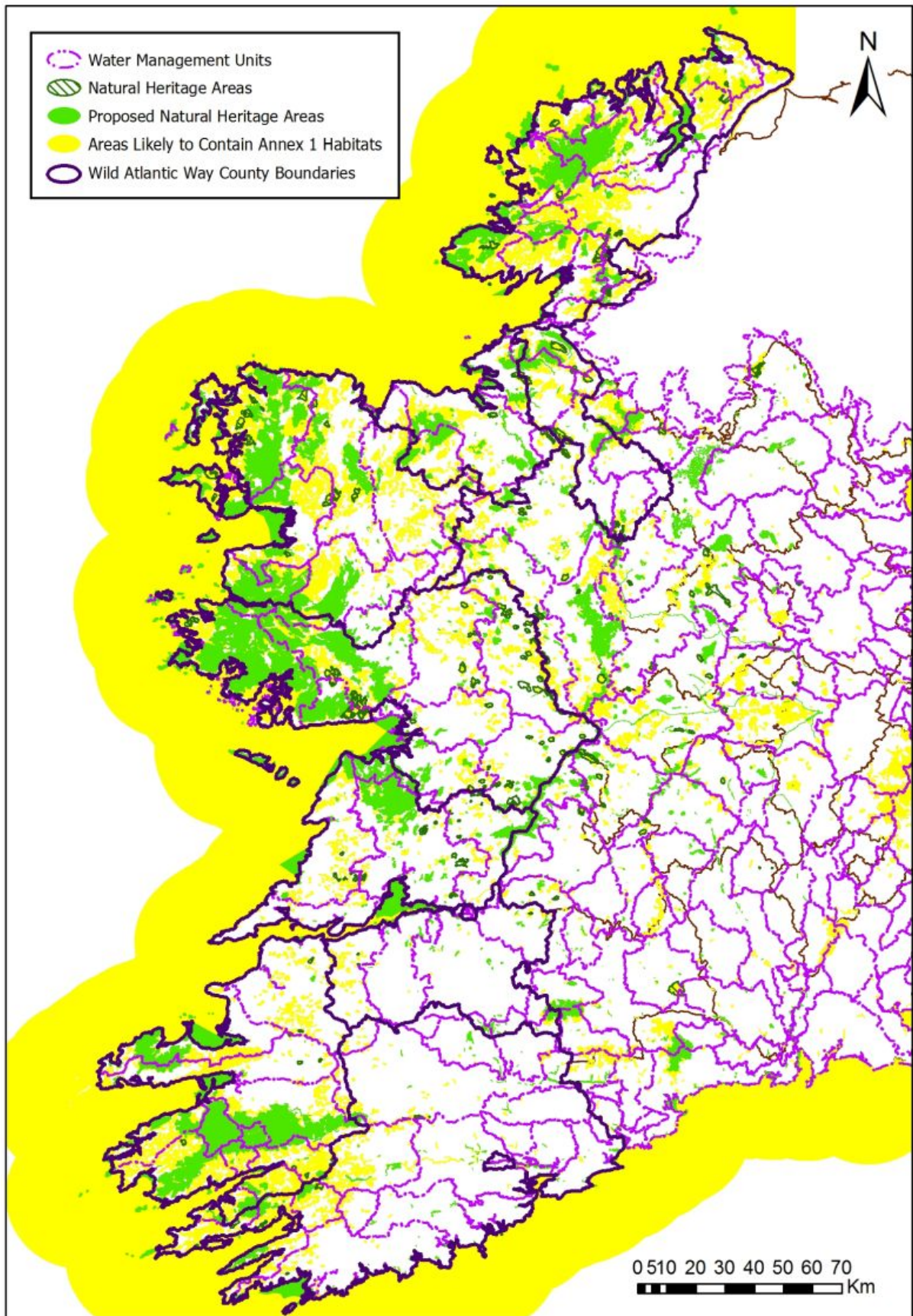
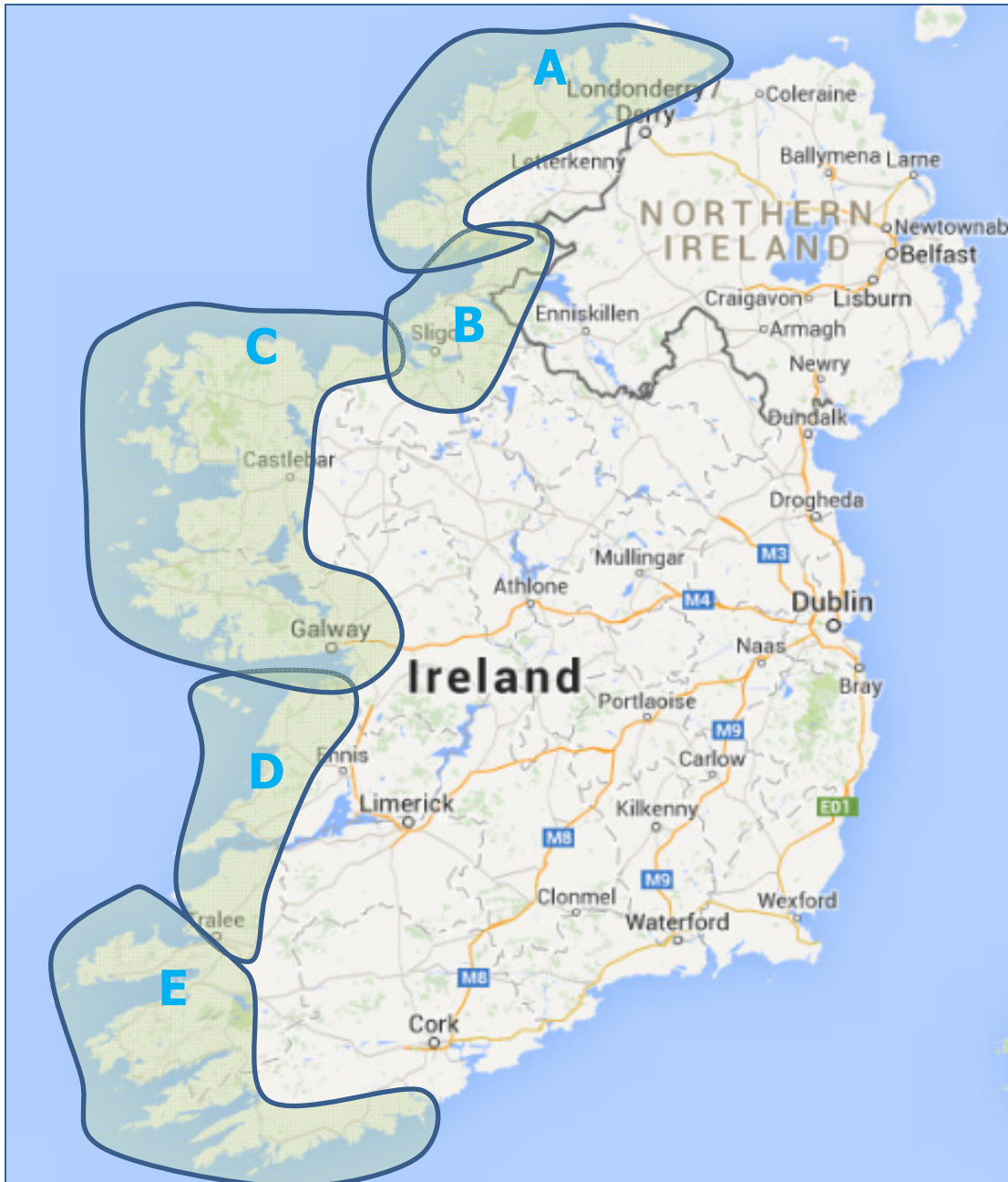


Figure 4.3 Natural Heritage Areas, Proposed NHAs and Areas likely to contain Annex I Habitats and Water Management Units



Natural Heritage

Zone Characteristic Features

- A.** Mountains, bogs, rocky coasts, islands and scattered farming [Western lowland blanket bog, wet heaths, permanent lowland wet meadows, lowland grasslands and coastal communities]
- B.** Coastal farming, Mixed sandy and rocky coasts, mountains, bogs [Lowland Grasslands, wet heaths, permanent lowland wet meadows and coastal communities and western lowland blanket bog]
- C.** Mountains, bogs, rocky coasts, islands and scattered settlements [Western lowland blanket bog, wet heaths, permanent lowland wet meadows and coastal communities]
- D.** Coastal farming Rocky Coasts, Bogs [Lowland and marginal grasslands and wetlands and wet heaths]
- E.** Mountains, bogs, rocky coasts, islands and scattered farming [Western lowland blanket bog, dry heather, wet heaths and heathy grassland, lowland grasslands]

Figure 4.4 Natural Heritage Regional Zones

Regional Natural Heritage Assessment				
Zone	Character	Sensitivity	WAW Effects	Mitigation
A	Donegal Peninsular Mountains, bogs, rocky coasts and scattered farming with scattered settlements. Contains extensive areas of designated habitats, species and features.	Generally high sensitivity both to new development and activities associated with maintenance and renewal of existing developments. Sensitivity is highest outside of established settlements and existing road network.	Developments or use of an inappropriate scale or intensity – even of a small scale – can have disproportionately extensive effects.	None required if use and development conform with existing regulatory requirements and FI Guidelines
B	Sligo Coastal Plain Coastal farming, Mixed sandy and rocky coasts, mountains, bogs – this zone is characterised by many types of different habitats and species in very close proximity	Generally robust with locally high sensitivity – often with transitions between significantly different habitats over very short distances.	Developments within working landscapes and established settlements will have little discernible effect – care required in the vicinity of individual sites.	None required if use and development conform with existing regulatory requirements and FI Guidelines
C	Mayo/Galway Peninsular Mountains, bogs, rocky coasts and scattered farming with scattered settlements. Contains extensive areas of designated habitats, species and features.	Generally high sensitivity both to new development and activities associated with maintenance and renewal of existing developments. Sensitivity is highest outside of established settlements and existing road network.	Developments or use of an inappropriate scale or intensity – even of a small scale – can have disproportionately extensive effects.	None required if use and development conform with existing regulatory requirements and FI Guidelines
D	Clare / North Kerry Coastal Plain Coastal farming, Mixed sandy and rocky coasts, mountains, bogs – this zone contains large-scale areas of designated habitats, species and features	Generally robust with locally high sensitivity in the unique Burren landscapes and nearby large-scale coastal sea-cliff complexes.	Developments within working landscapes and established settlements will have little discernible effect – care required in the vicinity of individual sites.	None required if use and development conform with existing regulatory requirements and FI Guidelines
E	South Kerry/ West Cork Peninsular Mountains, bogs, rocky coasts and scattered farming with scattered settlements. Contains extensive areas of designated habitats, species and features.	Generally high sensitivity both to new development and activities associated with maintenance and renewal of existing developments. Sensitivity is highest outside of established settlements and existing road network.	Developments or use of an inappropriate scale or intensity – even of a small scale – can have disproportionately extensive effects.	None required if use and development conform with existing regulatory requirements and FI Guidelines

Table 4.1 Regional Assessment of Natural Heritage

4.4 Population and Human Health

The impact of implementing the Programme on population and human health is influenced by the impacts which the Programme will have upon environmental vectors. Environmental vectors are environmental components, such as air, water or soil, through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings. Population and human health has the potential to interact with:

- The quality of water bodies (see Section 4.6);
- Flood risk (see Section 4.6.3); and
- The appropriateness and adequateness of infrastructure (see Section 4.8).

Emission limits for discharges to air, soil and water are set with regards to internationally recognised exposure limit values. These are generally set to be many times the safe exposure limit - in order to provide protection. In the event that a plan or programme began to have adverse health effects on surrounding populations it is likely that it would have been identified as being in breach of such emission standards at a very early stage - and long before the manifestation of any adverse health effects in the population.

4.4.1 Existing Problems

Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)³³, based on available water data, certain surface and groundwater bodies will need improvement in order to comply with the objectives of the WFD (see Section 4.6).

There is historic and predictive evidence of flooding in various locations in both Ireland and Northern Ireland (see Section 4.6.3).

³³ Article 4 of the WFD sets out various exemptions for deterioration in status caused as a result of certain physical modifications to water bodies. This is provided: all practicable mitigation measures are taken; there are reasons of overriding public interest or the benefits to human health, safety or sustainable development outweigh the benefits in achieving the WFD objective; there are no better alternatives; and the reasons for the physical modification are explained in the relevant river basin management plan.

Along the entire length of the Wild Atlantic Way only three beaches failed to comply with mandatory/guide values and received Poor Water Quality Status in 2013. The Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE), within the EPA, follows up on the cause of any bathing area failing the minimum EU mandatory values and the measures being taken by the relevant local authority to bring the bathing water into compliance.

Water services infrastructure capacity and effluent quality can interact with human health. Infrastructure capacity and effluent quality are compliant in the majority of areas surveyed, though there are a limited number of challenges with respect to water services which are outlined under Section 4.8.4.

4.5 Soil

Soil is the top layer of the earth's crust. It is formed by mineral particles, organic matter, water, air and living organisms. Soil can be considered as a non-renewable natural resource because it develops over very long timescales. It is an extremely complex, variable and living medium and performs many vital functions including: food and other biomass production, storage, filtration and transformation of many substances including water, carbon, and nitrogen. Soil has a role as a habitat and gene pool, serves as a platform for human activities, landscape and heritage and acts as a provider of raw materials. Such functions of soil are worthy of protection because of their socio-economic as well as environmental importance. Soils in any area are the result of the interaction of various factors, such as parent material, climate, vegetation and human action.

To date, there is no legislation which is specific to the protection of soil resources. However, there is currently an EU Thematic Strategy on the protection of soil which includes a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive which proposes common principles for protecting soils across the EU.

Information sources relevant to the environmental component of soil which may be used in lower tier assessments and decision making by local authorities includes:

- Soil types (2006) published by Teagasc, Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), Forest Service & EPA;
- Soils and Subsoils Class (2006) published by Teagasc, GSI, Forest Service & EPA (2006);
- Sites of Geological Interest which have been published for some counties and provisional information on same for other counties (both available from GSI);
- Other datasets published by and available from GSI including those relating to Bedrock Geology, Quaternary Geology, Mineral deposits, Groundwater Resources and Landslides; and
- Datasets on contaminated soils which may be kept by local authorities (these occur most often in urban areas).

4.5.1 Existing Problems

Legislative objectives governing soil were not identified as being conflicted with.

4.6 Water

4.6.1 The Water Framework Directive

Since 2000, Water Management in the EU has been directed by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD). The WFD requires that all Member States implement the necessary measures to prevent deterioration of the status of all waters - surface, ground, estuarine and coastal - and protect, enhance and restore all waters with the aim of achieving "good status" by 2015. All public bodies are required to coordinate their policies and operations so as to maintain the good status of water bodies which are currently unpolluted and improve polluted water bodies to good status by 2015.

Article 4 of the WFD sets out various exemptions for deterioration in status caused as a result of certain physical modifications to water bodies. This is provided: all practicable mitigation measures are taken; there are reasons of overriding public interest or the benefits to human health, safety or sustainable development outweigh the benefits in achieving the WFD objective; there are no better alternatives; and the reasons for the

physical modification are explained in the relevant river basin management plan.

For the purpose of implementing the WFD, Ireland has been divided into eight River Basin Districts (RBDs) or areas of land that are drained by a large river or number of rivers and the adjacent estuarine/coastal areas. Within each RBD - for the purpose of assessment, reporting and management - water has been divided into groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine waters and coastal waters which are in turn divided into specific, clearly defined water bodies. The Wild Atlantic Way Programme area covers part of four of the eight WFD RBDs on the island of Ireland (see Figure 4.5): the North Western International RBD; the Shannon International RBD; the Western RBD; and the South Western RBD.

River Basin Management Plans have been prepared for each RBD which are being implemented in order to help protect and improve all waters. The Management Plans provides specific policies for individual river basins in order to implement the requirements of the WFD.

4.6.2 Sources of Information

4.6.2.1 Surface and ground waters

WFD Monitoring Programmes are undertaken in Ireland by the EPA³⁴ and in Northern Ireland by the Department of the Environment/Northern Ireland Environmental Agency (DoE/NI)³⁵. Overviews of the status for monitored waterbodies are published and made available online.

The EPA undertook an assessment of the 2013 water quality monitoring data in Ireland. It also includes overall national statistics.

The DoE/NI publish an annual Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report which includes information on the status of waterbodies.

These assessments present and assess the latest monitoring data with a focus on key issues that affect water quality.

For surface water, the WFD defines 'status' as the general expression of the status of a body

³⁴ www.epa.ie

³⁵ www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd.htm

of surface water, determined by the poorer of its ecological status and its chemical status. Thus, to achieve 'good surface water status' both the ecological status and the chemical status of a surface water body need to be at least 'good'.

Ecological status is an expression of the structure and functioning of aquatic ecosystems associated with surface waters. Such waters are classified as of 'good ecological status' when they meet Directive requirements.

Chemical Status is a pass/fail assignment with a failure defined by a face-value exceedance of an Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) for one or more Priority Action Substances (PAS) listed in Annex X of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The EQS values for individual PAS substances are set at European level. Good surface water chemical status means that concentrations of pollutants in the water body do not exceed the environmental limit values specified in the Directive.

For groundwater bodies, the approach to classification is different from that for surface water. For each body of groundwater, both the chemical status and the quantitative must be determined. Both have to be classed as either *good* or *poor*. The WFD sets out a series of criteria that must be met for a body to be classed as good chemical and quantitative status.

The end of this section contains illustrations of surface water status in Ireland (see Figure 4.6) and Northern Ireland (see Figure 4.7) and ground water status in Ireland (see Figure 4.8).

4.6.2.2 WFD Registers of Protected Areas

The WFD requires that Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs) are compiled for a number of water bodies or part of water bodies which must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife. The WFD requires that these RPAs contain: areas from which waters are taken for public or private water supply schemes; designated shellfish production areas; bathing waters; areas which are affected by high levels of substances most commonly found in fertilizers, animal and human wastes - these areas are considered

nutrient sensitive; areas designated for the protection of habitats or species e.g. Salmonid areas; Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); and, Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Entries to the Registers of Protected Areas in Ireland are shown on Figure 4.9.

4.6.2.3 Bathing Waters

For bathing waters, Mandatory and Guide Values are set out for bathing waters in the 2006 EU Bathing Water Directive. Mandatory Values are values which must be observed if the bathing area is to be deemed compliant with the Directive. Compliance with Guide Values exceeds guidance with Mandatory Values and can be regarded as quality objectives which bathing sites should endeavour to achieve.

Bathing quality was reported as been of extremely high status in 2014 with 94% of bathing waters complying with new stricter EU standards and achieving at least 'Sufficient' water quality status in 2014.

Along the entire length of the Wild Atlantic Way, only two beaches failed to comply with mandatory/guide values and received Poor Water Quality Status in 2014. The Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE), within the EPA, follows up on the cause of any bathing area failing the minimum EU mandatory values and the measures being taken by the relevant local authority to bring the bathing water into compliance. In all of Northern Ireland only one monitored bathing water failed to comply with mandatory/guide values.

4.6.3 Flooding

Flooding is an environmental phenomenon which, as well have causing economic and social impacts, could in certain circumstances pose a risk to human health. The existence of flood risk across Ireland is illustrated by the mapping of locations of historical flooding events - accessible from relevant Office of Public Works (Ireland) and Rivers Agency websites (Northern Ireland). In addition to this historic mapping there is predictive, modelled Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment mapping available.

National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programmes are being undertaken in both Ireland and Northern Ireland with more detailed flood risk maps

currently emerging and Flood Risk Management Plans expected to be finalised by 2016.

4.6.4 Existing Problems

Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD³⁶, based on available water data, certain surface and groundwater bodies will need improvement in order to comply with the objectives of the WFD.

There is historic and predictive evidence of flooding in various locations in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Along the entire length of the Wild Atlantic Way only two beaches failed to comply with mandatory/guide values and received Poor Water Quality Status in 2014. The Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE), within the EPA, follows up on the cause of any bathing area failing the minimum EU mandatory values and the measures being taken by the relevant local authority to bring the bathing water into compliance.

³⁶ Article 4 of the WFD sets out various exemptions for deterioration in status caused as a result of certain physical modifications to water bodies. This is provided: all practicable mitigation measures are taken; there are reasons of overriding public interest or the benefits to human health, safety or sustainable development outweigh the benefits in achieving the WFD objective; there are no better alternatives; and the reasons for the physical modification are explained in the relevant river basin management plan.

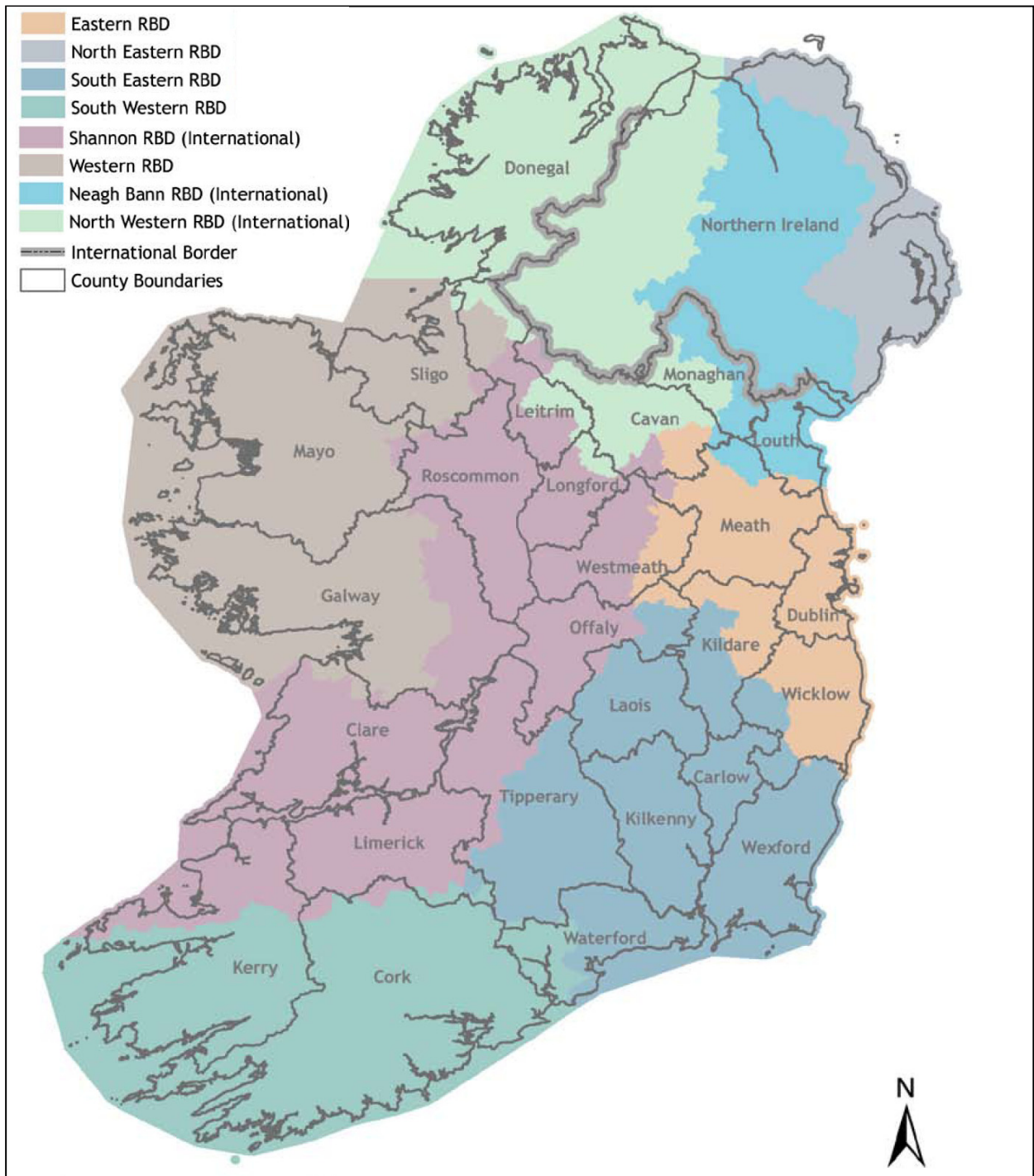


Figure 4.5 River Basin Management Districts and International River Basin Districts across Ireland and Northern Ireland

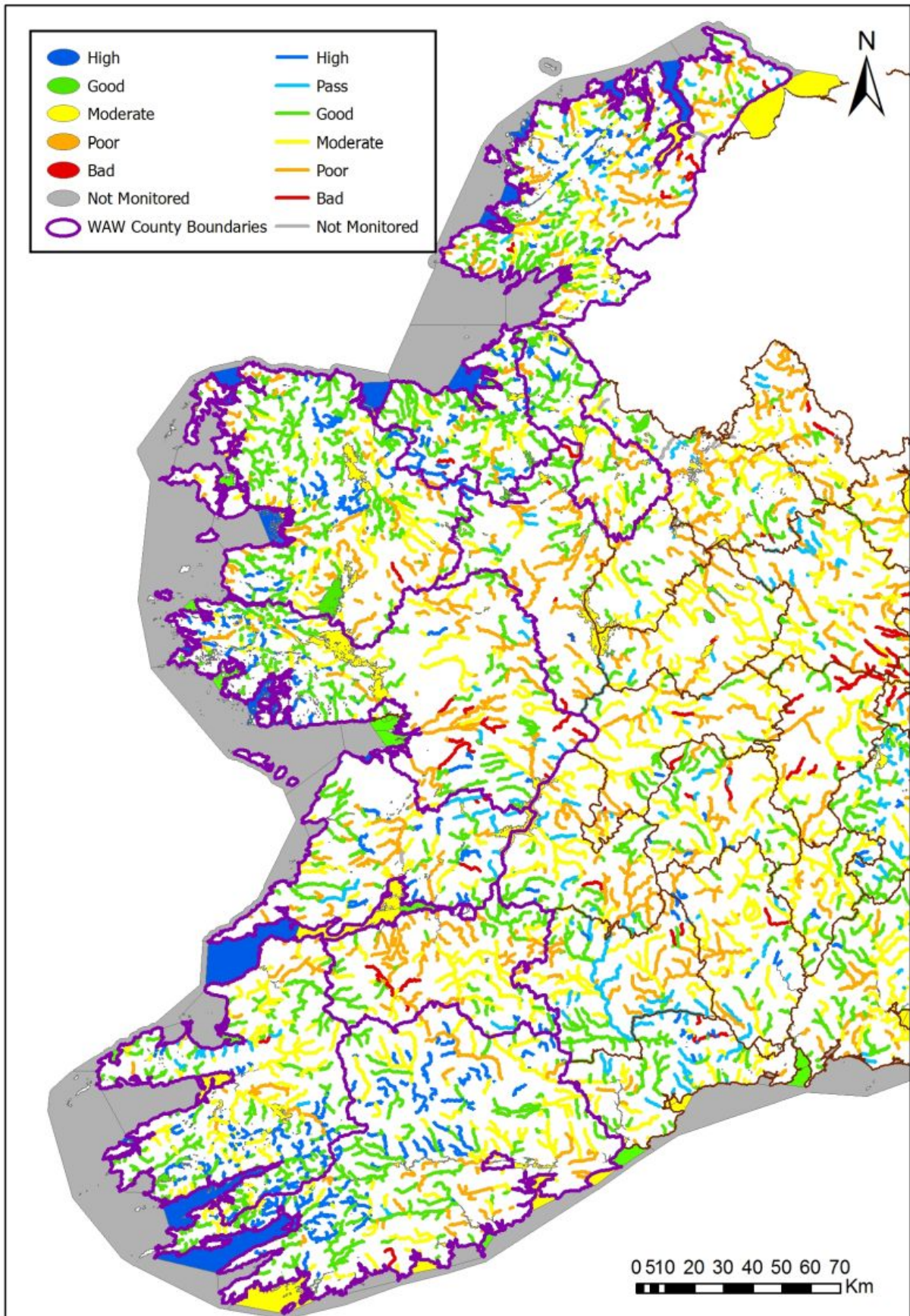


Figure 4.6 Surface Water Status in Ireland

Source: EPA (downloaded from EPA 2014)

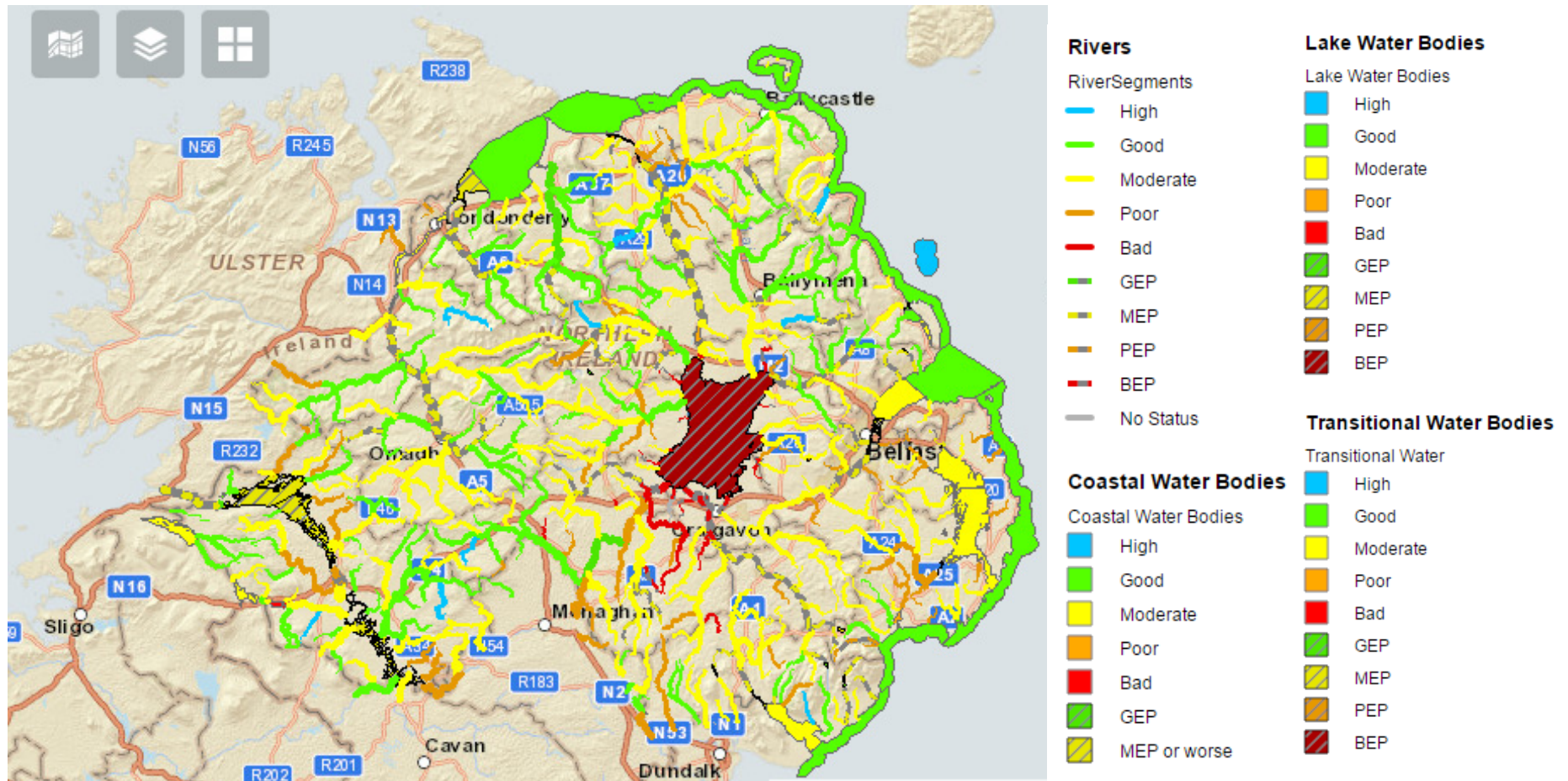


Figure 4.7 Surface Water Status in Northern Ireland

Source: NIEA/DoE (downloaded February 2015; information produced under River Basin Management Plan period 2009-2015)

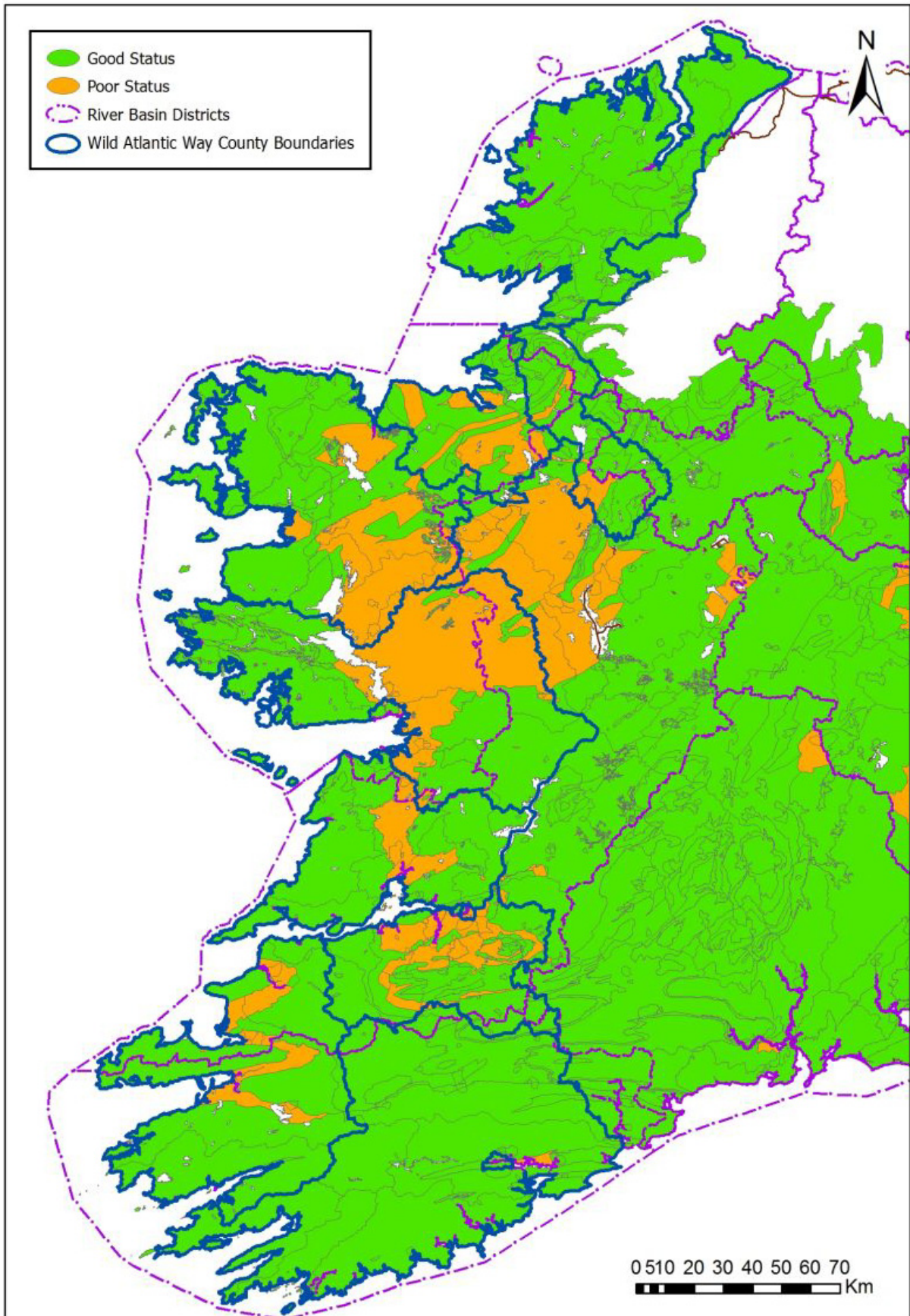


Figure 4.8 Ground Water Status in Ireland

Source: EPA (downloaded from EPA 2014)

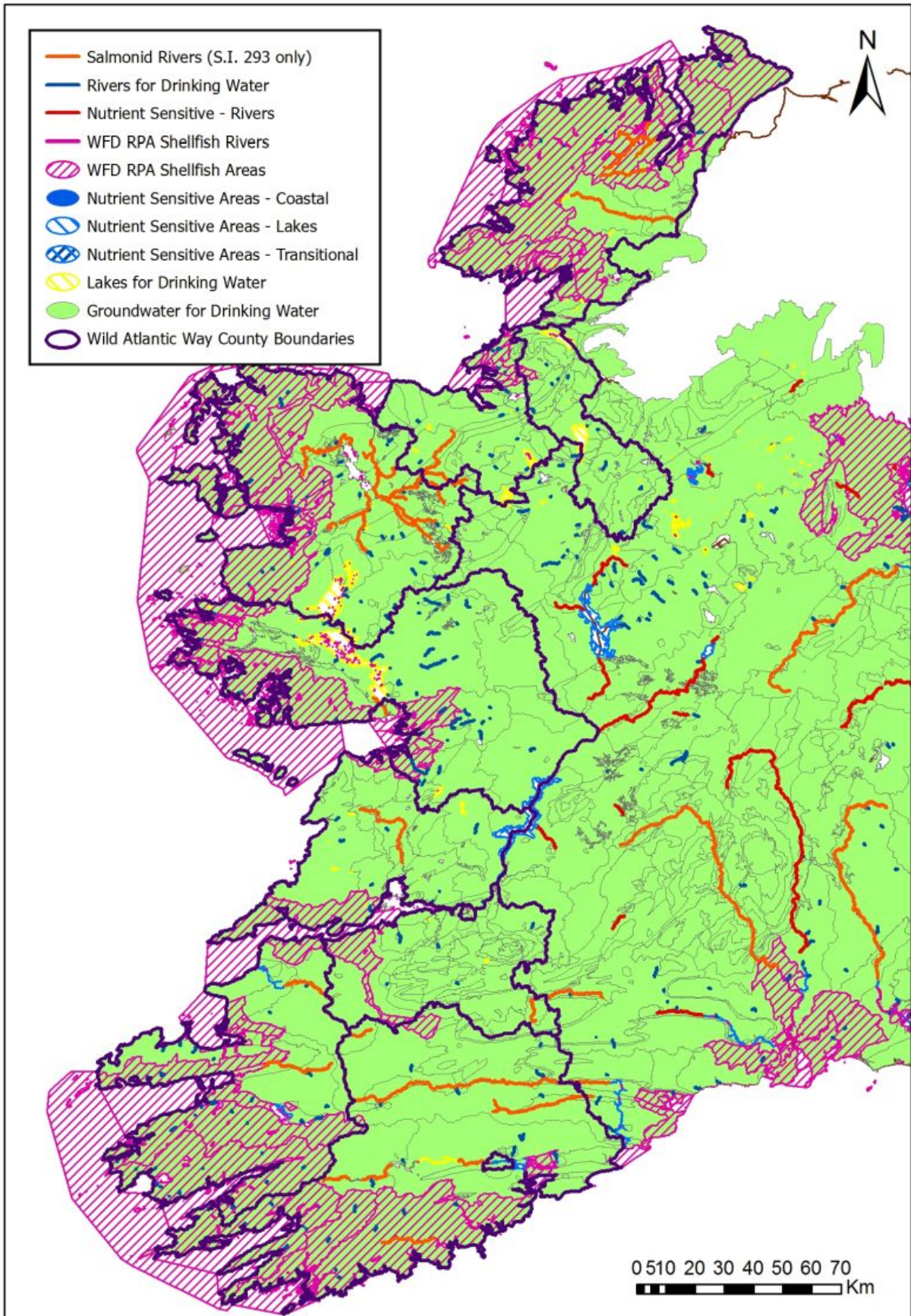


Figure 4.9 Entries to the Register of Protected Areas in Ireland

Source: EPA (downloaded from EPA 2014)

4.7 Air and Climatic Factors

4.7.1 Climatic Factors

The key issue involving the assessment of the effects of implementing the Plan on climatic factors relates to greenhouse gas emissions arising from transport.

By providing for a driving route intended primarily for motorised transport, the Programme would be likely to contribute towards increases in greenhouse gas emissions. In the longer term, the Programme allows for increases in walking and cycling levels and integration of existing and planned walkways and greenways of local authorities into the route. Overtime therefore the route could allow for contributions towards sustainable mobility.

The Programme would be likely to contribute towards travel related emissions to air as a result of visitors getting to Ireland and to the west coast. Although transport policy is currently not the subject of SEA in Ireland, the Monitoring Strategy that is being implemented (see Section 10) will provide information relating to journeys by visitors to Ireland by air – this information will be made available to transport planning and associated environmental assessments.

Ireland's emissions profile has changed considerably since 1990, with the contribution from transport more than doubling and the share from agriculture reducing since 1998. Travel is a source of:

1. Noise;
2. Air emissions; and
3. Energy use (39% of Total Final Energy Consumption in Ireland in 2012 was taken up by transport, the largest take up of any sector)³⁷.

Between 2008 and 2011, Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions decreased across all sectors due to the effects of the economic downturn with emissions falling by 15.2% between 2008 and 2011. However, 2012 saw emissions rise by 1.2% when compared with 2011³⁸.

³⁷ Sustainable Energy Ireland (2014) *Energy in Ireland 1990 – 2012*

³⁸ EPA (2014) Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2012

Maximising sustainable mobility will help Ireland meet its emission target for greenhouse gases under the 2020 EU Effort Sharing target which commits Ireland to reducing emissions from those sectors that are not covered by the Emissions Trading Scheme (e.g. transport, agriculture, residential) to 20% below 2005 levels.

The EPA 2015 publication *Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2014-2035*, identifies that:

- Under the 'worst case' scenario, Ireland is projected to cumulatively exceed its obligations by 4 Mtonnes of CO₂eq over the period 2013-2020.
- Under the 'best case' scenario, Ireland is projected to cumulatively meet its compliance obligations over the 2013-2020 period and meet its 2020 target. This takes into account the overachievement of the annual limits in the period 2013- 2017 which is banked and used in the years 2018-2020. The report identifies that achieving the outlook under the 'best case' scenario will require focus and effort which includes meeting renewable targets for transport and heat as well as energy efficiency targets.

Flooding - see Section 4.6.3 - is influenced by climatic factors.

4.7.2 Ambient Air Quality

In order to protect human health, vegetation and ecosystems, EU Directives set down air quality standards in Ireland and the other Member States for a wide variety of pollutants. These pollutants are generated through fuel combustion, in space heating, traffic, electricity generation and industry and, in sufficient amounts, could affect the well-being of the areas inhabitants. The EU Directives include details regarding how ambient air quality should be monitored, assessed and managed.

The principles to this European approach are set out under the Air Quality Framework Directive 1996 as transposed into Irish law under the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management) Regulations 1999 (SI No. 33 of 1999).

Four daughter Directives lay down limits or thresholds for specific pollutants. The first two of these directives cover: sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead; and, carbon monoxide and benzene. Two more daughter directives deal with: ozone; and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, arsenic, nickel, cadmium and mercury in ambient air.

The EPA's (2014) *Air Quality in Ireland 2013* identifies that air quality in Ireland continues to be good. The report identifies that the key future challenge for Ireland is in decreasing certain concentrations in ambient air (PAH, PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations) to below that of the World Health Organisation (WHO) air quality guideline values, particularly if the European Commission's review on air quality legislation leads it to adopt the more stringent limits recommended by the WHO. The impact of these pollutants on Irish air quality is directly attributable to the choices we make for home heating. Emissions from domestic solid fuel use contribute to high levels of particulate matter and PAH in villages, towns and cities and it is this relationship which needs to be addressed in the coming years.

The most recent air quality report for Northern Ireland "Air Pollution in Northern Ireland 2013" (Department of Northern Ireland, 2014) identifies that EU limit values, target values and corresponding Air Quality Strategy objectives, have been met by the due dates for the following pollutants: particulate matter as PM10 and PM2.5; carbon monoxide; benzene; sulphur dioxide; and, metallic pollutants lead, arsenic, cadmium and nickel.

The report also identifies that a small number of sites close to busy roads in urban areas did not meet the limit values and objectives for nitrogen dioxide in 2013; locations within the Belfast Urban Area did not achieve compliance with the EU limit value for annual mean NO₂. Belfast Urban Area is not alone in this respect: many parts of the UK (and other Member States of Europe) have reported similar exceedances.

4.7.3 Noise

Noise is unwanted sound. 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 EU policy on noise reduction from source. The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:

- Draw up *strategic noise maps* for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators³⁹ and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels;
- Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and,
- Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.

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.

4.7.4 Existing Problems

Legislative objectives governing air and climatic factors were not identified as being conflicted with.

4.8 Material Assets

4.8.1 Introduction

Resources that are valued and that are intrinsic to specific places are called 'material assets'. Material Assets relevant to this SEA include:

- Existing roads;
- Waters of economic value;
- Water services; and
- Waste management services.

Other material assets covered by the SEA include archaeological and architectural heritage (see Section 4.9) natural resources of

³⁹ [Lden (day-evening-night equivalent level) and Lnight (night equivalent level)]

economic value, such as water⁴⁰ and air (see also Sections 4.7 and 4.6).

4.8.2 Existing Roads

Existing roads provide an opportunity to align the Wild Atlantic Way route without requiring new built development.

The route was identified by primarily 'stitching' together a number of pre-existing touring routes, where appropriate, and providing linkages between them to form a contiguous touring route from Donegal to West Cork. While it was considered that all of this route had the capacity to accommodate two-way car and camper van traffic, it was not considered wide enough to accommodate larger coaches. In particular, 31% of the route was identified as not being able to accommodate coach traffic. For this reason, a separate coach route was identified, which diverts from the main 'independent travellers route', taking coaches onto roads that have the capacity to accommodate them. This approach to the use of existing roads allowed for the avoidance of adverse effects that could have occurred were new roads to be developed or existing roads widened.

4.8.3 Waters of Economic Value

Waters of economic value include those which are valuable to tourism and those which facilitate commercial fishing and recreational activities.

Fáilte Ireland's have identified waters of national tourism significance in a report entitled *Determination of Waters of National Tourism Significance and Associated Water Quality Status (2009)*. Over 70 of 104 water bodies identified in this report are located within counties through which the WAW route is aligned.

The fishing industry along the West Coast of Ireland relates not only to commercial fishing (at sea and inland) but also to tourism and recreational activities. The various harbours provide fishing year round and are used as recreational and amenity harbours.

⁴⁰ Including water bodies identified in Fáilte Ireland's (2009) report *Determination of Waters of National Tourism Significance and Associated Water Quality Status*.

The marine resource is very important to West Coast as it supports a significant number of water based activities, both work and pleasure related. These include boat hire, yachting, adventure sports, pier/shore angling, sea angling, dolphin, whale and bird watching, hiking, visiting heritage sites and festivals. A number of embarkment points also provide boat trips and sail from the mainland to the various islands during the year.

4.8.4 Water Services

4.8.4.1 Irish Water

The delivery, integration and implementation of strategic water and waste water projects and infrastructural improvements are now the responsibility of the newly established State body Irish Water. The function and role of Irish Water includes:

- Abstracting and treating water;
- Delivering water and waste water services to homes and businesses;
- Installing water meters and billing domestic and business customers;
- Raising finance to fund improvements and repairs in the water system; and
- Maintaining and operating the water system.

4.8.4.2 Planning and Permitting

Water services infrastructure and services are planned and permitted through specific processes which are informed by, inter alia, the needs of land use plans including County Development Plans and Local Area Plans which are required to take into account fluctuating needs, such as those that may arise as a result of existing and future numbers of residents and tourists.

4.8.4.3 Waste Water Compliance

Infrastructure capacity and effluent quality are compliant in the majority of areas surveyed, though a minority of settlements and areas still report the need for further improvement. These are described below to provide a context.

Key findings of the EPA's recent assessment of waste water treatment capacity in urban areas⁴¹ relating to infrastructure and effluent quality include:

⁴¹ EPA (2014) *Focus on Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2013*

Effluent quality

- 124 of 162 (77%) larger urban areas complied with the mandatory European Union effluent quality and sampling standards.
- 312 of all 441 (71%) secondary treatment plants achieved the European Union effluent quality and sampling standards for the water quality indicator parameters of BOD, COD and suspended solids.
- 16 out of 441 secondary treatment plants did not return a sufficient number of effluent samples in 2013.

Infrastructure

- 9 out of 162 large urban areas did not meet the European Union Directive requirement to provide secondary treatment.
- 8 out of 162 large urban areas did not comply with European Union Directive requirements to provide infrastructure to reduce nutrients and did not meet nutrient quality standards.
- 50% of 350 infrastructural improvements required in EPA licences before the end of 2013 were not completed. Works that were completed include the cessation of 70 discharges and upgrades to 30 waste water treatment plants.

4.8.4.4 Drinking Water

Drinking water must be clean and wholesome. That means it must meet the relevant water quality standards and must not contain any other substance or micro-organism in concentrations or numbers that constitute a potential danger to human health.

Compliance with the drinking water requirements is determined by comparing the results of analyses submitted by water suppliers to the standard for 48 parameters specified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2), 2007. To ensure that these standards are met, each water supply must be monitored on a regular basis.

Under Section 58 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 the EPA is required to collect and verify monitoring results for all water supplies in Ireland covered by the European Communities (Drinking

Water) Regulations, 2000. The EPA publishes their results in annual reports which are supported by Remedial Action Lists (RALs). The RAL identifies water supplies which are not in compliance with the Regulations mentioned above.

The EPA's most recent (2015) report on the provision and quality of drinking water in Ireland⁴² identifies that in Ireland, 82.1% of the population is provided with drinking water from one of 978 public supplies. The remaining population is served by public or private group water schemes, small private supplies (7.4% of the population) and private wells (serving 10.6% of the population). The report identifies that in public water supplies:

- 99.82 % of samples comply with microbiological parameters.
- 99.51 % of samples comply with chemical parameters.
- 40 Boil Notices and 4 Water Restriction Notices were issued, affecting 30,519 people.
- *E. coli* was detected at least once in 10 supplies, up 3 on 2012.
- Trihalomethanes limit was exceeded in 61 supplies, down 35 on 2012.

The most recent EPA Remedial Action List (Q1 of 2015) identifies over 120 out of 978 water supplies in need of improvement. The Remedial Action List identifies measures solving the issues at these supplies.

Drinking water issues generally relate to the quality of the water. Insufficient quantity is less frequently encountered as an issue. In an extreme case, in summer 2014, the Aran Islands suffered drinking water shortages due to depleted reserves. Water restrictions were introduced and water supplies were delivered to the islands.

4.8.5 Waste Management

For the purposes of waste management planning, Ireland is now divided into three regions: Southern, Eastern-Midlands and Connacht-Ulster. Waste management plans for the three regions came into force in 2015.

The EPA publishes data on waste generation and management in the National Waste Report

⁴² EPA (2015) *The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland: A Report for the Year 2013*

and bulletins. The most recent National Waste Report was published in August 2014, reporting waste information for 2012, identified that in 2012, Ireland achieved all its EU obligations across a broad range of waste legislation.

4.8.6 Existing Problems

Infrastructure capacity and effluent quality are compliant in the majority of areas surveyed, though there are a limited number of challenges with respect to water services which are outlined under Section 4.8.4.

4.9 Cultural Heritage

4.9.1 Archaeological Heritage

Archaeology is the study of past societies through the material remains left by those societies and the evidence of their environment. Archaeological sites and monuments vary greatly in form and date; examples include earthworks of different types and periods, (e.g. early historic ringforts and prehistoric burial mounds), megalithic tombs from the Prehistoric period, medieval buildings, urban archaeological deposits and underwater features.

Archaeological heritage is protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004), Natural Cultural Institutions Act 1997 and the Planning Acts.

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is an inventory, put on a statutory basis by amendment to the National Monuments Act 1994, of sites and areas of archaeological significance, numbered and mapped. It is available from the National Monuments Service and at archaeology.ie.

The term 'monument' includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. All monuments in existence before 1700 A.D. are automatically considered to be historic monuments within the meaning of the Acts. Monuments of architectural and historical interest also come within the scope of the Acts. Monuments include: any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections; any cave, stone or other natural product, whether or not forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position; any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or, ritual, industrial or habitation site; and any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any such cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site, situated on land or in the territorial waters of the State', but excludes 'any building or part of

any building, that is habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes' (National Monuments Acts 1930-2004).

A recorded monument is a monument included in the list and marked on the map which comprises the RMP set out county by county under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition includes Zones of Archaeological Potential in towns and all other monuments of archaeological interest which have so far been identified.

Entries to the Record of Monuments and Places in Wild Atlantic Way counties are shown on Figure 4.10.

4.9.2 Architectural Heritage

4.9.2.1 Protected Structures

The term architectural heritage is defined in the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments Act 1999 as meaning all: structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings; groups of structures and buildings; and, sites which are of technical, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest.

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

In relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, the following are encompassed:

- (i) The interior of the structure;
- (ii) The land lying within the curtilage⁴³ of the structure;

⁴³ Curtilage is normally taken to be the parcel of ground immediately associated with the Protected Structure, or in use for the purposes of the structure. Protection extends to the buildings and land lying within the curtilage. While the curtilage sometimes coincides with the present property boundary, it can originally have included lands, features or even buildings now in separate ownership, e.g. the lodge of a former country house, or the garden features located in land subsequently sold off. Such lands are described as being attendant grounds, and the

- (iii) Any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors; and,
- (iv) All fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to in subparagraph (i) or (iii).

4.9.2.2 Architectural Conservation Areas

In addition to Protected Structures, the Planning and Development Act, 2000 provides the legislative basis for the protection of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). An ACA is a place, area or group of structures or townscape which is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value, or contributes to the appreciation of protected structures, whose character it is an objective to preserve in a development plan. The ACA designation requires that planning permission must be obtained before significant works can be carried out to the exterior of a structure in the ACA which might alter the character of the structure or the ACA.

Entries from to the Records of Protected Structures and ACAs are identified in the relevant local authority Development Plan and at www.myplan.ie.

4.9.2.3 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a State initiative under the administration of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999.

The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to the local authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

protection extends to them just as if they were still within the curtilage of the Protected Structure.

4.9.3 Regional Spatial Assessment of Cultural Heritage

A regional spatial assessment of cultural heritage (prepared as part of this SEA) is provided at Figure 4.11 and Table 4.2.

This very high-level assessment identified two types of zones with regionally similar areas of cultural heritage; Zones B and D – which dominantly comprise the working landscapes and largely settled coastal plains of Sligo, Clare and North Kerry. These contain complexes of monuments and large and protected heritage landscapes - in contexts of working landscapes and extensive areas of settlement –that have occupied in most major prehistoric and historic periods. Zones A, C and E which dominantly consist of peninsular environments of lithic monuments in slow changing open landscapes.

At a very general level, the coastal plains are more robust landscapes with a higher capacity for new developments and uses to be readily absorbed by existing settlements and infrastructure – which is more widespread in these areas.

By contrast the cultural heritage in the peninsular environments is significantly more sensitive to change with correspondingly little capacity to absorb new development outside the immediate environs of the limited number and extent of areas of existing settlement and infrastructure.

The Assessment notes that no significant adverse residual effects are likely at a regional level if uses and developments conform with existing regulatory requirements and Fáilte Ireland Guidelines.

4.9.4 Existing Problems

The context of archaeological and architectural heritage has changed over time across the country however no existing conflicts with legislative objectives governing archaeological and architectural heritage have been identified.

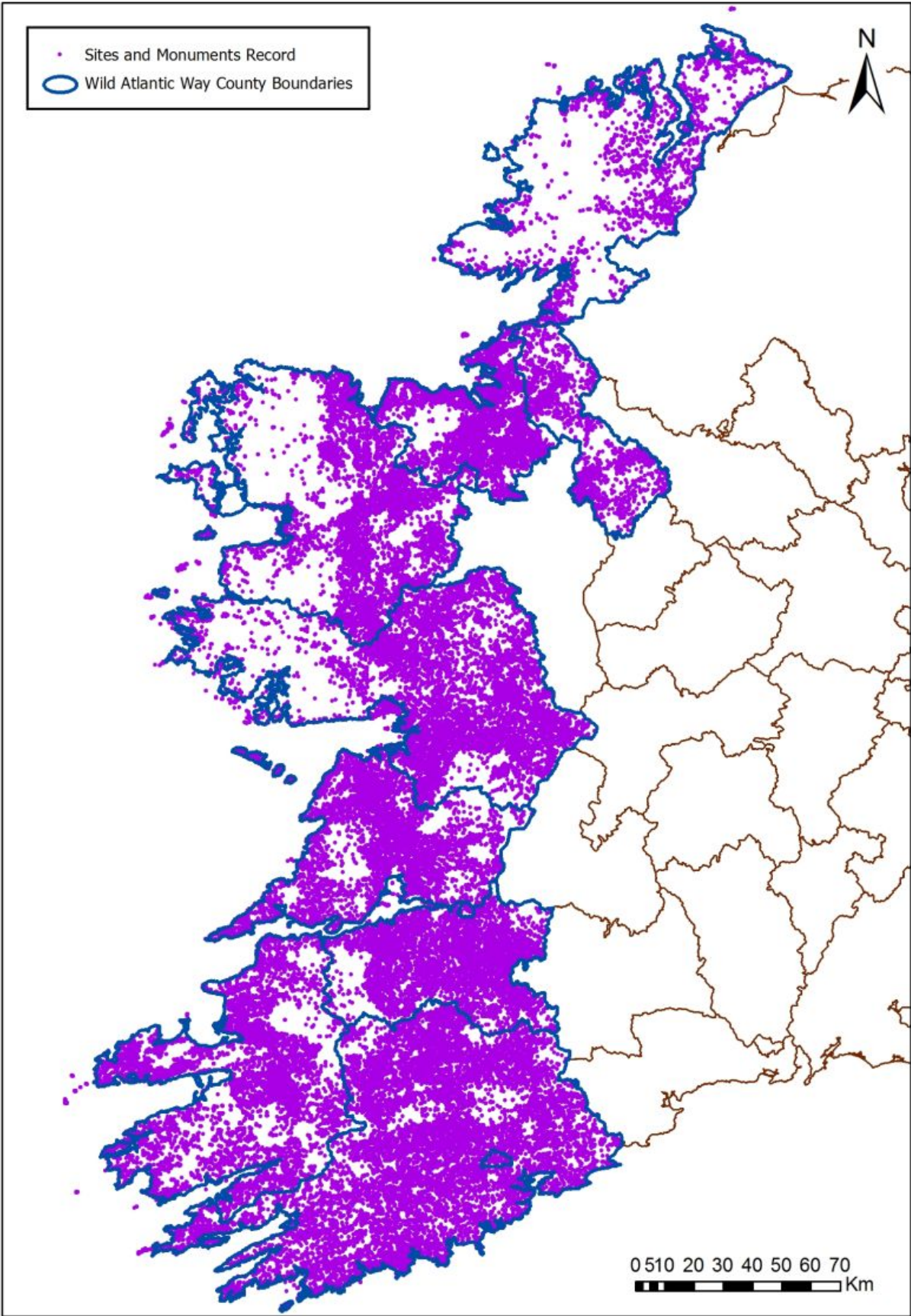
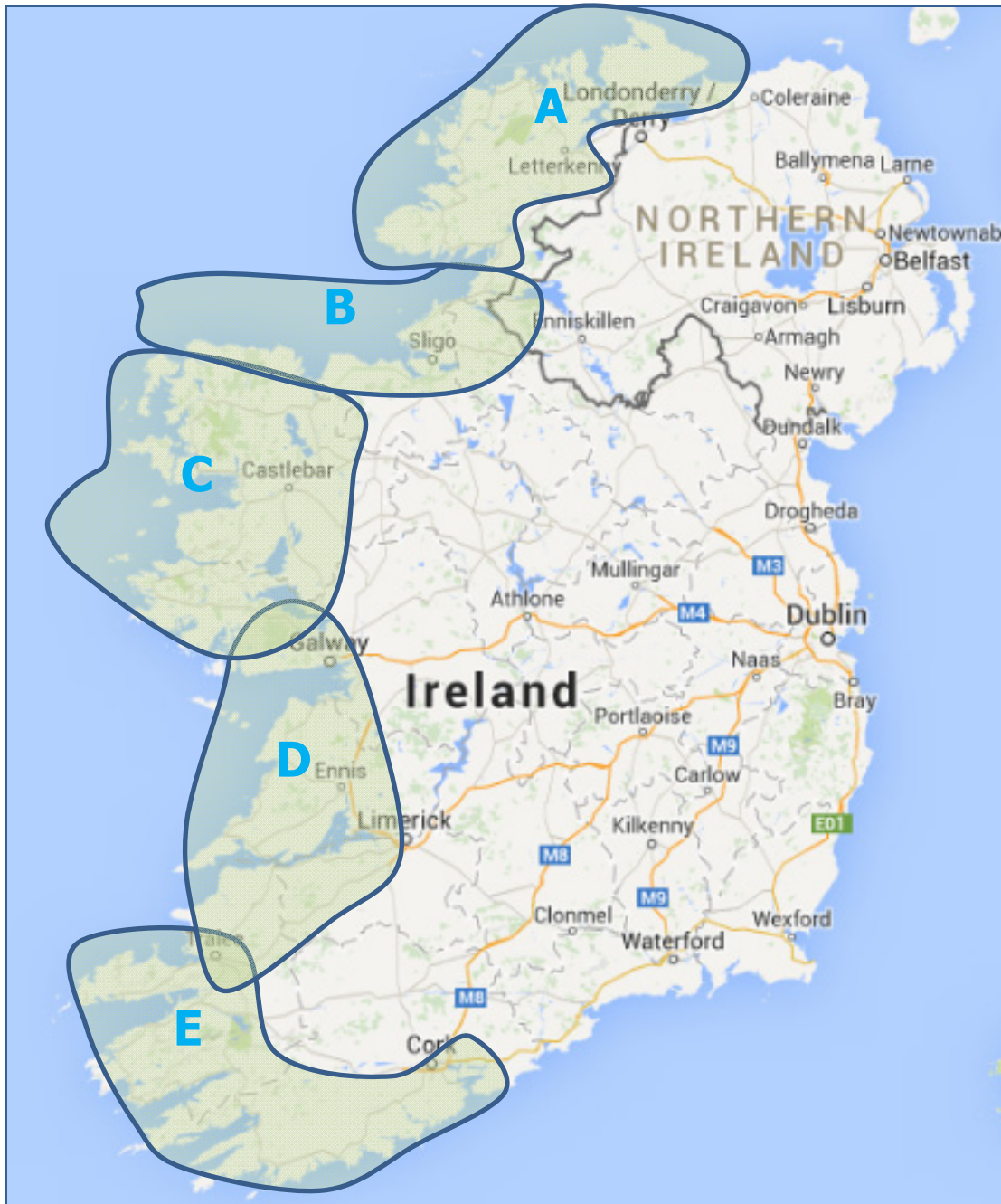


Figure 4.10 Entries to the Record of Monuments and Places

Source: National Monuments Service



Cultural Heritage - Regional Features

Zone Characteristic Features

- A.** Iron Age, Early Christian, Medieval, Irish Language, Music
- B.** Megalithic, Early Christian, Medieval, Music
- C.** Early Christian, Medieval, Irish Language, Music
- D.** Megalithic, Iron Age, Early Christian, Medieval, 18th Century, Music
- E.** Megalithic, Iron Age, Early Christian, Irish Language, Music

Figure 4.11 Cultural Heritage Regional Zones

Regional Cultural Heritage Assessment				
Zone	Character	Sensitivity	WAW Effects	Mitigation
A	Donegal Peninsular Lithic Monuments in slow changing open landscapes with scattered settlements.	Generally high sensitivity to development outside of established settlements and existing road network.	Developments or use of an inappropriate scale or intensity – even of a small scale – can have disproportionately extensive effects.	None required if use and development conform with existing regulatory requirements and FI Guidelines
B	Sligo Coastal Plain Complex of monuments and large and protected heritage landscapes in contexts of working landscapes and extensive areas of settlement - that have been occupied in most major prehistoric and historic periods	Generally robust with locally high sensitivity – especially Neolithic landscapes south of Sligo	Developments within working landscapes will have little discernible effect – care required in the vicinity of individual sites.	None required if use and development conform with existing regulatory requirements and FI Guidelines
C	Mayo/Galway Peninsular Lithic Monuments in slow changing open landscapes	Generally high sensitivity to development outside of established settlements and existing road network	Developments or use of an inappropriate scale or intensity – even of a small scale – can have disproportionately extensive effects.	None required if use and development conform with existing regulatory requirements and FI Guidelines
D	Clare / North Kerry Coastal Plain Complex of monuments and large and protected heritage landscapes in contexts of working landscapes and extensive areas of settlement - that have been occupied in most major prehistoric and historic periods	Generally robust with locally high sensitivity especially Neolithic landscapes of the Burren	Developments within working landscapes will have little discernible effect – care required in the vicinity of individual sites.	None required if use and development conform with existing regulatory requirements and FI Guidelines
E	South Kerry/ West Cork Peninsular Lithic Monuments in slow changing open landscapes	Generally high sensitivity to development outside of established settlements and existing road network	Developments or use of an inappropriate scale or intensity – even of a small scale – can have disproportionately extensive effects.	None required if use and development conform with existing regulatory requirements and FI Guidelines

Table 4.2 Regional Assessment of Cultural Heritage

4.10 Landscape

Landscapes are areas which are perceived by people and are made up of a number of layers: landform, which results from geological and geomorphological history; landcover, which includes vegetation, water, human settlements, and; human values which are a result of historical, cultural, religious and other understandings and interactions with landform and landcover.

There are a variety of county and local level designations which are afforded degrees of protection under the plans of local authorities. In Ireland, the importance of landscape and visual amenity and the role of its protection are recognised in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, which requires that Development Plans include objectives for the preservation of the landscape, views and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty.

Landscape designations and associated plan content (such as policies and objectives) can include the following:

- Landscape character areas

Landscape character areas are defined by professional judgement relating to the physical elements which make up the landscape of an area i.e. landform, land cover and visual units.

- Landscape value areas

Landscape values can be derived by consideration of environmental and cultural benefits such as visual beauty, ecology, archaeology, social history, religious sites and mythology.

- Landscape sensitivity areas

Landscape sensitivity is a measure of the ability of the landscape to accommodate change or intervention without suffering unacceptable effects to its character and values. Landscape sensitivity can be derived from a combination of landscape values and landscape character.

- Areas of high amenity

Areas of high amenity can consist of landscapes of higher value where inappropriate development could contribute towards the degradation of value of these areas. These areas often accommodate recreational uses and activity.

- Views and prospects/routes

There are many sites, areas and vantage points from which views of natural or man-made landscape components can be experienced. When a view can be experienced over a distance of linear infrastructure, this is often referred to as a prospect.

The above designations, which vary from local authority to local authority and change over time, should be taken into account by lower tier planning and environmental assessments as this is undertaken.

4.10.1 Regional Spatial Assessment of Landscape

A regional spatial assessment of landscape (prepared as part of this SEA) is provided at Figure 4.12 and Table 4.3. This regional spatial assessment has been informed by the landscape of the Atlantic coastline and surrounds. Landscape components which have been considered include landform, landcover and human values (see Section 4.10 above).

The regional assessment, which is a very high-level assessment, identified two types of zones with regionally similar areas of landscape; Zones B and D – which dominantly comprise the working landscapes and largely settled coastal plains of Sligo, Clare and North Kerry. These contain complexes of monuments and large and protected heritage landscapes – in contexts of working landscapes and extensive areas of settlement – that have occupied in most major prehistoric and historic periods. Zones A, C and E which dominantly consist of peninsular landscapes comprising coastal communities within a larger landscape of very rugged bogs and uplands contain extensive areas of designated landscapes and protected views.

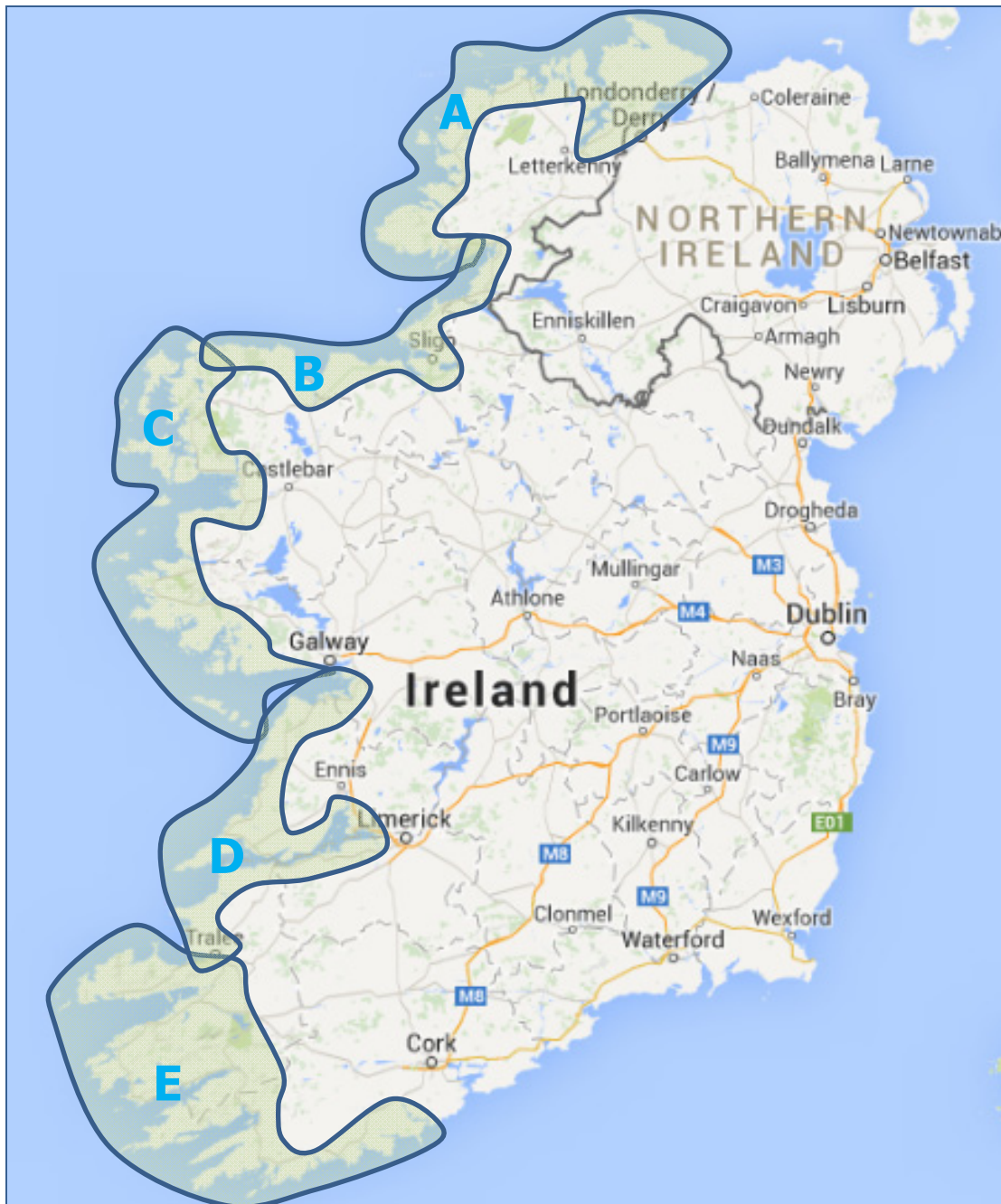
At a very general level, the coastal plains are more robust landscapes with a higher capacity for new developments and uses to be readily absorbed by existing settlements and infrastructure – which is more widespread in these areas.

By contrast the landscapes of the peninsular environments is significantly more sensitive to change with correspondingly little capacity to absorb new development outside the immediate environs of the limited number and extent of areas of existing settlement and infrastructure.

The Assessment notes that no significant adverse residual effects are likely at a regional level if uses and developments conform with existing regulatory requirements and Fáilte Ireland Guidelines.

4.10.2 Existing Problems

New developments have resulted in changes to the visual appearance of landscapes across the country however legislative objectives governing landscape and visual appearance were not identified as being conflicted with.



Landscape

Zone Characteristic Features

- A.** Coastal communities – often dense – within a larger landscape of very rugged bogs and uplands and islands
- B.** Well-spaced coastal settlements and farming areas – with nearby rugged uplands
- C.** Scattered small communities concentrated between a complex coastlines and islands and extensive empty interiors of bogs and mountains
- D.** Settled mature agricultural communities with large towns interspersed with singular landscape features.
- E.** Very scattered coastal communities within a larger landscape of very rugged bogs, uplands islands and rocky peninsulas

Figure 4.12 Landscape Regional Zones

Regional Landscape Assessment				
Zone	Character	Sensitivity	WAW Effects	Mitigation
A	Donegal Peninsular Coastal communities – often dense – within a larger landscape of very rugged bogs and uplands. Extensive areas of designated landscapes and protected views.	Generally high sensitivity to new development Sensitivity is highest outside of established settlements and existing road network.	Developments or use of an inappropriate scale or intensity – even of a small scale – can have disproportionately extensive effects.	None required if use and development conform with existing regulatory requirements and FI Guidelines
B	Sligo/North Mayo Coastal Plain Well-spaced coastal settlements and farming areas – with nearby rugged uplands. Extensive areas of designated landscapes and protected views.	Generally robust with locally high sensitivity – some areas of nationally significant iconic landscapes [e.g. Ben Bulbin]	Developments within working landscapes will have little discernible effect – extreme care required in the vicinity of nationally significant iconic landscapes	None required if use and development conform with existing regulatory requirements and FI Guidelines
C	Mayo/Galway Peninsular Scattered small communities concentrated between a complex coastlines and extensive empty interiors of bogs and mountains. Extensive areas of designated landscapes and protected views	Generally high sensitivity to new development Sensitivity is highest outside of established settlements and existing road network.	Developments or use of an inappropriate scale or intensity – even of a small scale – can have disproportionately extensive effects.	None required if use and development conform with existing regulatory requirements and FI Guidelines
D	Clare / North Kerry Coastal Plain Settled mature agricultural communities with large towns interspersed with singular landscape features. Extensive areas of designated landscapes and protected views	Generally robust with locally high sensitivity – some areas of nationally significant iconic landscapes [e.g. Burren and Cliffs of Moher]	Developments within working landscapes will have little discernible effect – extreme care required in the vicinity of nationally significant iconic landscapes	None required if use and development conform with existing regulatory requirements and FI Guidelines
E	South Kerry/ West Cork Peninsular Very scattered coastal communities within a larger landscape of very rugged bogs, uplands and rocky peninsulas Extensive areas of designated landscapes and protected views	Generally high sensitivity to new development. Sensitivity is highest outside of established settlements and existing road network.	Developments or use of an inappropriate scale or intensity – even of a small scale – can have disproportionately extensive effects.	None required if use and development conform with existing regulatory requirements and FI Guidelines

Table 4.3 Regional Assessment of Landscape

Section 5 Strategic Environmental Objectives

5.1 Introduction

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level e.g. the environmental protection objectives of various European Directives which have been transposed into Irish law and which are required to be implemented.

The SEOs are set out under a range of topics and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Programme and the alternatives are evaluated in order to help identify which provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and where such effects would be likely to occur, if - in the case of adverse effects - unmitigated.

The SEOs are linked to indicators which can facilitate monitoring the environmental effects of the Programme as well identifying targets which the Programme can help work towards. Monitoring is an ongoing process and the targets and indicators will be further refined when the findings of the Monitoring Strategy for Operational Programme Signature Discovery Points emerge. This Strategy is summarised in Section 10 and included as an Appendix to the Operational Programme.

Note that other legislation, plans, programmes, etc. which are not listed above and which have been taken into account include those which are detailed throughout this report including at Sections 2.6, Section 4 and Section 9.

5.2 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

5.2.1 Habitats Directive 1992

The European Council Directive on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC), referred to as the Habitats Directive, aims to ensure the conservation of certain natural habitats and species which are at favourable conservation status.

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated and protected under the Habitats Directive 1992 (92/43/EEC) due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union.

The Habitats Directive establishes Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. SACs together with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - which are designated under the 1979 Birds Directive - make up the Natura 2000 network of protected sites.

Article 6 of the Habitats Directive provides for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessments of plans or projects which have the potential to impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.

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

In Ireland, the habitats and species occurring in both SACs and SPAs are protected from effects of development occurring outside their boundaries under Section 18 "Prohibition of works on lands outside a European site" of the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997. The Regulations require that where a development is proposed to be carried out, on any land that is not within a protected site and is liable to have an adverse impact on the protected site in question, including direct, cumulative and indirect impacts, an Appropriate Assessment is required.

The integration of the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive into the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 puts the requirement for Appropriate Assessment into context for both projects and plans.

5.2.2 Birds Directive 1979

The 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC), referred to as the Birds Directive, - as well as its amending acts - seeks to protect, manage and regulate all bird species naturally living in the wild within the European territory of the Member States, including the eggs of these birds, their nests and their habitats; and to regulate the exploitation of these species.

The Directive places great emphasis on the protection of habitats for endangered as well as migratory species, especially through the establishment of a coherent network of SPAs.

SPAs are protected under the Directive and have been designated in Ireland by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the European Union.

The Annexes to the Birds Directive have been adapted on a number of occasions in response to scientific and technical progress and to the successive enlargements of the European Union. Directive of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (2009/147/EC) (contains the most up to date annexes).

5.2.3 European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats)(Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010, as well as addressing transposition failures identified in the CJEU judgements.

The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.

5.2.4 UN Convention on Biological Diversity 1992

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 requires the promotion of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

5.2.5 National Biodiversity Plan 2011

The preparation and implementation of Ireland's 2nd National Biodiversity Plan 2011⁴⁴ 'Actions for Biodiversity 2011 – 2016' complies with an obligation under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. The Plan has been developed in line with the EU and International Biodiversity strategies and policies.

The measures Ireland will take are presented as 102 actions under a series of 7 Strategic Objectives. Some of the actions within the plan are continuing elements of existing work and many are requirements under existing EU Directives. The objectives cover the conservation of biodiversity in the wider countryside and in the marine environment, both within and outside protected areas; the mainstreaming of biodiversity across the decision making process in the State; the strengthening of the knowledge base on biodiversity; increasing public awareness and participation; and Ireland's contribution to international biodiversity issues, including North South co-ordination on issues of common interest.

5.2.6 Wildlife Act 1976 and Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000

The basic designation for wildlife is the Natural Heritage Area (NHA). They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. Under the Wildlife Amendment Act (2000), NHAs are legally protected from damage from the date they are formally proposed for designation. Proposed NHAs (pNHAs) were published on a non-

⁴⁴ Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (2002) *National Biodiversity Plan* Dublin: Government of Ireland

statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated - designation will proceed on a phased basis over the coming years.

The Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended defines a 'wildlife site' as:

- (a) An area proposed as a natural heritage area and the subject of a notice made under section 16(1) of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000,
- (b) An area designated as or proposed to be designated as a natural heritage area by a natural heritage area order made under section 18 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000,
- (c) A nature reserve established or proposed to be established under an establishment order made under section 15 (amended by section 26 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000) of the Wildlife Act 1976,
- (d) A nature reserve recognised or proposed to be recognised under a recognition 5 order made under section 16 (amended by section 27 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000) of the Wildlife Act 1976, or
- (e) A refuge for fauna or flora designated 10 or proposed to be designated under a designation order made under section 17 (amended by section 28 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000) of the Wildlife Act 1976.

5.2.7 Biodiversity and Heritage Plans

The Biodiversity and Heritage Plans of various local authorities identify areas which are important for biodiversity, threats posed to these areas and targets for the protection of biodiversity.

5.2.8 (Draft) National Peatlands Strategy

The Draft National Peatlands Strategy, prepared by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, will, when finalised, establish principles in relation to Irish peatlands in order to guide Government policy. The Draft Strategy aims to provide a framework for which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise

their social, environmental and economic contribution.

5.2.9 SEOs, Indicators and Targets

SEO B1:	To ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and Annexed habitats and species ⁴⁵
Indicator B1:	Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive
Target B1:	Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under National and International legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Programme ⁴⁶

SEO B2:	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function act as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
Indicator B2:	Percentage loss of functional connectivity without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Programme
Target B2:	No significant ecological networks or parts thereof

⁴⁵ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

⁴⁶ Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- (a) No alternative solution available;
- (b) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the programme to proceed; and
- (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Programme

SEO B3: To avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites⁴⁷ and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of listed species

Indicator B3i: Number of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Programme

Target B3i: Avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Programme

Indicator B3ii: Number of significant impacts on the protection of listed species

Target B3ii: No significant impacts on the protection of listed species

beings. Impacts would be influenced by the extent to which new development is accompanied by appropriate infrastructure - this relates to SEOs M1 and M2; Impacts upon the quality of water bodies - these relate to SEOs W1 and W2; and the extent of development provided which would affect flood risk - this relates to SEO W3.

Emission limits for discharges to air, soil and water are set with regards to internationally recognised exposure limit values. These are generally set to be many times the safe exposure limit - in order to provide protection. In the event that a plan or programme began to have adverse health effects on surrounding populations it is likely that it would have been identified as being in breach of such emission standards at a very early stage - and long before the manifestation of any adverse health effects in the population.

SEO PHH1: To protect populations and human health from exposure to incompatible landuses

Indicator HH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors resulting from development provided for by the Programme, as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency

Target HH1: No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Programme

5.3 Population and Human Health

The impact of implementing the Programme on population and human health is influenced by the impacts which the Programme will have upon environmental vectors. Environmental vectors are environmental components, such as air, water or soil, through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human

⁴⁷ The Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended defines a 'wildlife site'. See Section 5.2.6.

5.4 Soil

Soil is potentially subject to a series of threats including erosion, decline in organic matter, local and diffuse contamination, sealing, compaction, decline in biodiversity, salinization, floods and landslides.

Given the importance of soil and the need to prevent further soil degradation, the Sixth Environment Action Programme⁴⁸ called for the development of a Thematic Strategy on Soil Protection.

SEO S1:	To avoid damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource
Indicator S1:	Soil extent and hydraulic connectivity
Target S1:	To minimise reductions in soil extent and hydraulic connectivity

5.5 Water

5.5.1 The Water Framework Directive 2000

Since 2000, Water Management in the EU has been directed by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD). The WFD has been transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (SI No. 722 of 2003). The WFD requires that all member states implement the necessary measures to prevent deterioration of the status of all waters - surface, ground, estuarine and coastal - and protect, enhance and restore all waters with the aim of achieving good status by 2015.

5.5.2 Quality Standards for Surface Waters

The European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009) is the final major piece of legislation needed to support the WFD and gives statutory effect to Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field

⁴⁸ Decision No 1600/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22nd July 2002 laying down the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme (OJ L 242, 10.9.2002, p. 1).

of water policy. The Surface Waters Regulations also give further effect to the WFD, establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy and Directive 2006/11/EC on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community.

The Surface Waters Regulations apply to all surface waters - including lakes, rivers, canals, transitional waters, and coastal waters - and provide, inter alia, for:

- The establishment of legally binding quality objectives for all surface waters and environmental quality standards for pollutants;
- The examination and where appropriate, review of existing discharge authorisations by Public Authorities to ensure that the emission limits laid down in authorisations support compliance with the new water quality objectives/standards;
- The classification of surface water bodies by the EPA for the purposes of the Water Framework Directive;
- The establishment of inventories of priority substances by the EPA; and
- The drawing up of pollution reduction plans by coordinating local authorities (in consultation with the EPA) to reduce pollution by priority substances and to cease and/or phase out discharges, emissions or losses of priority hazardous substances.

In order to satisfy the overall WFD objective of 'good status', a surface water body must achieve the requirements of the good ecological⁴⁹ and chemical⁵⁰ status.

The EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 provides guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the WFD.

⁴⁹ Ecological status comprises: biological quality elements, physiochemical conditions and hydromorphological quality elements. The overall ecological status of the water body is determined by the lowest level of status achieved across all quality elements.

⁵⁰ Chemical status assessment is based on compliance with the standards laid down for priority substances by Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy (the Surface Waters Regulations give effect to the environmental standards established by this Directive).

5.5.3 Quality Standards and Threshold Values for Ground Water

Detailed provisions to achieve the aims of the WFD for ground water have been presented in a Groundwater Directive (Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration).

This Directive sets up environmental objectives of good groundwater quantity and good groundwater quality (chemical status), as well as ensuring a continuity to the 1980 Groundwater Directive (Directive 80/68/EEC on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by dangerous substances) which is due to be repealed under the WFD by the end of 2013.

Article 3 of the 2006 Directive requires that the assessment of the chemical status of groundwater use both quality standards identified in Annex I of the Directive and threshold values to be set by individual member states.

Groundwater quality standards are environmental quality standards expressed as the concentration of a particular pollutant, group of pollutants or indicator of pollution in groundwater, which should not be exceeded in order to protect human health and the environment. Annex I of the Directive sets standards for two pollutants: Nitrates - 50mg/l - and; Active substances in pesticides⁵¹, including their relevant metabolites, degradation and reaction products - 0,1 µg/l and 0,5 µg/l (total⁵²).

Irish groundwater threshold values⁵³ are currently in the process of being set by the EPA.

⁵¹ 'Pesticides' means plant protection products and biocidal products as defined in Article 2 of Directive 91/414/EEC and in Article 2 of Directive 98/8/EC, respectively.

⁵² 'Total' means the sum of all individual pesticides detected and quantified in the monitoring procedure, including their relevant metabolites, degradation and reaction products.

⁵³ Threshold values are to be established by Member States for all pollutants and indicators of pollution which characterise groundwater bodies classified as being at risk of failing to achieve good groundwater chemical status under the WFD. Threshold values are required to be established in a way that, should the monitoring results at a

5.5.4 River Basin Management

For the purpose of implementing the WFD, Ireland has been divided into eight River Basin Districts (RBDs) or areas of land that are drained by a large river or number of rivers and the adjacent estuarine/coastal areas. Within each RBD - for the purpose of assessment, reporting and management - water has been divided into groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine waters and coastal waters which are in turn divided into specific, clearly defined water bodies. The Operational Programme area covers part of four of the eight WFD RBDs on the island of Ireland: the North Western International RBD; the Shannon International RBD; the Western RBD; and the South Western RBD.

River Basin Management Plans have been prepared for each River Basin District which are being implemented in order to help protect and improve all waters. The Management Plans provides specific policies for individual river basins in order to implement the requirements of the WFD.

5.5.5 Bathing Water

The Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) - which entered into force in March 2008 - revises the 1976 Bathing Water Directive with the purpose of: preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment and protecting human health by complementing the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). The 2006 Bathing Water Directive is implemented by the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (SI No. 79) of 2008.

Mandatory and Guide Values are set out for bathing waters in the Directive and transposing Regulations. Mandatory Values are values which must be observed if the bathing area is to be deemed compliant with the Directive. Compliance with Guide Values exceeds guidance with Mandatory Values and can be regarded as quality objectives which bathing sites should endeavour to achieve.

representative monitoring point exceed the thresholds, this will indicate a risk that one or more of the conditions for good groundwater chemical status - with regard to the ability of groundwater to support human uses and with regard to waters used for the abstraction of drinking water - are not being met.

5.5.6 Flooding

The OPW commenced a National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme in 2011. CFRAM studies are currently being carried out for all River Basin Districts and predictive, modelled CFRAM flood risk maps were published in draft format in 2015.

5.5.7 SEOs, Indicators and Targets

Note that SEOs W1 and W2 also interact with the quality of waters.

SEO W1:	To maintain and improve, where possible, the quality and status of surface waters
Indicator W1i:	Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009)
Target W1i:	Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' ⁵⁴ by 2015
Indicator W1ii:	Mandatory and Guide values as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008)
Target W1ii:	To achieve - as a minimum - Mandatory values and, where possible, to achieve Guide values as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008)

SEO W2:	To prevent pollution and contamination of groundwater
Indicator W2:	Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC
Target W2:	Not to affect the ability of groundwaters to comply with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC

⁵⁴ Good status as defined by the WFD equates to approximately the following in the current national schemes of classification as set out by the EPA:

- *Q4* in the biological classification of *rivers*;
- *Mesotrophic* in the trophic classification of lakes, as set out by the EPA;
- *Unpolluted status* in the Assessment of Trophic Status of Estuaries and Bays in Ireland (ATSEBI).

SEO W3:	To comply as appropriate with the provisions of the <i>Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i>
Indicator W3:	Compliance of lower tier assessments and decision making by local authorities with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines
Target W3:	For all lower tier assessments and decision making by local authorities to comply with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines

SEO C1:	To reduce travel related emissions to air and to encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport
Indicator C1:	Percentage of population using the Wild Atlantic Way travelling by non-mechanical means
Target C1:	To contribute towards an increase in the percentage of the population using the Wild Atlantic Way travelling by non-mechanical means

5.6 Air and Climatic Factors

The impact of implementing the Programme on air quality and climatic factors will be determined by the impacts which the Programme has upon the greenhouse gas emissions arising from transport which relate to SEO C1.

Travel is a source of:

1. Noise;
2. Air emissions; and
4. Energy use (39% of Total Final Energy Consumption in Ireland in 2012 was taken up by transport, the largest take up of any sector)⁵⁵.

In order to protect human health, vegetation and ecosystems, EU Directives set down air quality standards in Ireland and the other Member States for a wide variety of pollutants. These pollutants are generated through fuel combustion, in space heating, traffic, electricity generation and industry and, in sufficient amounts, could affect the well-being of inhabitants. The EU Directives include details regarding how ambient air quality should be monitored, assessed and managed.

The principles to this European approach are set out under the Air Quality Framework Directive 1996 while four daughter Directives lay down limits or thresholds for specific pollutants.

⁵⁵ Sustainable Energy Ireland (2014) *Energy in Ireland 1990 – 2012*

5.7 Material Assets

5.7.1 Existing Infrastructure

Existing roads provide an opportunity to align the Wild Atlantic Way route without requiring new built development.

5.7.2 Waters of Economic Value

Potential interactions with waters of economic value are determined by considering interactions with SEO W1 which relates to the status of surface water, SEO L1 which relates to landscape designations and the SEOs relating to biodiversity.

5.7.3 Water Services Act 2007

Major legislative revisions have been provided for in the Water Services Act 2007 (No. 30 of 2007). The Act incorporates a comprehensive review, update and consolidation of all existing water services legislation, and facilitates the establishment of a comprehensive supervisory regime to ensure compliance with specified performance standards.

5.7.4 Water Services Act 2013

The Water Services Act 2013 provides for the establishment of Irish Water as a subsidiary of Bord Gáis Éireann. The Act provides the Commission for Energy Regulation with a function to advise the Government in relation to the development of policy regarding the regulation of the provision of water services.

The Act provides that the Commission may do all things necessary in preparation for the performance of water regulatory functions and that the Commission may undertake the necessary consultations with Bord Gáis Éireann and Irish Water, water services authorities, or any other person.

In the medium-to-long-term Irish Water will produce and implement a series of 6 year Multi-Annual Capital Investment Plans which will synchronise with the 6 year River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) cycles. The 6 year Capital Investment Plans are to be guided by a 25-year Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) which is required to focus on how capacity deficits will be addressed and what the primary strategic objectives of Irish Water are to be. The Plan will set strategic objectives taking into account capacity deficits and demographic and economic trends.

5.7.5 Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 2001

The treatment of waste water is governed by the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) (amended by Directive 98/15/EEC) transposed into Irish law by the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 (SI No. 254 of 2001). The Directive aims to protect the environment from the adverse effects of the waste water discharges by ensuring that waste water is appropriately treated before it is discharged to the environment. The Regulations stipulate that sewage treatment facilities are in place in all towns by 2005.

Appropriate treatment is essential in order to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (see Section 5.5.1).

5.7.6 Drinking Water Regulations 2007

The European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 require the compliance of water intended for human consumption with 48 parameters.

5.7.7 Waste Management

EU and National policy and can be summarised by the waste hierarchy of prevention, recycling, energy recovery and disposal.

Waste management plans for the three waste management regions in Ireland (Southern, Eastern-Midlands and Connacht-Ulster) came into force in 2015.

5.7.8 SEOs, Indicators and Target

SEO M1:	For new Wild Atlantic Way related development to be served with adequate and appropriate waste water treatment
Indicator M1:	Number of Wild Atlantic Way developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment, if required
Target M1:	All new Wild Atlantic Way developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment, if required

SEO M2:	For new development to be served with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean
Indicator M2:	Number of non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health as a result of implementing the Programme
Target M2:	No non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health as a result of implementing the Programme

SEO M3:	To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse
Indicator M3:	Preparation and implementation of construction and environmental management plans
Target M3:	For construction and environmental management plans to be prepared and implemented for relevant projects

SEO M4:	To maximise the use of existing infrastructure
Indicator M4:	Percentage length of the Wild Atlantic Way route aligned to existing infrastructure
Target M4:	To maximise the length of Wild Atlantic Way route developed along existing infrastructure, taking into account other factors such as environmental protection and planning considerations

5.8 Cultural Heritage

5.8.1 Archaeological Heritage

5.8.1.1 Valletta Convention 1992

The European Convention on Protection of the Archaeological Heritage known as the Valletta Convention of 1992. This was ratified by Ireland in 1997 and requires that appropriate consideration be given to archaeological issues at all stages of the planning and development process.

5.8.1.2 National Heritage Plan for Ireland 2002

The core objective of the National Heritage Plan for Ireland 2002⁵⁶ is to protect Ireland's heritage. In this regard the polluter pays and the precautionary principle are operable.

⁵⁶ Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (2002) *National Heritage Plan for Ireland* Dublin: Government of Ireland

5.8.1.3 National Monuments Acts

Archaeology in Ireland is protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004.

Recorded monuments are protected by inclusion on the list and marked on the map which comprises the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) set out county by county under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition includes Zones of Archaeological Potential in towns and all other monuments of archaeological interest which have so far been identified.

Any works at, or in relation to a recorded monument requires two months' notice to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994.

Direct impacts on national monuments in State or Local Authority care or subject to a preservation order require the consent of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 as amended by Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004.

5.8.2 Architectural Heritage

Records of Protected Structures are legislated for under Section 12 and Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and include structures which form part of the architectural heritage and which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) are places, areas or groups of structures or townscapes which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value, or contribute to the appreciation of protected structures, whose character it is an objective to preserve in a development plan. The ACA designation requires that planning permission must be obtained before significant works can be carried out to the exterior of a structure in the ACA which might alter the character of the structure or the ACA.

5.8.3 SEO, Indicators and Targets

SEO CH1:	To protect archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context
Indicator CH1:	Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - including Zones of Archaeological Potential (and the context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant) - protected from significant adverse effects arising from development of the Wild Atlantic Way
Target CH1:	Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - including Zones of Archaeological Potential (and their context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant) from significant adverse effects arising from development of the Wild Atlantic Way

SEO CH2:	To protect architectural heritage including entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context
Indicator CH2:	Percentage of entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from development of the Wild Atlantic Way
Target CH2:	Protect entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from development of the Wild Atlantic Way

5.9 Landscape

5.9.1 Planning and Development Acts

The Planning and Development Acts, 2000 - 2010 requires that a Development Plan shall include objectives relating to ‘... *landscape, in accordance with relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government relating to providing a framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes and developed having regard to the European Landscape Convention.*’

5.9.2 European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention - also known as the Florence Convention, - promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. The Convention defines landscape as ‘*an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors*’. As a signatory of the Convention there is an obligation on Ireland to prepare a National Landscape Strategy.

5.9.3 National Landscape Strategy

The National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025 aims to implement the European Landscape Convention in Ireland by providing for specific measures to promote the protection, management and planning of the landscape.

5.9.4 Plan Designations

There are a variety of county and local level designations which are afforded degrees of protection under the plans of local authorities. Such designations include:

- Landscape character areas;
- Landscape value areas;
- Landscape sensitivity areas;
- Areas of high amenity; and
- Views and prospects/routes.

5.9.5 SEO, Indicator and Target

SEO L1:	To avoid conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in the land use plans of local authorities
Indicator L1:	Number of unmitigated conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in the land use plans of local authorities
Target L1:	No unmitigated conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in the land use plans of local authorities

Section 6 Description of Alternatives

6.1 Introduction

As per the requirements of the SEA Directive, this SEA considers reasonable alternatives, which are capable of being implemented for the Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the Programme.

The alternatives are evaluated in Section 7 resulting in the identification of potential effects and informing the development of the Programme. The evaluation of alternatives will inform the decision-making framework for future projects.

6.2 Rational for Alternative Development

As the National Tourism Development Authority, Fáilte Ireland needed to respond to the significant decline in international bednights and revenue in the west of Ireland that had occurred between 2007 and 2010 with a marketing initiative that would help to arrest and eventually begin to reverse this decline.

A wide range of options were open to the Authority and all were considered, as detailed below.

6.3 Alternatives

6.3.1 Option 1: Continuation of Uncoordinated Approach

Option 1 was to continue with a regional approach to tourism development in the west, with each of four regions competing with one another for market share, but all contributing to a large mix of destination brands which have previously struggled for attention in the international marketplace.

In terms of touring routes, over 35 were identified which touched upon the west coast,

but only three of which crossed a county boundary.

Any of the existing brands in the west of Ireland lacked the scale and singularity required to be noticed in overseas markets.

6.3.2 Option 2: Further Growth of Popular Centres

Option 2 was to focus future growth on those centres that are currently popular with visitors and try to grow them further. This option would involve the development of a single attraction of sufficient scale to focus attention on the west coast. Such an attraction would be of a scale similar to that of the recently developed Titanic Visitor Centre in Belfast.

6.3.3 Option 3: Single Overarching Brand - Coastal Touring Routes

Option 3 was to have a single, overarching brand for the west of Ireland which would equip it with a greater potential to achieve 'cut-through' in target overseas markets by developing the concept of the Wild Atlantic Way as both a brand and a touring route. Comparator experiences such as the Great Ocean Road (Australia), the Garden Route (South Africa) and the Big Sur (North America) were all examined.

The brand was tested and consumer groups responded very positively to it. In order to deliver on the brand proposition, the route identified had to be a coastal route.

6.3.3.1 Option 3a Greenway Route

As part of this option, the development of a single walking route or greenway (including cycling) was considered. The model for this was the Wales Coast Path which was in development at the time.

6.3.3.2 Option 3b Most Scenic Driving Routes only

Option 3b was considered as part of the route identification process and involved only including those roads that were most scenic or

which had largely unbroken views of the coast. This was the approach taken in identifying the 16 National Touring Routes in Norway.

6.3.3.3 Option 3c Single, Continuous Route

Option 3c was to identify a single, contiguous route along the entire west coast, from Co. Donegal to Co. Cork. It was deemed that this would create the necessary scale and singularity required for a brand that was to be visible in key overseas markets.

It was decided as part of this option to eventually identify and include a number of loops inland off the main spine within the first five years of operation. The reason why this wasn't done immediately was because it was considered that it would result in a dilution of the brand during the formative years if a large portion of the route was in-land as opposed to predominately coastal and, thereby, not directly 'on-brand'.

One of the key considerations in the route identification process, which included collective stakeholder decision-making and public consultation, was to ensure that the route to be chosen had to have the capacity to take two-way car, camper van and minibus traffic, while separate sections of the route were identified for coaches, as appropriate. This was to avoid the selection of routes in sensitive areas that would require expansion or renewal works. Where roads along the coast with continuous sea-views were deemed to be too narrow, spurs from a wider road which ended in an existing beach car park or viewing point ('Discovery Point') were identified. This meant that even if the chosen route did not closely follow the coast due to capacity issues, the visitor was never very far at any one time from a view of the Atlantic.

Within Option 3c 'Single, Continuous Route' there are three sub-options for the provision of Discovery Points (viewing points and lay-bys) as follow:

3c (i) No Discovery Points, continuation of uncoordinated tourism projects

The Programme under this alternative does not provide for Discovery Points but allows for the continuation of new, uncoordinated tourism projects along the western seaboard undertaken by a variety of local groups, private landowners and local authorities.

3c (ii) New Discovery Points

The Programme under this alternative provides for a coordinated set of new Discovery Points.

3c (iii) Restriction of new development, Limit in number of Discovery Points

The Programme under this alternative facilitates a restriction of new development and limits the number of Discovery Points. There is an emphasis on re-use and reinforcement of existing infrastructure and there is an application of design guidelines to contribute towards the protection of the environment.

Section 7 Evaluation of Alternatives

7.1 Introduction

This section provides a comparative evaluation of the environmental effects of implementing the alternatives. This determination sought to understand whether each alternative was likely to improve, conflict with or have a neutral interaction with environmental components.

7.2 Methodology

The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (see Section 4) and the Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Section 5 and Table 7.1) are used in the evaluation of alternatives.

The alternatives are evaluated using compatibility criteria (see Table 7.2 below) in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the SEOs. The SEOs and the alternatives are arrayed against each other to identify which interactions - if any - would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies a likely conflict with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the conflict column - e.g. B1 which stands for the SEO likely to be affected - in this instance 'to ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and Annexed habitats and species'⁵⁷.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects⁵⁸:

1. Interactions that would be likely to improve the status of a particular SEO would be likely to result in a significant positive effect on the environmental component to which the SEO relates. The extent of positive effects which would be likely to occur varies and there are two 'likely to improve columns' (see Table 7.2).
2. Interactions that would potentially conflict with the status of an SEO and would be likely to be mitigated would be likely to result in potential significant negative effects however these effects could be mitigated. The extent to which effects could be mitigated varies and there are three 'likely to be mitigated columns' (see Table 7.2).
3. Interactions that would probably conflict with the status of an SEO and would be unlikely to be mitigated would be likely to result in a significant negative effect on the environmental component to which the SEO relates.

The degree to which effects can be determined is limited as the Programme will be implemented through the lower tier environmental assessments and decision making of local authorities. Nonetheless a comparative evaluation of the various alternatives can be provided.

⁵⁷ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

⁵⁸ These effects include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

Table 7.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives⁶¹

SEO Code	SEO
B1	To ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and Annexed habitats and species ⁵⁹
B2	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function act as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
B3	To avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites ⁶⁰ and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of listed species
PHH1	To protect populations and human health from exposure to incompatible landuses
S1	To avoid damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource
W1	To maintain and improve, where possible, the quality and status of surface waters
W2	To prevent pollution and contamination of groundwater
W3	To comply as appropriate with the provisions of the <i>Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i>
C1	To reduce travel related emissions to air and to encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport
M1	For new Wild Atlantic Way related development to be served with adequate and appropriate waste water treatment
M2	For new development to be served with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean
M3	To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse
M4	To maximise the use of existing infrastructure
CH1	To protect archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context
CH2	To protect architectural heritage including entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context
L1	To avoid conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in the land use plans of local authorities

Table 7.2 Criteria for appraising the effect of Alternatives on SEOs

Likely to Improve status of SEOs to a greater degree	Likely to Improve status of SEOs to a lesser degree	Least Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	Most Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	No significant interaction with status of SEOs
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⁵⁹ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

⁶⁰ The Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended defines a 'wildlife site'. See Section 5.2.6.

⁶¹ See Section 5.1 for a description of Strategic Environmental Objectives.

7.3 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects are one of the types of effects which have been considered by the assessment of the alternatives. Cumulative effects can be described as the addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact.

There are 2 types of potential cumulative effects that have been considered, namely:

- Potential *intra-Plan* cumulative effects - these arise from the interactions between different types of potential environmental effects resulting from a plan, programme, etc. The interrelationships between environmental components that help determine these potential effects are identified on Table 8.4 in Section 8 e.g. interrelationships between: human health and water quality; human health and air quality; human health and flood risk; and ecology and water quality.
- Potential *inter-Plan* cumulative effects - these arise when the effects of the implementation of one plan occur in combination with those of other plans, programmes, developments, etc.

Effects that may arise as a result of implementing the Plan have been mitigated to the extent that the only residual adverse effects likely to occur as a result of implementation of the Plan are those which are identified under Section 8.4.

With regard to potential *inter-Plan* cumulative environmental effects, these occur as a result of the combination of: potential environmental effects which are identified by the assessment; and the effects arising from other legislation, plans, programmes or developments arising. Other legislation, plans, programmes or developments arising which have been considered by the assessment of environmental effects include those which are detailed under Sections 2.6, 4 and 5. The types of Plans and Programmes which are most likely to interact with the Operational Programme the most include those relating to land use planning, transport and water services.

Regional, County and Local land use plans undergo SEA in Ireland although there is no SEA for the overarching National Spatial Strategy. An SEA is currently being undertaken on Irish Water's Water Services Plan. Transport policy is currently not the subject of SEA in Ireland. This assessment of the Operational Programme recognises the existence of other SEAs with a view to avoid duplication of assessment, in compliance with the SEA Directive.

Table 7.3 SEA Availability for Selected Policies/Strategies/Plans/Programmes

Policy/Strategy/Plan/Programme	SEA?
National	
National Spatial Strategy for Ireland 2002-2020	No
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)	No
Water Services Strategic Plan	No
Regional /County/Local	
Regional Planning Guidelines	Yes
Development Plans and local plans including those for: Donegal, Sligo, Mayo Galway, Clare, Limerick, Kerry and Cork; Northern Ireland Areas Plans (including Derry Area Plan 2011)	Yes
Local Plans	Yes

The SEA undertaken for the Programme has taken account of the need for the implementation of the Operational Programme 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.

In considering the relationship with legislation and other plans and programmes it is important to note that the Programme will be implemented within areas that have existing plans and programmes for a range of sectors [e.g. water management, land use, energy] at a range of levels [e.g. National, River Basin District, Regional, County and Local] that are already subject to more specific higher and lower tier SEA and AA.

The assessment of the likely *inter-Plan* cumulative environmental effects requires knowledge of the likely effects of all plans/developments under consideration. The assessment is limited in this instance as there has been limited assessment of the likely types of developments provided for by other policies, plans and programmes that could occur in combination with the implementation of the Programme. Potential cumulative/in-combination effects include:

- Potential effects on all environmental components arising from the continued need for new tourist related development, such as that relating to accommodation, bars or restaurants. This development is planned and permitted through land use plans including Regional, County and Local Plans which are required to take into account fluctuating needs, such as those that may arise as a result of existing and future numbers of residents and tourists. These land use plans are required to undergo SEA and comply with environmental legislation.
- Potential effects on all environmental components including arising from the need to provide adequate and appropriate services and infrastructure, including water services infrastructure. Tourism is one of many sectors which requires and uses infrastructure and services. These are planned and permitted through specific processes which are informed by, inter alia, the needs of land use plans including Regional, County and Local Plans which are required to take into account fluctuating needs, such as those that may arise as a result of existing and future numbers of residents and tourists. These land use plans and plans from other sectors e.g. water services are required to undergo SEA and comply with environmental legislation.
- Contributions towards travel related emissions to air (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors) as a result of visitors getting to Ireland and the west coast.
- In the longer term, positive effects upon objectives relating to sustainable mobility (cycling and walking), thereby reducing and limiting increases in greenhouse gas emissions, noise emissions and other emissions to air (in combination with plans including the Dublin to Galway Greenway Plan, the Green Infrastructure strategies of various local authorities, Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020, Ireland’s First National Cycle Policy Framework, etc.). Also potential adverse effects with respect to pressures upon ecology of greenways as a result of encouraging walking and cycling along alternative routes (in combination with the aforementioned plans).
- Potential interactions with the Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 and the waymarked Causeway Coastal Route drive between Belfast and Londonderry. These interactions are the same as those detailed for the Selected Alternative for the Programme detailed in this section (including at Table 7.5) and throughout Section 8.
- Potential interactions with projects including the Eurovelo 1 European Cycle route (this runs along existing roads from Donegal to Wexford and picks up greenways where they exist. The Borders, Midland and Western Regional Assembly and the National Trails Office are leading the Ireland part of an application for Interreg funding with a few other countries) and the works referred to under Section 8.7.2 of this SEA Environmental Report and Section 3.1 of the WAW Operational Programme document. These interactions are the same as those detailed for the Selected Alternative for the Programme detailed in this section (including at Table 7.5) and throughout Section 8.

As with the other interactions detailed above, the mitigation measures which have been integrated into the Operational Programme (see Section 9) will ensure that no significant adverse residual impacts occur.

7.4 Detailed Evaluation of Alternatives

7.4.1 Effects as a result of Development and Needs External to the Route

Effects as a result of development and needs external to the route taken by tourists along the western sea board arising from implementation of the Programme are influenced by the extent of growth in visitor numbers. Higher growth does not necessarily result in a greater number and extent of potential effects – some of the options have the ability to accommodate growth by spreading it over various locations and away from the traditional summer peak visitor time.

The Programme will comprise one of many factors which could attract visitors to the west coast.

All alternatives would contribute towards travel related emissions to air as a result of visitors getting to Ireland and to the west coast. Although transport policy is currently not the subject of SEA in Ireland, the Monitoring Strategy that is being implemented (see Section 10) will provide information relating to journeys by visitors to Ireland by air – this information will be made available to transport planning and associated environmental assessments. Traffic issues are dealt with by county/regional assessment of land use plans – there are currently no SEA provisions for air, port and rail traffic. Site management is only an SEA issue at site level – traffic management on public roads is a matter for local authorities and Gardaí and its growth is a part of management and planning at county level – which already includes tourism traffic – and is subject to its own assessment.

Each of the alternatives could, in combination with land use plans (which provide for the needs associated with tourism e.g. accommodation, infrastructural capacity) and other sectoral plans (which take account of fluctuations in population due to tourism e.g. plans for water services which are the responsibility of Irish Water) result in various potential adverse effects on all parts of the environment.

With regard to built development, such as that relating to accommodation, bars or restaurants, these are planned and permitted through land use plans including Regional, County and Local Plans which are required to take into account fluctuating needs, such as those that may arise as a result of existing and future numbers of residents and tourists. These land use plans are required to undergo SEA and comply with environmental legislation.

With regard to infrastructure and services, such as those relating to water services, these are planned and permitted through specific processes which are informed by, inter alia, the needs of land use plans including Regional, County and Local Plans which are required to take into account fluctuating needs, such as those that may arise as a result of existing and future numbers of residents and tourists. These land use plans and plans from other sectors are required to undergo SEA and comply with environmental legislation.

7.4.2 Option 1: Continuation of Uncoordinated Approach

This option would involve continued uncoordinated maintenance, repair and development of tourism projects over 35 touring routes.

This option would not contribute towards improvements in environmental management and protection and would be the most likely option whereby significant residual adverse environmental effects would occur.

Works would be undertaken by a variety of local groups, private landowners and local authorities outside of a framework resulting in the proliferation of viewing points and associated developments – potentially including new and improved access roads – along the entirety of the route. Impacts and mitigation along the western seaboard would not be considered as a whole, only on a case by case basis where works are part of formal consenting procedures.

There would be little or no management of visitors:

- At a macro spatial level in terms of what sections of the western seaboard could accommodate increases in visitors;
- At a micro spatial level in terms of what areas adjacent to viewing points, lay-bys etc. should be avoided; and
- In terms of time; it is likely that the summer peak would be accentuated.

This lack of coherent planning and management would have the potential to contribute towards increasing stresses on sensitive environments (including ecology, water resources, landscapes and cultural heritage) and infrastructure.

In addition to the above, Fáilte Ireland considered that pursuing this option would not result in a sufficient disruption of the downward trend in overseas bed nights and revenue that was the case at the time. It was this 'status quo' option that had been in force when the decline occurred so there is no evidence to suggest that it would have the ability to arrest or reverse the decline.

7.4.3 Option 2: Further Growth of Popular Centres

This option would: focus growth currently popular centres with the objective of making them more popular; and involve the development of a single attraction of sufficient scale to focus attention on the west coast.

The Programme for this option would theoretically present an opportunity to contribute towards improvements in environmental management and protection; however this opportunity would be severely constrained by the main objective of the Programme, focusing visitors into currently popular locations. It is unlikely that real improvements in environmental management and protection would be achieved.

Visitors would be directed to the most popular locations along the most popular sections of the western seaboard. This would lead to the need to develop clusters of new viewing points and associated developments – potentially including new and improved access roads. The construction of these new developments would present potential adverse environmental effects which would be concentrated in the most popular locations. Significant increases in pressure upon sensitive environments (including ecology, water resources, landscapes and cultural heritage) and increases in demand on infrastructure could lead to direct, indirect and cumulative environmental effects in these locations.

The Programme could mitigate impacts by managing visitors across the tourist season so that growth is sought in times outside of the summer peak; the extent to which this would be successful is uncertain due to the focus on a small number of already popular locations as well as a single attraction of sufficient scale to focus attention on the west coast.

In addition to the above, Fáilte Ireland considered such an approach would not provide a solution for the entire western seaboard and would not have the ability to sufficiently disrupt the geographical seasonal inequities that currently exist along the west coast. It was also considered that it would be more appropriate as part of a tourism development strategy for a large urban centre, as the Titanic Visitor Centre was for Belfast.

7.4.4 Option 3: Single Overarching Brand - Coastal Touring Routes

Options 3a, 3b and 3c provide for a single, overarching brand for the west of Ireland comprising a touring route.

7.4.4.1 Option 3a: Greenway Route

By providing for the development of a single walking route or greenway (including cycling), this route would contribute towards increases in sustainable mobility and reductions in travel related emissions to air.

The Programme for this option would present an opportunity to contribute towards improvements in environmental management and protection by allowing for both: the management of visitors at a macro spatial level (in terms of what sections of the western seaboard could accommodate increases in visitors); and the management of visitors at a micro spatial level (in terms of what areas adjacent to viewing points, lay-bys etc. should be avoided). This option would also allow for the management of visitors across the tourist season so that growth could be sought in times outside of the summer peak. There would be potential for success in this regard due to the wide extent of the route.

The above management of visitors would have the potential to both: contribute towards the protection of sensitive environments (including ecology, water resources, landscapes and cultural heritage) by minimising potential stresses; and avoid increases in infrastructural demand during the summer peak season.

The development of pathways and cycleways under this option would result in potential adverse environmental effects with respect to various environmental components (including ecology, soil, cultural heritage, water resources and landscape); careful route selection and legislative compliance would be required in order to ensure that effects are mitigated. Under this option existing and planned walkways and greenways of local authorities could be integrated into the route.

In addition to the above, Fáilte Ireland identified that this option would constitute a significant level of new development in terms of cycleways and, therefore, presented a barrier to the launch of the brand in 2014 (on-road cycling routes would not satisfy the needs or expectations of Ireland's core overseas markets). Other issues identified included land ownership and the possible requirement to seek planning permission, neither of which were insurmountable in principal, but not within the timescale allowed. It is noted that the Operational Programme supports improvements by local authorities to the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking, cycling and water-based activities along the Wild Atlantic Way.

Once it was decided that the first manifestation of the Wild Atlantic Way brand would be a branding of the existing roads along the west coast from County Donegal to County Cork, a further two sub-options (3b and 3c) were considered.

7.4.4.2 Option 3b: Most Scenic Driving Routes only

By only including roads that are most scenic or which have largely unbroken views of the coast this option would contribute towards the intensification of visitors in already popular areas.

The Programme for this option would present an opportunity to contribute towards improvements in environmental management and protection; however this opportunity would be constrained to some degree by focusing visitors into already popular areas where the roads are most scenic or have unbroken coastal views. Some management of visitors would be possible at a macro spatial level (in terms of what areas and roads could accommodate increases in visitors) and at a micro spatial level (in terms of what areas adjacent to viewing points, lay-bys etc. should be avoided). This option would allow for some management of visitors across the tourist season so that growth could be sought in times outside of the summer peak.

The above management of visitors would have the potential to both: contribute towards the protection of sensitive environments (including ecology, water resources, landscapes and cultural heritage) by reducing potential stresses in some areas; and reduce increases in infrastructural demand during the summer peak season.

Visitors would be directed to roads that are most scenic or which have largely unbroken views of the coast (in already popular areas). This may lead to the need to develop viewing points and associated developments – potentially including new and improved access roads. The construction of these new developments would present potential adverse environmental effects. Focusing growth could result in significant increases in pressure upon sensitive environments (including ecology, water resources, landscapes and cultural heritage) and increases in demand on infrastructure, leading to direct, indirect and cumulative environmental effects in these locations.

In addition to the above, Fáilte Ireland identified that this option might only serve to intensify visitors in already popular areas and might not achieve one of the goals of the initiative, namely to spread visitor bed nights and revenue into areas where there is under-utilised capacity.

7.4.4.3 Option 3c: Single, Continuous Route⁶²

This option maximises the use existing infrastructure as the route would be aligned to existing roads only.

With a route extending along the entire western seaboard (and with the prospect of including a number of loops inland off the main spine within the first five years of operation), the Programme for this option would present an opportunity to contribute towards improvements in environmental management and protection by allowing for both: the management of visitors at a macro spatial level (in terms of what sections of the western seaboard could accommodate increases in visitors); and the management of visitors at a micro spatial level (in terms of what areas adjacent to viewing points, lay-bys etc. should be avoided). This option would also allow for the management of visitors across the tourist season so that growth could be sought in times outside of the summer peak. There would be potential for success in this regard due to the wide extent of the route.

The above management of visitors would have the potential to both: contribute towards the protection of sensitive environments (including ecology, water resources, landscapes and cultural heritage) by minimising potential stresses; and avoid increases in infrastructural demand during the summer peak season.

Road capacity and safety were key criteria for this option: roads for this option had to already have the capacity to take two-way car, camper van and minibus traffic, and separate sections of the route were identified for coaches, as appropriate. By using existing roads for this option which do not need to be upgraded, potential adverse effects would be avoided.

Within Option 3c 'Single, Continuous Route' there are three sub-options for the provision of Discovery Points (viewing points and lay-bys) as follow:

3c (i) No Discovery Points, continuation of uncoordinated tourism projects

The option allows for the continuation of new, uncoordinated tourism projects along the western seaboard undertaken by a variety of local groups, private landowners and local authorities. This would result in the proliferation of viewing points, lay-bys and a variety of associated developments along the entirety of the route.

Impacts and mitigation would not be considered for these projects along the western seaboard as a whole, only on a case by case basis where works are part of formal consenting procedures.

This lack of coherent planning and management would have the potential to:

- Contribute towards increasing stresses on sensitive environments (including ecology, water resources, landscapes and cultural heritage); and
- Reduce the effectiveness of visitor management and associated positive effects on the management and protection of the environment.

⁶² The delineation of the Wild Atlantic Way Route under this alternative was informed by a Route Identification process, the findings of which were included in a "WAW (Initial) Route Identification Report" (2013, Hogarts on behalf of Fáilte Ireland). Road capacity and safety were key criteria considered in the identification of the Route. The following lists the groups of criteria taken into account in the identification of the route:

1. Accessibility and Capacity of the Route
2. Scenic Quality of the Route
3. Points of Interest along the Route
4. Human Influences
5. Culture
6. Sports and Activities

3c (ii) New Discovery Points

This option facilitates a coordinated set of new Discovery Points along the route.

Impacts and mitigation could be considered along the western seaboard as a whole, through the SEA, as well as at lower tiers of environmental assessment and decision making.

The development of new Discovery Points would have the potential to adversely affect environmental sensitivities such as those relating to ecology, water resources, landscapes and cultural heritage. Such effects could be mitigated through the SEA process.

The coordination would have the potential to maximise the effectiveness of visitor management and associated positive effects on the management and protection of the environment.

3c (iii) Restriction of new development, Limit in number of Discovery Points

This option facilitates a restriction of new development and limits the number of Discovery Points. There is an emphasis on re-use and reinforcement of existing infrastructure and there is an application of design guidelines to contribute towards the protection of the environment.

New works, e.g. reuse and reinforcement, at existing Discovery Points would have the potential to adversely affect environmental sensitivities such as those relating to ecology, water resources, landscapes and cultural heritage. Such effects could be mitigated through the SEA process including the application of design guidelines.

Impacts and mitigation could be considered along the western seaboard as a whole, through the SEA, as well as at lower tiers of environmental assessment and decision making.

The coordination provided for by this option would have the potential to maximise the effectiveness of visitor management and associated positive effects on the management and protection of the environment.

Table 7.4 Strategic Evaluation of Alternatives against SEOs

Option	Likely to Improve status of SEOs to a greater degree	Likely to Improve status of SEOs to a lesser degree	Least Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	Most Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	No significant interaction with status of SEOs
1: Continuation of uncoordinated approach				C1	B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 M4 CH1 CH2 L1		
2. Further Growth of Popular Centres				B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 M4 CH1 CH2 L1			
3: Single Overarching Brand - Coastal Touring Routes							
3a: Greenway Route	C1 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	M4	C1		B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 M4 CH1 CH2 L1		
3b: Most Scenic Driving Routes only	M4	B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1		C1 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1			
3c: Single, Continuous Route (i) No Discovery Points, continuation of uncoordinated tourism projects	M4	B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1		C1	B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 M4 CH1 CH2 L1		
3c: Single, Continuous Route (ii) New Discovery Points	M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			C1 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1			
3c: Single, Continuous Route (iii) Restriction of new development, Limit in number of Discovery Points	M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1	C1			

7.4.5 The Selected Alternative for the Operational Programme

The option selected for the development of the Operational Programme comprises:

- 3c: Single, Continuous Route
- (iii) Restriction of new development, Limit in number of Discovery Points⁶³

This alternative is one of the options which would improve the protection and management of the environment, as well as having the least extent of potential adverse effects.

The effects of implementing the selected alternative are further detailed on Table 7.5 overleaf.

By complying with appropriate mitigation measures - including those which have been integrated into the Operational Programme (see Section 9 of this report) – potentially significant adverse environmental effects which could arise as a result of implementing the Programme would be likely to be avoided, reduced or offset. Residual adverse environmental effects would be non-significant.

A schematic decision tree for the process of arriving at the selected alternative is provided at Figure 7.1.

⁶³ It is noted that the objectives at the core of Option 3a will also be implemented over time – these have been assessed in this section and related provisions have been assessed in Section 8.

Table 7.5 Further Detail on Effects Arising from the Selected Alternative

Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect Likely to Occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, If unmitigated	Residual Non-Significant Adverse Effect
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor management strategy will contribute positively to advancing the attainment of conservation objectives along and adjacent to the route and existing candidate Discovery Points, thereby benefitting the management of designated sites. Continuation of and further contribution towards the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna, including ecological connectivity, by: using existing routes, viewing points and lay-bys instead of developing new infrastructure; and contributing towards compliance with environmental legislation by local authorities Providing management material [evidence, monitoring and guidelines] to assist in the implementation of management plans for designated habitats and to assist in achieving the conservation objectives of these relevant management plans for such sites and habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arising from both construction (including reuse and reinforcement of existing viewing points and lay-bys) and operation: loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects Disturbance and displacement of protected species and coastal squeeze 	Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces
Population and human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of human health as a result of protection of environmental vectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water are not mitigated 	None
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of and further contribution towards the protection of hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource by: using existing routes, viewing points and lay-bys instead of developing new infrastructure; and contributing towards compliance with environmental legislation by local authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverse impacts on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource 	Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of and further contribution towards the protection of water resources by: using existing routes, viewing points and lay-bys instead of developing new infrastructure; and contributing towards compliance with environmental legislation by local authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas, arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology 	Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events
Air and climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None at strategic alternative level however potential improvements in walking and cycling levels in the long-term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to contribute towards sustainable transport and associated impacts (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases) 	Increases in greenhouse gas emissions however existing and planned walkways and greenways of local authorities could be integrated into the route overtime
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in use of existing routes, viewing points and lay-bys instead of developing new infrastructure Visitor management allows for growth outside of the summer peak (thereby benefitting the provision of water services). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to provide adequate and appropriate water services (it is the function of Irish Water to provide for such needs) Increases in waste levels 	Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher level waste management policies
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of and further contribution towards the protection of cultural heritage by: using existing routes, viewing points and lay-bys instead of developing new infrastructure; and contributing towards compliance with environmental legislation by local authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation 	Potential alteration to the context and setting of designated architectural and archaeological heritage however these will occur in compliance with legislation. Potential loss of unknown archaeology however this loss will be mitigated by measures integrated into the Programme
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of and further contribution towards the protection of landscape designations by: using existing routes, viewing points and lay-bys instead of developing new infrastructure; and contributing towards compliance with environmental legislation by local authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape 	Minimal residual adverse effects

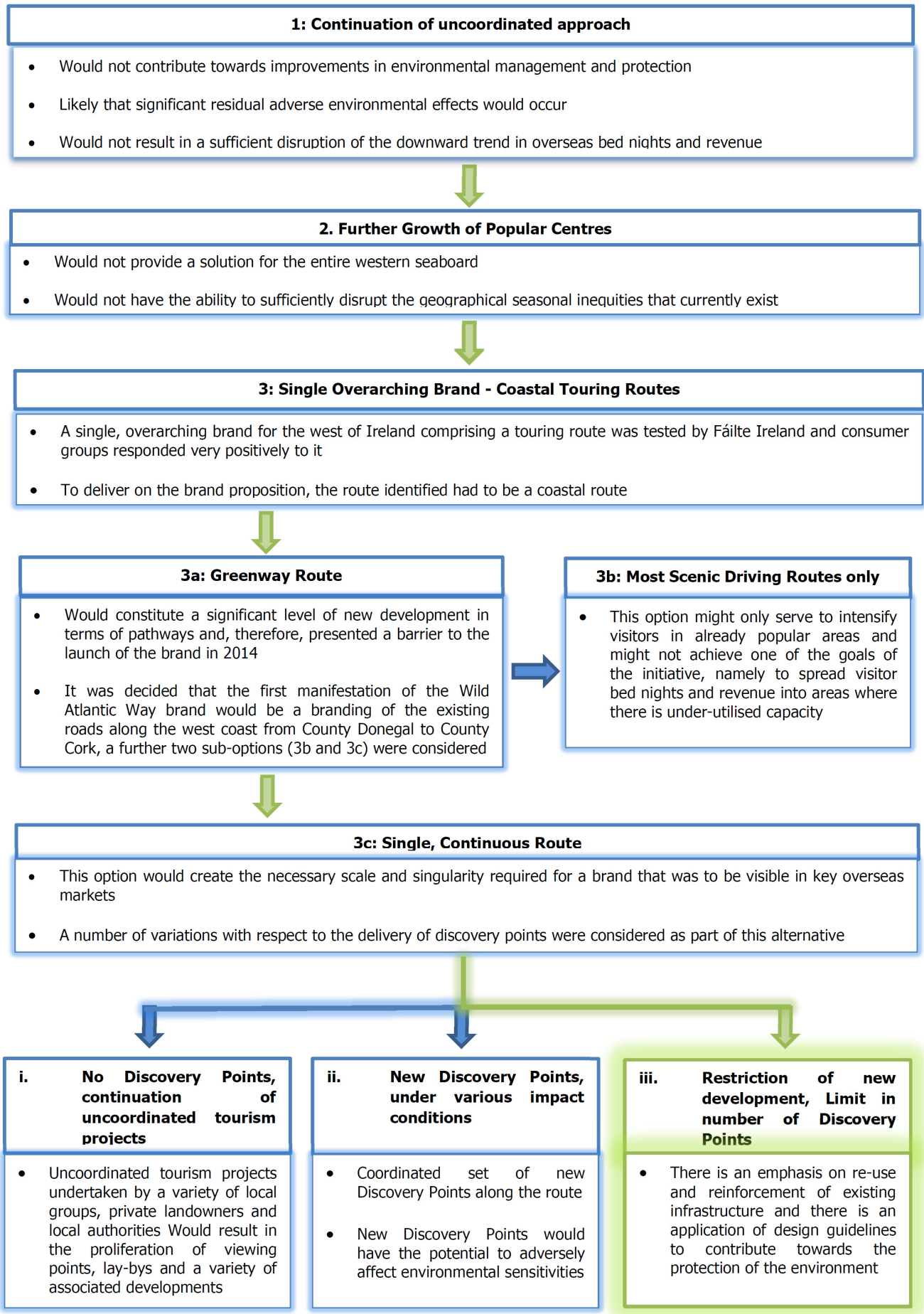


Figure 7.1 Decision Tree for Selected Alternative

Section 8 Evaluation of Programme Provisions

8.1 Overall Findings (including Transboundary)

The overall findings are that:

- Fáilte Ireland have integrated all recommendations arising from the SEA and AA processes into the Operational Programme (see Section 9).
- Some Operational Programme provisions would be likely to result in significant positive effects upon environmental management and protection. With a route extending along the entire western seaboard, the Programme facilitates contributions towards improvements in environmental management and protection by allowing for both: the management of visitors at a macro spatial level (in terms of what sections of the western seaboard could accommodate increases in visitors); and the management of visitors at a micro spatial level (in terms of what areas adjacent to viewing points, lay-bys etc. should be avoided). The Programme also facilitates the management of visitors across the tourist season so that growth can be sought in times outside of the summer peak.
- Some provisions would have the potential to result in significant negative environmental effects (these are described below), the magnitude and timing of which cannot be readily determined. The integration of detailed mitigation (including a detailed Monitoring Strategy) into the Operational Programme (see Section 9) means that significant residual adverse environmental effects will not occur (see Section 8.4).
- The scope of the assessment (including description of baseline, the relationship to other plans and programmes and the evaluation of effects) has considered the environment of both Ireland and Northern Ireland. Taking into account the detailed mitigation (including detailed Monitoring Strategy) which has been integrated into the Operational Programme it has been determined that significant residual adverse environmental effects will not occur in either Ireland or Northern Ireland. The type of impacts occurring will be indistinguishable to those occurring as part of the Causeway Coastal Route drive between Belfast and Londonderry. Relevant Plans and Programmes in both Ireland and Northern Ireland are required to comply with environmental legislation including the SEA and Habitats Directives. In order to be permitted, proposals for development in both Ireland and Northern Ireland are required to comply with environmental protection legislation and relevant higher tier Plans and Programmes.

8.2 Methodology

The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (see Section 4) and the Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Section 5 and Table 8.2) are used in the evaluation of alternatives.

The provisions are evaluated using compatibility criteria (see Table 8.1 below) in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the SEOs. The SEOs and the Operational Programme provisions are arrayed against each other to identify which interactions - if any - would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies a likely conflict with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the conflict column - e.g. B1 which stands for the SEO likely to be affected - in this instance 'to ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and Annexed habitats and species⁶⁴'.

⁶⁴ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

The interactions identified using the compatibility criteria (see Table 8.1) are reflective of likely significant environmental effects⁶⁵:

1. Interactions that would be likely to improve the status of a particular SEO would be likely to result in a significant positive effect on the environmental component to which the SEO relates.
2. Interactions that would probably conflict with the status of an SEO and would be unlikely to be mitigated would be likely to result in a significant negative effect on the environmental component to which the SEO relates.
3. Interactions that would potentially conflict with the status of an SEO and would be likely to be mitigated would be likely to result in potential significant negative effects however these effects will be mitigated by measures which have been integrated into the Operational Programme (see Section 9).

The degree to which effects can be determined is limited as the Programme will be implemented through the lower tier environmental assessments and decision making of local authorities. Details of the project(s) which will emanate from the Programme will allow for a more detailed consideration of environmental effects – including in-combination/cumulative effects – by project level assessments i.e. EIA and AA.

⁶⁵ These effects include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. For additional specific information on cumulative effects please refer to Section 7.3.

Table 8.1 Criteria for appraising the effect of Programme provisions on SEOs

Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
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Table 8.2 Strategic Environmental Objectives⁶⁶

SEO Code	SEO
B1	To ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and Annexed habitats and species ⁶⁷
B2	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function act as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
B3	To avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites ⁶⁸ and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of listed species
PHH1	To protect populations and human health from exposure to incompatible landuses
S1	To avoid damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource
W1	To maintain and improve, where possible, the quality and status of surface waters
W2	To prevent pollution and contamination of groundwater
W3	To comply as appropriate with the provisions of the <i>Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i>
C1	To reduce travel related emissions to air and to encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport
M1	For new Wild Atlantic Way related development to be served with adequate and appropriate waste water treatment
M2	For new development to be served with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean
M3	To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse
M4	To maximise the use of existing infrastructure
CH1	To protect archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context
CH2	To protect architectural heritage including entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context
L1	To avoid conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in the land use plans of local authorities

⁶⁶ See Section 5.1 for a description of Strategic Environmental Objectives.

⁶⁷ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

⁶⁸ The Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended defines a 'wildlife site'. See Section 5.2.6.

8.3 Appropriate Assessment

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Operational Programme. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC).

The AA concluded that the Programme will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network⁶⁹.

The preparation of the Programme, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed both the Programme and the SEA. All recommendations made by the AA were integrated into the Programme.

8.4 Residual Non-Significant Adverse Effects

Environmental impacts which occur, if any, will be determined by the nature and extent of multiple or individual projects and site specific environmental factors. The potentially significant adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from implementation of the chosen alternative for the Programme are detailed in Table 7.5 (this table also details the significant positive effects on environmental management and protection which are likely to occur) while further detail for each of the Programme's provisions are provided under Section 8.7 below.

Residual non-significant adverse effects likely to occur - considering the extent of detail provided by the Programme and assuming that all mitigation measures are complied with by local authorities and others - are identified for each of the environmental components on Table 8.3.

Avoidance of significant adverse environmental effects, and associated conflict with SEOs, is dependent upon compliance with the mitigation measures which have emerged through the SEA and AA processes and which have been integrated into the Programme (see Section 9).

Table 8.3 Residual Adverse Effects

Environmental Component	Residual Non-Significant Adverse Effect
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces
Population and human health	None
Soil	Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces
Water	Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events
Air and climatic factors	Increases in greenhouse gas emissions however existing and planned walkways and greenways of local authorities could be integrated into the route overtime
Material Assets	Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher level waste management policies
Cultural Heritage	Potential alteration to the context and setting of designated architectural and archaeological heritage however these will occur in compliance with legislation. Potential loss of unknown archaeology however this loss will be mitigated by measures integrated into the Programme
Landscape	Minimal residual adverse effects

⁶⁹ Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- (a) No alternative solution available;
- (b) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the programme to proceed; and
- (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

8.5 Interrelationship between Environmental Components

The SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to include information on the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as 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.

Likely significant effects on environmental components which are identified include those which are interrelated; implementation of the Programme will not affect the interrelationships between these components. The presence of significant interrelationships between environmental components is identified on Table 8.4.

Table 8.4 Presence of Interrelationships between Environmental Components

Component	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air and Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape
Biodiversity, flora and fauna		No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Population and human health			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Soil				Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Water					No	Yes	No	No
Air and Climatic factors						Yes	No	No
Material assets							Yes	Yes
Cultural heritage								Yes
Landscape								

8.6 Regional Assessment

This section attempts to provide a holistic evaluation of the overall potential for regional environmental effects.

It has been observed that the evaluation of potential effects relies on existing Strategic Environmental Assessment of Regional, City, Town and Local Area Plans and that these principally address either zoned lands or high-level developmental policy. It is also challenging to adequately assess effects from activities which are highly mobile, which straddles many administrative boundaries – such as tourism – and which take place in both urban and rural areas.

All of these factors give rise to the potential to overlook a consideration of the entire environment which accommodates other unregulated activities – such as agriculture, unstructured and passive recreation, transportation as well as tourism.

To address this issue this section attempts to provide an overview of the environments that contain the Wild Atlantic Way – and its associated effects. The purpose is to identify if there are any general environmental characteristics that are evident and can be more effectively assessed at a regional scale.

Previous sections provided mapped regional summary of the three environmental resources that are most likely to be affected by the Wild Atlantic Way – Cultural Heritage, Natural Heritage and Landscape – in order to establish whether any regional pattern of common characteristics could be determined.

These are combined – see Figure 8.1 – to identify boundaries between five areas of broadly shared characteristics. These areas are examined in turn to determine whether there is existing broad regional capacity to ensure that likely effects can be managed and absorbed.

This mapping indicates that each generalised region is served at the boundary and internally by at least one major gateway town. These all have regionally significant existing capacity in terms of accommodation, tourism facilities and associated water and waste infrastructure. All of these gateways also have transportation capacity of regional and national scaled capacity – including six airports, and 7 intercity rail terminals.

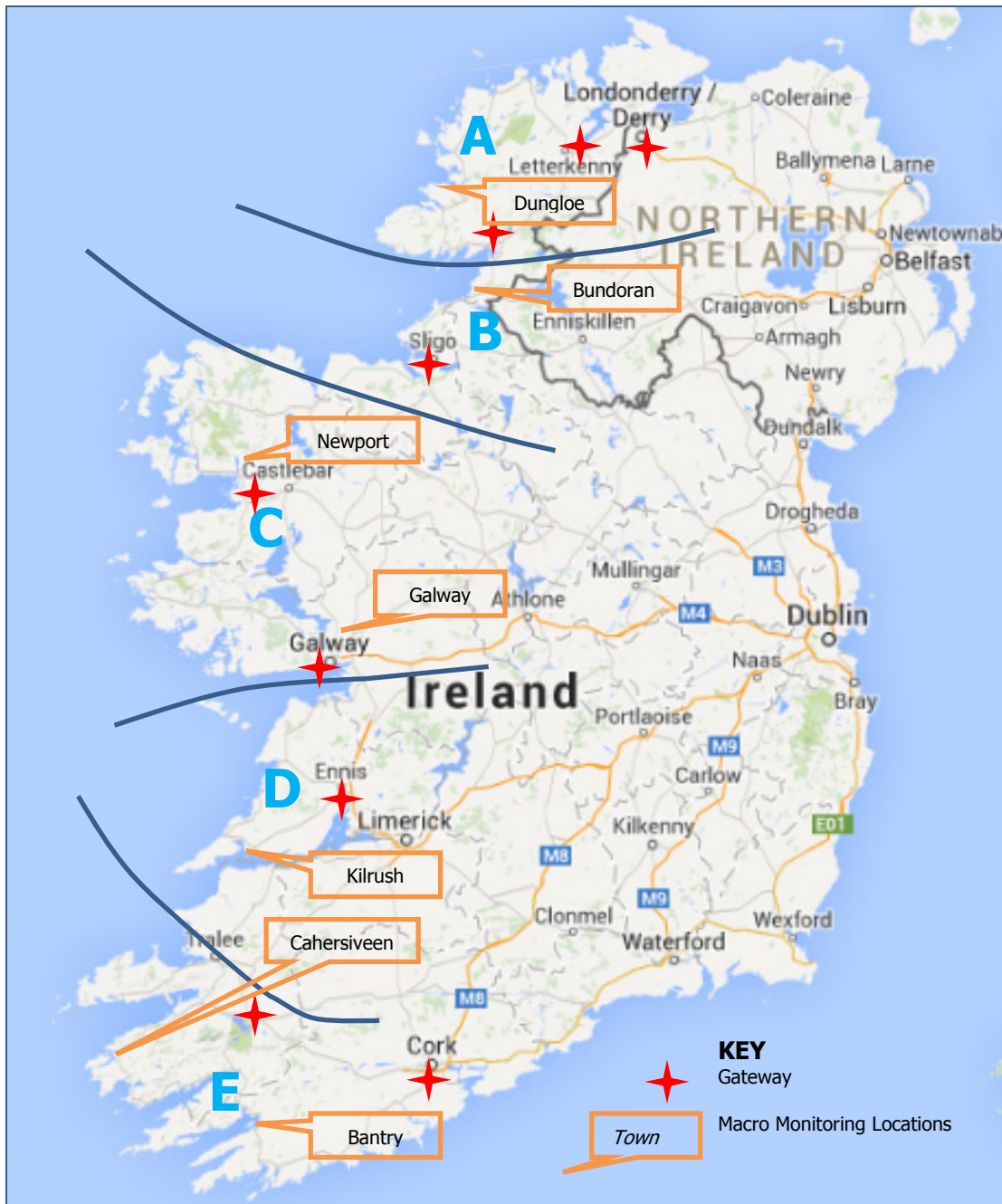


Figure 8.1 Assessment of Regional Assimilative Capacity

8.7 Detailed Evaluation of Operational Programme Provisions

8.7.1 Goals and Outcomes

For an explanation of SEO codes e.g. **B1**, **B2**, **B3**, **PHH1**, etc. refer to Table 8.2 on page 99.

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Goals and Outcomes				
<p>1. To ensure that the Wild Atlantic Way brand is compelling to our target market segments and that the Wild Atlantic Way itself becomes a world-class visitor experience.</p> <p>1.1 An increase in the number of paid bed-nights in the programme area.</p> <p>1.2 An increase in the satisfaction ratings among visitors to the Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>1.3 Growth in the number of overseas visitors engaging with the Wild Atlantic Way on social media platforms.</p> <p>1.4 An increase in the levels of awareness of the Wild Atlantic Way among overseas visitors.</p>	<p>M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1</p>		<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1</p>	
<p>Commentary:</p> <p><i>The evaluation against SEOs provided for this visitor-centred Goal and associated Outcomes reflects the evaluation provided for the selected alternative under Section 7 including at Table 7.5. The selected alternative would have the potential to result in adverse environmental effects during both construction (including reuse and reinforcement of existing viewing points and lay-bys) and operation however these would be mitigated by measures which have been integrated into the Operational Programme.</i></p> <p><i>The SEA has informed each stage of the evolution of the Programme and has resulted in a series of evidence-based measures – from conception to mitigation – that will ensure that the implementation of the WAW will lead to better protection during increased use of sensitive environments.</i></p> <p><i>By avoiding the development of new infrastructure and allowing for visitor management in terms of the following, the Programme would be likely to improve the protection and management of environmental components:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>At a macro spatial level in terms of what sections of the western seaboard can accommodate increases in visitors;</i> • <i>At a micro spatial level in terms of what areas adjacent to viewing points, lay-bys etc. should be avoided; and</i> • <i>In terms of time; growth can be sought in times outside of the summer peak.</i> 				
<p>2. To deliver balanced and sustainable revenue and jobs growth with greater geographic and seasonal spread.</p> <p>2.1 An increase in the average length of stay of visitors to the programme area.</p> <p>2.2 An increase in revenue from overseas visitors.</p> <p>2.3 Greater spread / dispersal of visitors throughout the programme area.</p> <p>2.4 Season extension into the shoulder and off-peak months.</p>	<p>M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1</p>		<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1</p>	

<p>2.5 An increase in the number of repeat visits by overseas holidaymakers. 2.6 Growing employment levels within tourism. 2.7 Growing commercial opportunities as a result of the Wild Atlantic Way. 2.8 Increase in the number of tourism businesses working collaboratively and developing tourism experiences.</p>				
<p>Commentary:</p> <p><i>The evaluation against SEOs provided for this industry-centred Goal and associated Outcomes reflects the evaluation provided for the selected alternative under Section 7 including at Table 7.5. The selected alternative would have the potential to result in adverse environmental effects during both construction (including reuse and reinforcement of existing viewing points and lay-bys) and operation however these would be mitigated by measures which have been integrated into the Operational Programme.</i></p> <p><i>The SEA has informed each stage of the evolution of the Programme and has resulted in a series of evidence-based measures – from conception to mitigation – that will ensure that the implementation of the WAW will lead to better protection during increased use of sensitive environments.</i></p> <p><i>By contributing towards the spread of visitors over the season and focusing on the off-peak months these measures would help to minimise potential stresses and avoid increases in infrastructural demand during the summer peak season thereby improving the protection and management of environmental components.</i></p>				
<p>3. To ensure that the Wild Atlantic Way delivers benefits to local communities in the west of Ireland and contributes to a better place to live for everyone. 3.1 High levels of positive engagement and sense of ownership by local communities with the Wild Atlantic Way. 3.2 Awareness is raised among communities and visitors of the unique Irish Atlantic heritage, culture and wildlife.</p>	<p>M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1</p>		<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1</p>	
<p>Commentary:</p> <p><i>The evaluation against SEOs provided for this community-centred Goal and associated Outcomes reflects the evaluation provided for the selected alternative under Section 7 including at Table 7.5. The selected alternative would have the potential to result in adverse environmental effects during both construction (including reuse and reinforcement of existing viewing points and lay-bys) and operation however these would be mitigated by measures which have been integrated into the Operational Programme.</i></p> <p><i>The SEA has informed each stage of the evolution of the Programme and has resulted in a series of evidence-based measures – from conception to mitigation – that will ensure that the implementation of the WAW will lead to better protection during increased use of sensitive environments.</i></p> <p><i>By avoiding the development of new infrastructure and allowing for visitor management in terms of the following, the Programme would be likely to improve the protection and management of environmental components:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>At a macro spatial level in terms of what sections of the western seaboard can accommodate increases in visitors;</i> • <i>At a micro spatial level in terms of what areas adjacent to viewing points, lay-bys etc. should be avoided; and</i> • <i>In terms of time; growth can be sought in times outside of the summer peak.</i> <p><i>Raising awareness of environmental assets (including heritage, culture and wildlife) among communities and visitors can serve to modify behaviour towards these assets and assist with their protection and management.</i></p>				

<p>4. To ensure that the implementation of the Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme facilitates the protection, enhancement of the environment of the west of Ireland – as the fundamental asset that is the basis of the Wild Atlantic Way – in association with other key stakeholders.</p> <p>4.1 The Operational Programme demonstrates full compliance with all relevant requirements arising from EU and Irish planning and environmental legislation.</p> <p>4.2 The Wild Atlantic Way facilitates the protection and enhancement of the environment of the West of Ireland, in association with other key stakeholders.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 M4 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>			
<p>Commentary:</p> <p><i>This environment-centred Goal and associated Outcomes would only serve to positively impact upon the protection and management of all environmental components and associated SEOs.</i></p>				

8.7.2 Wild Atlantic Way Route and candidate Discovery Points

	<p>Likely to Improve status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No Likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>Objective and Strategy</p>				
<p>Objective</p> <p>Ensure that the visitor management at each of the candidate Discovery Points, candidate Signature Discovery Points and Embarkation Points is contributing to the protection and enhancement of the environment, and based on this, that the visitor experience is optimised through improved interpretation. Ensure that all proposed works are assessed in accordance with the relevant environmental regulations to the satisfaction of the competent authorities/agencies.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>			<p>M4</p>
<p>Commentary:</p> <p><i>This objective would only serve to positively impact upon the protection and management of environmental components and associated SEOs.</i></p>				
<p>Strategy</p>				
<p>Use findings from the Environmental Monitoring to inform Local Authorities, local development groups and community groups, through the publication of a set of guidelines, on the nature and extent of any proposed interventions at candidate Discovery Points and candidate Signature Discovery Points in order to improve visitor management at these sites, where appropriate. The guidelines will be prepared in consultation with the Environmental Authorities. Each Local Authority will be encouraged to adopt appropriate policies and objectives in their Development Plans relating to the goals and objectives contained in this Operational Programme.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>			<p>M4</p>

Commentary:			
<p><i>This strategy would only serve to positively impact upon the protection and management of environmental components and associated SEOs. The route and the candidate Discovery Points may change if the Monitoring Strategy produces results that show that visitor activity and/or visitor intensification is predicted or observed to result in a negative impact on the environment in particular locations. For this reason, a mid-term review of the route and the candidate Discovery Points has been built into the Operational Programme. Changes that could be made include the de-marketing of candidate Discovery Points, the removal of signage and the temporary or permanent removal of candidate Discovery Points from the route.</i></p>			
Actions			
<p>Action 1: By the end of 2017, Fáilte Ireland, in association with relevant partners, will have undertaken a review of the route of the WAW in order to (a) establish whether any stretches of the existing route are causing difficulties for visitors due to the width of the road or other factors, and (b) consider whether any additional roads should become part of the WAW route as a result of the findings of (a). Any proposed change to the route will be subject to public consultation, which will begin take place during the second half of 2017. The results of the Environmental Monitoring Strategy will also inform this process. The original route selection criteria will also apply to the identification of any new sections of route.</p> <p>Action 2: During the latter half of 2016, Fáilte Ireland, in association with relevant partners, will initiate a process to identify suitable loops⁷⁰ off the WAW, which are intended to become part of the overall WAW experience. There are a number of good examples of these that have already been in existence for a number of years which are being promoted locally. This process will be informed, inter alia, by an analysis of visitor movement patterns throughout the WAW Programme area. The identification and establishment of loops off the main spine will also encourage the dispersal of visitors throughout the wider destinations. These new loops will be informed by consideration of, among other things, their likely significant effects, alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on European sites, and will be subject to screening for Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>Action 3: Prepare and publish guidelines on good practice for any future visitor management works to the candidate Discovery Points and candidate Signature Discovery Points.</p> <p>Action 4: Work with the Local Authorities, the National Trails Office, Coillte, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking, cycling and water-based activities along the Wild Atlantic Way, with a view to having strong offerings for Wild Atlantic Way experiences by bike, on foot and on the water.</p> <p>Action 5: Promote the existing opportunities for visitors to experience the Wild Atlantic Way by bike, on foot and on the water in an integrated manner.</p> <p>Action 6: Undertake an interpretative programme for candidate Discovery Points and candidate Signature Discovery Points to build on the work that is underway as part of the remedial works programme.</p>	<p>M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1</p>		<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1</p>

⁷⁰ Loop refers to either a) those that become part of/ complement the Wild Atlantic Way and b) those that are visitor experiences worthy of engaging with and located in close proximity to the the Wild Atlantic Way.

Action 7: Work with the ESB in delivering sufficient E-Car charging points to ensure that the Wild Atlantic Way can be experienced by electric car by 2020, with sections 'electrified' by the end of 2016. Charging points would be delivered in built up areas including hotels, towns and villages and are not planned for Discovery Points.				
<p>Commentary:</p> <p><i>The evaluation against SEOs provided for these actions reflect the evaluation provided for the selected alternative under Section 7 including at Table 7.5. The route (see Action 1 above) and the candidate Discovery Points may change if the Monitoring Strategy produces results that show that visitor activity and/or visitor intensification is predicted or observed to result in a negative impact on the environment in particular locations.</i></p> <p><i>All candidate Discovery Points are existing car parks or laybys – which are located on long-established touring routes. These locations have been subjected to long-term use, management, maintenance and development, both historically, recently and some is ongoing. Such activity is envisaged as continuing onto the future. New intensities, uses or works will continue to be carried out by the relevant local authorities and others - operating within the framework of Fáilte Ireland guidelines - to ensure a consistent approach and standards – as well as compliance with all relevant planning and environmental legislation. Examples of each of these types of recent, ongoing and future management, maintenance and development are as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recent and Ongoing management, maintenance and development activities at candidate Discovery Points</i> <i>These include remedial works identified and undertaken by local authorities at Discovery Points which aimed to ensure that these sites are presentable for the 2015 tourist season. These works were confined to the existing car park area of each site. The works included the provision of a single interpretative sign and a single branded 'site marker', both within the existing car park. As part of its role as a co-ordinator of these remedial works, Fáilte Ireland set out minimum quality standards for the preparation of the remedial works and set out the legal requirements in respect of Appropriate Assessment. The local authorities undertook Appropriate Assessment in respect of each site and proceeded with works in accordance with the findings of the assessments.</i> • <i>Future works to candidate Discovery Points</i> <i>Over the term of this Operational Programme, it is intended that Fáilte Ireland will liaise with each of the Local Authorities, and local development groups and community groups as appropriate, in setting out a programme of work which aims to improve visitor management at a number of the candidate Discovery Points. It is likely that a number of the candidate Discovery Points will require no additional works at all. These Local Authorities and others will be the developers of such works as they arise, while Fáilte Ireland will adopt the role of co-ordinator of such works, ensuring that any works will be subject to: (a) adherence to a comprehensive set of guidelines that will be issued in advance by Fáilte Ireland to ensure a consistent approach and standards (including those which have been integrated into Operational Programme); (b) provision of an Appropriate Assessment, where required under the requirements of the Habitats Regulations; and (c) adherence to the provisions of the Planning Regulations and any other relevant environmental regulations. If, during the course of these assessments, the continued use of any existing candidate Discovery Points or new works proposed any candidate Discovery Points are found to result in unacceptable environmental impacts, then those sites will be discontinued as branded candidate Discovery Points. The identification of candidate Discovery Points was done over various iterations and took into account a variety of considerations including those relating to the environment. A number of prospective sites were removed from the candidate list for a variety of reasons including: for not being existing laybys or viewing points; they were not compatible with environmental sensitivities present; and land ownership issues.</i> • <i>Other Recent, Ongoing or Future works</i> <i>Fáilte Ireland is aware of a number of other projects which have recently taken place or are currently being planned at other sites which are either candidate Discovery Points, candidate Signature Discovery Points or are adjacent to these locations, or are accessible from the route of the Wild Atlantic Way . These projects are set out in the Operational Programme.</i> 				

With respect to Action 2, the integration of loops - e.g. existing locally promoted drives that have been in existence for years – into the Wild Atlantic Way and associated Operational Programme document, would need to be subject to lower tier environmental assessment where appropriate. Such loops could allow for and encourage the geographical dispersal of visitors which could allow for visitor management at a macro spatial level in terms of what sections of the western seaboard can accommodate increases in visitors at particular points in time.

Guidelines for Local Authorities on good practice for future visitor management works to the candidate Discovery Points and candidate Signature Discovery Points (Action 3) would be likely to positively impact upon the protection and management of environmental components and associated SEOs.

Improving on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking, cycling and water-based activities along the Wild Atlantic Way (see Actions 4 and 5) could benefit efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions to air and associated effects. Proposals to improve walking, cycling and water based infrastructure would have the potential to result in adverse environmental effects however these would be mitigated at lower tiers of decision making and assessment including through compliance with the measures which have been integrated into the Programme.

Delivering sufficient E-Car (Action 7) charging points would benefit efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions to air and associated effects.

Appendix I to this SEA Environmental Report comprises a 'Detailed Assessment of candidate Discovery Points and Embarkment Points'. Spatial coordinates for each point were used to identify potential conflicts with the following databases of environmental sensitivities:

- *Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - the National Parks and Wildlife Service Map Viewer⁷¹ was used to identify whether cSACs or SPAs occur at or adjacent to the point in question. This record was cross checked with the findings of the Appropriate Assessment to ensure all Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius are accounted for.*
- *National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)⁷² - this dataset was used to identify if any architectural designations occur at the point in question.*
- *National Monuments Service - Record of Monuments and Places⁷³ - this dataset was used to identify if any archaeological designations occur at or adjacent to the location the point in question. If a designation occurred in an enclosed field system separate to the site, or across a stream, on rocky cliffs etc., it is considered that they are inaccessible to the general public and will be unaffected.*
- *Landscape designations - the landscape designations of local authorities, including those contained in land use plans, were used to identify if the point in question occurred within an area to which a landscape designation applies such as: landscapes designated as more sensitive or vulnerable or valuable; and designated views and routes/prospects*

The overall findings of the evaluation are that:

- *All candidate Signature Discovery Points, Discovery Point or Embarkment Points occur at pre-existing lay-bys and viewing points.*
- *The majority of sites occur at or within 15km of a Natura 2000 site. Detailed project level examination by Local Authorities will contribute towards compliance with be required to ensure protection afforded by the Habitats Directive.*

⁷¹ <http://webgis.npws.ie/npwsviewer/>

⁷² <http://webgis.buildingsofireland.ie/niahviewer/>

⁷³ <http://webgis.archaeology.ie/NationalMonuments/FlexViewer/>

- Architectural and archaeological designated occur at or adjacent to some sites.
- The majority of sites are subject to landscape designations under specific land use plans.
- The undertaking of the 'Strategy for Environmental Monitoring' (including Ecological Method Statement and included as an Appendix to the Programme) would benefit all environmental components. This and other mitigation measures are detailed under Section 9 'Mitigation Measures'.

8.7.3 Visitor Management

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Objective To use seasonal and site-specific visitor management measures to anticipate and avoid increases in environmental loadings due to changing visitor numbers. To influence Local Authorities to take steps to avoid unwanted traffic congestion in local areas.	B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1			M4 W3 M3
Commentary: <i>Anticipation and avoidance of increases in environmental loadings would benefit the protection and management of various environmental components. The objective is consistent with the other parts of the Programme, allowing for visitor management:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At a macro spatial level in terms of what sections of the western seaboard can accommodate increases in visitors; • At a micro spatial level in terms of what areas adjacent to viewing points, lay-bys etc. should be avoided; and • In terms of time; growth can be sought in times outside of the summer peak. 				
Strategy To target areas where there is under-utilised capacity and encourage greater levels of travel during the shoulder season by using sales and marketing initiatives. To work with Local Authorities to ensure that unsustainable environmental loading (such as traffic congestion, water loading or habitat pressure) are identified in advance and action taken to avoid the issue or reduce its impact locally. To ensure that visitor activities are managed to avoid and reduce additional pressures at sensitive sites.	M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1		B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1	
Commentary: <i>Encouraging greater levels of travel, the evaluation provided for this Strategy is generally consistent with that provided for the selected alternative under Section 7 including at Table 7.5. Avoiding or reducing traffic congestion would help to reduce travel related emissions to air. By contributing towards the spread of visitors over the season and focusing on the off-peak months this Strategy would help to minimise potential stresses and avoid increases in infrastructural demand during the summer peak season thereby improving the protection and management of environmental components. The Strategy also provides for the anticipation and avoidance of increases in environmental loadings and site specific visitor management – both of which would benefit the protection and management of environmental components.</i>				

Actions			
<p>Action 8: Undertake visitor observation surveys at each of the 15 candidate Signature Discovery Points in 2015, and a selection of other candidate Discovery Points in subsequent years for the period of the Operational Programme, for the purpose of improving visitor management at these sites and to identify any likely environmental impact issues early. Details are set out in Section 4 and in the Environmental Monitoring Strategy which is attached at Appendix 4.</p> <p>Action 9: Undertake regular reviews of car and coach parking requirements, in consultation with the Local Authorities, to ensure the provision of well-managed parking facilities.</p> <p>Action 10: Undertake a review of the current provision of motorhome parking and overnighting facilities along the Wild Atlantic Way and identify priorities for the future improvement of such facilities, informed by good practice internationally, and in association with the Local Authorities. This review will, amongst other things, consider potential effects on European sites in view of their conservation objectives.</p> <p>Action 11: Work with Local Authorities and relevant agencies and organisations to ensure that unsustainable environmental loading [such as traffic congestion, water loading or habitat pressure potential] are identified in advance and action taken to avoid these issues or reduce their impacts locally.</p>	<p>M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1</p>		<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1</p>
<p>Commentary:</p> <p><i>The evaluation provided for these Actions is generally consistent with that provided for the selected alternative under Section 7 including at Table 7.5. Potential conflicts would be presented by the provision and improvement of parking facilities etc. By contributing towards traffic management, reductions in travel related emissions to air would be reduced.</i></p> <p><i>All actions would positively impact upon the protection and management of environmental components and associated SEOs. Monitoring will provide timely prior notification of emerging adverse effects [if any] so that these can be addressed to avoid deterioration of environmental assets. The route and the candidate Discovery Points may change if the Monitoring Strategy produces results that show that visitor activity and/or visitor intensification is predicted or observed to result in a negative impact on the environment in particular locations. For this reason, a mid-term review of the route and the candidate Discovery Points has been built into the Operational Programme. Changes that could be made include the de-marketing of candidate Discovery Points, the removal of signage and the temporary or permanent removal of candidate Discovery Points from the route.</i></p> <p><i>The actions are consistent with the other parts of the Programme, allowing for visitor management:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>At a macro spatial level in terms of what sections of the western seaboard can accommodate increases in visitors;</i> • <i>At a micro spatial level in terms of what areas adjacent to viewing points, lay-bys etc. should be avoided; and</i> • <i>In terms of time; growth can be sought in times outside of the summer peak.</i> 			

8.7.4 Industry – Trade Engagement

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Objective				
To help all tourism providers along the WAW with the insights, information and opportunities they need to continually improve the experiences for visitors in accordance with the brand promise of the Wild Atlantic Way, and to facilitate the creation of those new experiences. Also to build digital and sales capability amongst the industry to help maximise the opportunity presented by the Wild Atlantic Way.	M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1	
Commentary:				
<i>This objective will contribute towards the achievement of the overall WAW initiative and the evaluation provided is consistent with that provided for the selected alternative (this is detailed under Section 7 including at Table 7.5).</i>				
Strategy				
To equip the industry with market insights and competitor set analysis, and to facilitate networking between businesses to work together to develop, improve and protect 'Wild Atlantic' tourism experiences.	M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1	
Commentary:				
<i>See Commentary provided under the 'Industry – Trade Engagement' Objective above.</i>				
Actions				
Action 12: Organise a series of business networking and innovation events over the period of this Operational Programme to: - Share trends, market insights and digital assets; - Facilitate businesses in sharing knowledge and expertise, and identifying possible collaboration; - Increase the level of peer-to-peer learning; - Identify opportunities to create new and improved Wild Atlantic Way experiences for visitors. Action 13: To provide a co-ordinated range of business supports (on and off line) for tourism businesses, in association with other business support providers to facilitate innovation and improvement in terms of the visitor's experience. Action 14: To establish an insights and innovation support programme for experience providers along the Wild Atlantic Way. Action 15: To help businesses to improve the packaging of experiences and services to contribute to a more seamless visitor journey particularly those which bring the landscape, culture and	M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1		B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1	

<p>activities on the Wild Atlantic Way to life.</p> <p>Action 16: To introduce a Brand Charter as part of the Wild Atlantic Way brand. From 2016, businesses and providers wishing to use the WAW brand must sign up to this charter which will demonstrate a commitment by the businesses to make continual improvements year on year in their business with regard to Sustainability and Experience Development. Used in this way the WAW brand will, therefore, become more than just a logo and more of a commitment to continually deliver the brand values.</p>				
<p>Commentary:</p> <p><i>See Commentary provided under the 'Industry – Trade Engagement' Objective above. Also, The introduction of the Sustainability Charter (Action 16) would further contribute towards the protection and management of the environment.</i></p>				

8.7.5 Industry – Sales and Marketing

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>Objective</p>				
<p>To add incremental value and increase international revenue for businesses along the Wild Atlantic Way through the identification of new sales opportunities within the key market of North America/Canada, Germany, Great Britain and France.</p> <p>To increase brand awareness amongst identified target segments in these markets (Great Escapers and Culturally Curious).</p> <p>To increase bednights and revenue from overseas visitors; to sustain and grow employment in the tourism sector, and provide new commercial opportunities for tourism businesses. In particular, to achieve a greater distribution of visitors along the west coast in areas where there is currently under-utilised accommodation stock.</p>	<p>M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1</p>		<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1</p>	
<p>Commentary:</p> <p><i>This objective will contribute towards the achievement of the overall WAW initiative and the evaluation provided is consistent with that provided for the selected alternative (this is detailed under Section 7 including at Table 7.5). Visitors coming from key (and secondary) markets would contribute towards travel related emissions to air as a result of getting to Ireland and to the west coast. Although transport policy is currently not the subject of SEA in Ireland, the Monitoring Strategy that is being implemented will provide information relating to journeys by visitors to Ireland.</i></p> <p><i>Focussing on revenue and paid bednights rather than visitors has a number of benefits, with particular regard to the environmental impact of the programme:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The objective of growing length of stay rather than number of visitors can help to avoid and minimise increases in environmental effects.</i> 				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased length of stay in the context of a touring route can lead to a better geographic distribution of visitors which could allow for visitor management at a macro spatial level in terms of what sections of the western seaboard can accommodate increases in visitors at particular points in time. By contributing towards the spread of visitors over the season and focusing on the off-peak months, potential stresses and increases in infrastructural demand during the summer peak season can be avoided and minimised, thereby improving the protection and management of environmental components. 				
Strategy				
To equip the domestic industry (Sellers) to effectively up sell, and sell more bednights to the source international markets.	M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1	
To proactively engage with distribution channels (Buyers) by generating new leads and new niche markets.				
To create new sales platforms that are focussed on Business to Business sales opportunities.				
Commentary: See Commentary provided under the 'Industry – Sales and Marketing' Objective above.				
Actions				
<p>Action 17: Work with Tourism Ireland to ensure the Wild Atlantic Way destination brand is a key component of all international marketing communications activity.</p> <p>Action 18: Create and curate digital content that activates the Wild Atlantic Way destination brand across a range of digital platforms and which will be compelling to the key target consumer segments.</p> <p>Action 19: Develop a one stop web platform for the Wild Atlantic Way destination brand to encourage engagement and interaction with the brand from consumer, trade and communities.</p> <p>Action 20: Ensure Wild Atlantic Way social channels are optimised to encourage engagement with target consumers (with a specific focus on key international markets).</p> <p>Action 21: Equip the domestic industry (Sellers) to effectively up-sell and sell more Wild Atlantic Way product and offerings to the source international markets through but not limited to a Sales Account Management process.</p> <p>Action 22: Engage directly with distribution channels (Buyers) to generate new leads and new niche markets (e.g. Luxury, Adventure, Youth, Culture) to work with them to feature the Wild Atlantic Way in their programming or to increase their distribution share of programming. Identify the best prospects from these.</p> <p>Action 23: Establish new sales platforms that are focused on business to business sales opportunities (involving pre-qualified participants) and deliver effective sales opportunities.</p> <p>Action 24: Target new leads in key markets to increase programming.</p> <p>Action 25: Present new saleable visitor experiences to new and existing intermediaries.</p> <p>Action 26: Develop the capability of the trade to design, deliver and cross-sell Wild Atlantic Way visitor experiences through insights identified through the Path to Purchase research.</p> <p>Action 27: Develop a strategy for regional dispersion along the Wild Atlantic Way to drive additional sales where there is under-utilised capacity whilst extending the season through the identification of new buyers.</p> <p>Action 28: In association with Tourism Ireland, to support media and trade activities from</p>				

secondary markets including Southern Europe, The Nordics and Australia and Developing Markets.				
Commentary: See Commentary provided under the 'Industry – Sales and Marketing' Objective above.				

8.7.6 Community

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Objective				
To ensure that local communities feel a sense of ownership of the Wild Atlantic Way, that they engage with it, that it benefits them, that they become custodians/advocates for the brand and that it does not result in any negative impacts for them.	M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1	
To facilitate local communities in raising awareness about their unique Irish Atlantic culture with visitors, in association with the Local Authorities and the Heritage Council.				
To ensure that there is a high level of awareness both internationally and domestically about the rich heritage and cultural of the Atlantic coast of Ireland.				
Commentary: <i>This objective will contribute towards the achievement of the overall WAW initiative and the evaluation provided is consistent with that provided for the selected alternative (this is detailed under Section 7 including at Table 7.5). High levels of positive engagement and sense of ownership by local communities with the Wild Atlantic Way and increasing awareness of environmental assets among communities (and visitors) can serve to modify behaviour towards these assets and assist with their protection and management.</i>				
Strategy				
To engage local communities directly and regularly throughout the period of the Operational Programme to:	M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> involve them in decision-making on initiatives related to the Wild Atlantic Way; ensure that any concerns about the impact of the Wild Atlantic Way on local communities are highlighted at an early stage; gather ideas about improving the experience for visitors; and keep local communities informed about any WAW initiatives that may be of benefit to them. 				
To create and curate content across a range of platforms relating to the heritage and culture of the Atlantic coastal zone, in association with key stakeholders, such as the Local Authorities, the Heritage Council, the Department of Art, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, other relevant agencies and				

local communities and businesses.				
<p>Commentary:</p> <p><i>See Commentary provided under the 'Community' Objective above.</i></p>				
<p>Actions</p>				
<p>Action 29: Host a series of events for local communities at which they can share their ideas about the Wild Atlantic Way and at which issues can be identified and resolved as they arise.</p> <p>Action 30: Engage local communities in a series of local interpretation projects, in association with, inter alia, the Heritage Council, the Local Authorities, Údarás na Gaeltachta, the OPW and the NPWS, building on previous work undertaken by these stakeholders, which explore and highlight the distinctive Irish Atlantic culture, traditions and the Irish language in destinations and communities all along the Wild Atlantic Way. These are opportunities for local communities to present and share their own culture with visitors to their area. These initiatives also encourage further dispersal of visitors along the Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>Action 31: To create, in collaboration with a range of stakeholders and local communities, a stream of digital and traditional form content that explores Ireland's Atlantic culture, in terms of its influences and all its various manifestations.</p> <p>Action 32: To work with local communities and local tourism providers to further explore opportunities to introduce elements of the Irish Atlantic heritage and culture to existing and new tourism offerings in a way that creates richer and more authentic cultural experiences for visitors.</p> <p>Action 33: To undertake a series of initiatives with a range of stakeholders, such as the NPWS and Birdwatch Ireland, to raise awareness of the wealth of wildlife along the WAW and to identify the best sites at which to view wildlife, in accordance with good environmental practice.</p> <p>Action 34: To undertake a series of initiatives with the National Monuments Service and the Historic Properties Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, to identify archaeological and historic sites that are accessible to the public which are not currently well known, in accordance with good environmental and conservation practice.</p> <p>Action 35: To implement the Wild Atlantic Way Environmental Monitoring Strategy to ensure that the effects of tourism on environmental, heritage and cultural assets is monitored to allow for early detection of any possible issues.</p>	<p>M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1</p>		<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1</p>	
<p>Commentary:</p> <p><i>See Commentary provided under the 'Community' Objective above.</i></p> <p><i>Local interpretation projects would have the potential to result in adverse environmental effects during both construction (including reuse and reinforcement of existing viewing points and lay-bys) and operation however these would be mitigated by measures which have been integrated into the Operational Programme. By encouraging the geographical dispersal of visitors, these initiatives allow visitor management at a macro spatial level in terms of what sections of the western seaboard can accommodate increases in visitors at particular points in time.</i></p> <p><i>These actions would increase awareness of environmental assets among communities (and visitors) and would serve to modify behaviour towards these assets and assist with their protection and management.</i></p>				

Monitoring will provide timely prior notification of emerging adverse effects [if any] so that these can be addressed to avoid deterioration of environmental assets. The route and the candidate Discovery Points may change if the Monitoring Strategy produces results that show that visitor activity and/or visitor intensification is predicted or observed to result in a negative impact on the environment in particular locations. For this reason, a mid-term review of the route and the candidate Discovery Points has been built into the Operational Programme. Changes that could be made include the de-marketing of candidate Discovery Points, the removal of signage and the temporary or permanent removal of candidate Discovery Points from the route.

8.7.7 Environment

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Objective				
To make sure that 100% of the direct and indirect potentially significant environmental effects (if unmitigated) of Wild Atlantic Way initiatives and actions are fully assessed in compliance with relevant legislation.	B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 M4 C1 CH1 CH2 L1			
Commentary:				
<i>This Objective would only serve to positively impact upon the protection and management of all environmental components and associated SEOs.</i>				
Strategy				
Use best practice and compliance with all relevant environmental regulations to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate that environmental protection and enhancement has been fully integrated with the OP. • Ensure that environmental considerations form a fundamental consideration when selecting sites and designs of actions. • Avoid potential for delays or reputational effects arising from any adverse environmental effects. 	B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 M4 C1 CH1 CH2 L1			
Commentary:				
<i>This Strategy would only serve to positively impact upon the protection and management of all environmental components and associated SEOs. The SEA has informed each stage of the evolution of the Programme and has resulted in a series of evidence-based measures – from conception to mitigation – that will ensure that the implementation of the WAW will lead to better protection during increased use of sensitive environments.</i>				

Actions				
<p>Action 36: Use the Strategic Environmental Assessment process to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipate and avoid potential adverse environmental effects • Provide guidance and standards to guide and measure future actions and projects. • Provide a systematic demonstration of legal compliance and environmental protection • Provide the indicators and targets to be used for environmental monitoring programme. <p>Action 37: To promote the Leave No Trace principles to both visitors and tourism providers.</p> <p>Action 38: To promote responsible tourism practices among tourism providers and to encourage them to pursue green certification as appropriate.</p> <p>Action 39: To encourage the retention of all existing Blue Flag beaches and the designation of further Blue Flag awards along the Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>Action 40: To support and promote An Taisce's Clean Coast initiative at beaches along the Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>Action 41: Fáilte Ireland will continue to contribute to the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark LIFE Project and to the Aran LIFE Project and draw best practice from them. In association with the other LIFE Project partners, Fáilte Ireland will look to apply the lessons learned from these LIFE projects to other parts of the Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>Action 42: To support responsible development practices by stakeholders through the preparation of guidelines for for Local Authorities and other stakeholders on the consideration, design and management of new and existing visitor initiatives.</p> <p>Action 43: Undertake regular monitoring of key indicators at settlements and key environmental sensitivities to provide timely and prior notification of emerging adverse effects [if any] so that these can be addressed to avoid deterioration of environmental assets.</p> <p>Action 44: Implement the Environmental Monitoring Programme, a copy of which is attached at Appendix 4.</p> <p>Action 45: To proactively promote and increase awareness and understanding of evidence based best practice approaches to the management of tourism along the Wild Atlantic Way, and the wider regional catchments along the route.</p> <p>Action 46: Establish a Monitoring Group to ensure that robust systems are in place, in appropriate existing authorities, to ensure that all key commitments made at the programme level will be delivered effectively (including at the appropriate time), and to ensure that no adverse effects on the integrity of the environment will result.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 M4 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>			
<p>Commentary: <i>This Strategy would only serve to positively impact upon the protection and management of all environmental components and associated SEOs.</i></p> <p><i>The SEA has informed each stage of the evolution of the Programme and has resulted in a series of evidence-based measures – from conception to mitigation – that will ensure that the implementation of the WAW will lead to better protection during increased use of sensitive environments.</i></p> <p><i>With regard to interactions between tourism and the environment, the Operational Programme is expected to facilitate improvements in environmental management and protection along the western seaboard. This facilitation has come about as a result of the following (further detail is provided in Section 9):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Engagement by Fáilte Ireland</i> 				

- Consultation with Environmental Authorities
- Early Consideration of Alternatives
- Iterative Approach to Preparation of the Operational Programme
- Detailed Monitoring Strategy and Guidelines for Local Authorities

8.7.8 Building Effective Relationships

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Objective				
To implement the Operational Programme through a range of effective partnerships at community, county, regional and national level. Ensure that there is a clear and co-ordinated vision for the Wild Atlantic Way, as outlined in this Operational Programme, and that it understood by all stakeholders at community, county, regional and national levels.	M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1	
Commentary:				
<i>Effective partnerships with various stakeholders and partners at community, county, regional and national level will contribute towards the achievement of the overall WAW initiative and the evaluation provided is consistent with that provided for the selected alternative (this is detailed under Section 7 including at Table 7.5). Effective partnerships have the potential to modify behaviour towards environmental assets and assist with their protection and management by: facilitating high levels of positive engagement and a sense of ownership by local communities; and increasing awareness of environmental assets among organisations, communities and visitors.</i>				
Strategy				
To devise a Partnership Strategy with stakeholders and partners identified as being central to the implementation of the Operational Programme and critical to ensuring an integrated national co-ordinated approach to implementation of the programme and protection of the environmental resources along the route.	M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1	
Commentary:				
<i>See Commentary provided under the 'Building Effective Relationships' Objective above.</i>				
Actions				
Action 47: Establish a national Wild Atlantic Way implementation group comprising a number of key national agencies, Departments and Local Authorities to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme and to ensure the effective management of the Wild Atlantic Way brand. This group will be led and managed by Fáilte Ireland as brand managers of the Wild Atlantic Way.	M4 B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 C1	
Action 48: Establish partnerships at national and regional levels with the relevant environmental				

<p>and heritage bodies to ensure the protection and responsible promotion of the core environmental and heritage assets upon which the Wild Atlantic Way is based.</p> <p>Action 49: Encourage and facilitate the establishment of strong business and community networks / clusters at destination level in order to improve the range and quality of experiences for visitors.</p> <p>Action 50: Explore opportunities for collaboration with other EU states on research and funding projects at an inter-regional level.</p>				
<p>Commentary:</p> <p><i>See Commentary provided under the 'Building Effective Relationships' Objective above.</i></p> <p><i>Also, Monitoring will provide timely prior notification of emerging adverse effects [if any] so that these can be addressed to avoid deterioration of environmental assets. The route and the candidate Discovery Points may change if the Monitoring Strategy produces results that show that visitor activity and/or visitor intensification is predicted or observed to result in a negative impact on the environment in particular locations. For this reason, a mid-term review of the route and the candidate Discovery Points has been built into the Operational Programme. Changes that could be made include the de-marketing of candidate Discovery Points, the removal of signage and the temporary or permanent removal of candidate Discovery Points from the route.</i></p>				

Section 9 Mitigation Measures

9.1 Introduction

Tourism is one of many sectors operating in the west of Ireland. Fáilte Ireland is co-ordinating future Wild Atlantic Way works relating to the Discovery Points through the Operational Programme, but not developing any of these works – they will be developed by the relevant local authorities (Part 8 requirements as set out in the Planning and Development Act as amended still apply) and others.

With regard to interactions between tourism and the environment, the Operational Programme is expected to facilitate improvements in environmental management and protection along the western seaboard. This facilitation has come about as a result of the following:

9.2 Engagement by Fáilte Ireland

- Engagement on the need to facilitate environmental management and protection by Senior Management in Fáilte Ireland responsible for the Wild Atlantic Way from the very beginning of the Wild Atlantic Way concept;
 - SEA and AA team were assembled and involved during the inception of the concept.
 - This is the first time a plan/programme for the tourism sector in Ireland has undergone SEA and AA.
 - It is thought that this is the first time globally that the inception of a plan/programme for a long distance touring route has been informed from the beginning by SEA and AA processes.

9.3 Consultation with Environmental Authorities

- Early and ongoing consultation with environmental authorities on SEA and AA related legislation;
 - The EPA and DAHG made themselves available for numerous meetings from an early stage in the process and an SEA Scoping Workshop was attended by representatives from the DAHG, DCENR and EPA. Written submissions and recommendations made at the various meetings, at the Workshop and while the Draft Operational Programme was on public display helped in the development and refinement of the Operational Programme and the scope of the SEA and AA.

9.4 Early Consideration of Alternatives

- Early consideration of and integration of environmental considerations into alternatives and ultimately into the Operational Programme:
 - This included ongoing feedback on the environmental implications of various levels of alternatives including at route identification and delivery of the candidate Discovery Points.
 - When the consideration of alternatives determined that the initiative would be for a Single, Continuous Route (Option 3c), a number of criteria were taken into account through a Route Identification process, the findings of which were included in a "WAW (Initial) Route Identification Report" (2013, Hogarts on behalf of Fáilte Ireland). Road

capacity and safety were key criteria: roads had to already have the capacity to take two-way car, camper van and minibus traffic, and separate sections of the route were identified for coaches, as appropriate. By using existing roads and having more than one route in places, to cater for coaches, the Route Identification process avoided the need to develop new roads or upgrade or widen existing roads thereby avoiding potential adverse effects.

- The identification of candidate Discovery Points was done over various iterations and took into account a variety of considerations including those relating to the environment. A number of prospective sites were removed from the candidate list for a variety of reasons including: for not being existing laybys or viewing points; they were not compatible with environmental sensitivities present; and land ownership issues.

9.5 Iterative Approach to Preparation of the Operational Programme

Various environmental sensitivities and issues were communicated to the Fáilte Ireland and integrated into the Operational Programme through the SEA and AA processes.

The drafting of the Operational Programme was done in an iterative manner whereby Fáilte Ireland prepared the first draft of the Programme which was provided to CAAS who made suggestions for integration into the Programme. Fáilte Ireland then reviewed the Programme to take account of the SEA/AA suggestions and sent the following revision back to CAAS for comment. Multiple revisions of the Programme were prepared before the Draft Programme was arrived at for public display. The Draft Programme and associated SEA and AA documents were updated to take account of various issues raised in submissions made during public display.

Key aspects of the Operational Programme where environmental input was integrated include:

- Visitor Management
 - With a route extending along the entire western seaboard, the Programme facilitates contributions towards improvements in environmental management and protection by allowing for both: the management of visitors at a macro spatial level (in terms of what sections of the western seaboard could accommodate increases in visitors); and the management of visitors at a micro spatial level (in terms of what areas adjacent to viewing points, lay-bys etc. should be avoided).
 - The Programme also facilitates the management of visitors across the tourist season so that growth can be sought in times outside of the summer peak.
- Focus on Paid Bednights rather than Visitors
 - The objective of growing length of stay (paid bednights) rather than number of visitors has less potential to result in adverse environmental effects.
 - Increased length of stay in the context of the touring route is likely to lead to a better geographic distribution of visitors – which will reduce environmental and infrastructural stresses and associated effects in popular areas.
 - The Programme facilitates for a better seasonal spread of bednights – which can reduce environmental and infrastructural stresses and associated effects during peak months.

- Environmental Management and Sustainability Strategy
 - The Programme’s Environmental Management and Sustainability Strategy which requires all emerging developments and activities to continue to comply with all relevant environmental and planning requirements – as well as with Fáilte Ireland Wild Atlantic Way Guidelines for the consideration, design, management and monitoring of new and existing visitor initiatives.
 - The Programme includes an ‘Environmental Management for Local Authorities and Others’ Appendix comprising various provisions which will be complied with by local authorities and others at lower levels of decision making in order to get funding. These measures are reproduced at Table 9.1 below.
- Detailed Monitoring Strategy and Guidelines for Local Authorities
 - See Section 9.6 below.

9.6 Detailed Monitoring Strategy and Guidelines for Local Authorities

- The development of a detailed Monitoring Strategy which is currently being implemented and will produce various data⁷⁴ including an indication of the types of impacting activities at Signature Discovery Points and control sites (and the extent of ecological effect zones, if present) and the type of mitigation responses which may be required.
- The route and the candidate Discovery Points may change if the environmental monitoring strategy in particular locations produces results that show that visitor activity and/or visitor intensification is predicted or observed to result in a negative impact on the environment. For this reason, a mid-term review of the route and the candidate Discovery Points has been built into the Operational Programme. The Monitoring Strategy is included as an Appendix to the Operational Programme.
- Findings from the Environmental Monitoring will be used to inform Local Authorities, through the publication of a set of guidelines, on the nature and extent of any proposed interventions at candidate Discovery Points and candidate Signature Discovery Points in order to improve visitor management at these sites, where appropriate. The guidelines will be prepared in consultation with the Environmental Authorities.
- Central to the monitoring of the Operational Programme will be the establishment of a Monitoring Group. This establishment is provided for by the Operational Programme on foot of submissions from various environmental authorities including the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency. The establishment of the Monitoring Group is to ensure that robust systems are in place, in appropriate existing authorities, to ensure that all key commitments made at the Programme level will be delivered effectively (including at the appropriate time), and to ensure that no adverse effects on the integrity of the environment will result.

⁷⁴ The programme of indicators and targets for monitoring the effects of implementing the Operational Programme included in this SEA (see Section 10) will be further refined when the findings of the Monitoring Strategy emerge.

Table 9.1 Provisions contained in Operational Programme Appendix 'Environmental Management for Local Authorities and Others'

Topic ⁷⁵	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Requirement ⁷⁶
All	Various below	<p>Regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p> <p>Local authorities and others shall cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Local authorities and others will demonstrate, as appropriate, that plans, programmes and projects comply with EU Directives - including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) – and relevant transposing Regulations.</p>
All	Various below	<p>Information to be considered by local authorities and others at lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment</p> <p>Lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment by local authorities and others, as relevant, should consider the sensitivities identified in Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas; • Features of the landscape that provide linkages/connectivity to designated sites (e.g. watercourses, areas of semi-natural habitat such as linear woodlands etc) • Salmonid Waters; • Shellfish Waters; • Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; • Nature Reserves; • Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas; • Areas likely to contain a habitat listed in annex 1 of the Habitats Directive; • Entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and Zones of Archaeological Potential; • Entries to the Record of Protected Structures; • Un-designated sites of importance to wintering or breeding bird species of conservation concern; • Architectural Conservation Areas; and • Relevant landscape designations.
All	Various below	<p>Construction and Environmental Management Plan</p> <p>Construction Environment Management Plans (CEMPs) shall be prepared in advance of the construction of larger projects and implemented throughout. Such plans shall incorporate relevant mitigation measures indicated in this Appendix to the Operational Programme and any lower tier Environmental Impact Statement or Appropriate Assessment. CEMPs typically provide details of intended construction practice for the proposed development, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. location of the sites and materials compound(s) including area(s) identified for the storage of construction refuse, b. location of areas for construction site offices and staff facilities, c. details of site security fencing and hoardings, d. details of on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction, e. details of the timing and routing of construction traffic to and from the construction site and associated directional signage, f. measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network, g. measures to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris, h. alternative arrangements to be put in place for pedestrians and vehicles in the case of the closure of any public right of way during the course of site development works, i. details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels, j. containment of all construction-related fuel and oil within specially constructed bunds to ensure that fuel spillages are fully contained; such bunds shall be roofed to exclude rainwater,

⁷⁵ The SEA Directive identifies a number of environmental topics which must be considered in the assessments being undertaken for plans and programmes. These topics are listed in this column and comprise biodiversity and flora and fauna, population and human health, soil, water, air and climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape.

⁷⁶ The provisions listed under this column are the requirements which the local authorities and others will have to comply with in order to get funding.

		<p>k. disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil,</p> <p>l. a water and sediment management plan, providing for means to ensure that surface water runoff is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local water courses or drains,</p> <p>m. details of a water quality monitoring and sampling plan.</p> <p>n. if peat is encountered - a peat storage, handling and reinstatement management plan.</p> <p>o. measures adopted during construction to prevent the spread of invasive species (such as Japanese Knotweed).</p> <p>p. appointment of an ecological clerk of works at site investigation, preparation and construction phases.</p>
All	Various below	<p>Maintenance Plan</p> <p>Lower tier assessments should examine the need for Maintenance Plans informed by environmental considerations to be prepared and implemented.</p>
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arising from both construction (including reuse and reinforcement of existing viewing points and lay-bys) and operation: loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna • Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects • Disturbance and displacement of protected species and coastal squeeze 	<p>Protection of Biodiversity including Natura 2000 Network</p> <p>Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); UNESCO World Heritage and UNESCO Biosphere sites; Ramsar Sites; Salmonid Waters; Shellfish Waters; Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildlife Sites (including Nature Reserves); Certain entries to the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas; Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs); Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979) ; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p> <p>Local authorities and others shall demonstrate compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including the following and any updated/superseding documents):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended)⁷⁷, the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)⁷⁸, the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)⁷⁹, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC). • National legislation, including the Wildlife Act 1976⁸⁰, the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989 (SI No. 349 of 1989) (as amended), the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008⁸¹ and the Flora Protection Order 1999. • National policy guidelines (including any clarifying Circulars or superseding versions of same), including the Landscape and Landscape Assessment Draft Guidelines 2000, the Environmental Impact Assessment Sub-Threshold Development Guidelines 2003, Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines 2004 and the Appropriate Assessment Guidance 2010. • Catchment and water resource management Plans, including River Basin District Management Plans 2009-2015 (including any superseding versions of same). • Biodiversity Plans and guidelines, including Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016: Ireland's 2nd National Biodiversity Plan (including any superseding version of same). • Ireland's Environment 2014 (EPA, 2014, including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges. <p>Appropriate Assessment</p> <p>All projects and plans arising from this programme will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. A plan or project will only be authorised after the competent authority has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment where necessary, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or 2. The Plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or

⁷⁷ Including Annex I habitats, Annex II species and their habitats and Annex IV species and their breeding sites and resting places (wherever they occur). Note that the NPWS provide sensitive areas mapping for Freshwater Pearl Mussels which are listed under Annex II of the Directive.

⁷⁸ Including Annex I species and other regularly occurring migratory species, and their habitats (wherever they occur).

⁷⁹ Including protected species and natural habitats.

⁸⁰ Including species of flora and fauna and their key habitats.

⁸¹ Including protected species and natural habitats.

		<p>3. The Plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.</p> <p>Protection of Natura 2000 Sites No projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this programme (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects⁸²).</p> <p>NPWS & Integrated Management Plans Regarding, integrated management plans, Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive requires that Member States establish the necessary conservation measures for Special Area of Conservation involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans. The NPWS's current priority is to identify site specific conservation objectives; management plans may be considered after this is done.</p> <p>Where Integrated Management Plans are being prepared for all Natura sites (or parts thereof), Fáilte Ireland and local authorities shall engage with the National Parks and Wildlife Service in order to ensure that plans are fully integrated with the Operational Programme and other plans and programmes, with the intention that such plans are practical, achievable and sustainable and have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and economic considerations and with special regard to local communities.</p> <p>Coastal Zone Management Local authorities and others shall demonstrate that works will be undertaken in accordance with best practice and local authorities and others shall, as appropriate: support measures to protect the coast, the coastal edge and coastal habitats; and facilitate an Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach to ensure the conservation, management and protection of man-made and natural resources of the coastal zone.</p> <p>Biodiversity and Ecological Networks Local authorities and others shall demonstrate, as appropriate, protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, semi-natural grasslands, rivers, streams, natural springs, wetlands, geological and geo-morphological systems, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Protection of Riparian Zone and Waterbodies and Watercourses Local authorities and others shall demonstrate that waterbodies and watercourses are protected from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in riverine, wetland and coastal areas, as appropriate.</p> <p>Non-Designated Sites Local authorities and others shall demonstrate the appropriate protection of non-designated habitats and landscapes and to conserve the biological diversity.</p> <p>Non-native invasive species Local authorities and others shall support, as appropriate, the National Parks and Wildlife Service's efforts to seek to control the spread of non-native invasive species on land and water.</p>
<p>Population and human health</p>	<p>Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water are not mitigated</p>	<p>Human Health Local authorities and others shall assess proposals for development in terms of, inter alia, potential impact on existing adjacent developments, existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape. Where proposed developments would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, local authorities and others shall ensure the introduction of mitigation measures in order to eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p>
<p>Soil</p>	<p>Adverse impacts on the hydrogeological and ecological function</p>	<p>Soil Protection and Contamination Local authorities and others shall ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed.</p>

⁸² Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

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

	of the soil resource	<p>Areas of geological interest Local authorities and others shall demonstrate protection and maintenance of the character, integrity and conservation value of features or areas of geological interest.</p>
Water	Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas, arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology	<p>Water Framework Directive and associated legislation Local authorities and others shall contribute towards, as appropriate, the protection of existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, including rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater, coastal waters and associated habitats and species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC), the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009), the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same). Local authorities and others shall support the application and implementation of a catchment planning and management approach to development and conservation, including the implementation of Sustainable Drainage System techniques for new development.</p>
		<p>River Basin Management Plan Local authorities and others shall support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the various River Basin Management Plans 2009 – 2015, and associated Programmes of Measures, or any such plans that may supersede same during the lifetime of the Operational Programme, as well as relevant recommendations contained in the Water Quality in Ireland 2007 – 2009 (EPA, 2011, and any updated/superseding document). Local authorities and others shall demonstrate that proposals for development would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands and coastal waters. Also local authorities and others shall have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 which provides guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p>
		<p>Bathing Water Local authorities and others shall contribute towards the achievement of the requirements of the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008) and EU Mandatory Values, as a minimum, and EU Guide Values, where possible.</p>
		<p>Flood Risk Management Guidelines Local authorities and others shall support, as appropriate, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010), the DEHLG/OPW publication <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</i> (2009) (including any clarifying Circulars or superseding versions of same) and relevant outputs of the Catchment and Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies (CFRAMS).</p>
		<p>Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) Local authorities and others shall ensure that new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems as appropriate.</p>
Air and Climatic Factors	Failure to contribute towards sustainable transport and associated impacts (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases)	<p>Infrastructure for Walking, Cycling and Water-based activities Local Authorities and others shall work with Fáilte Ireland, the National Trails Office, Coillte, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking, cycling and water-based activities along the Wild Atlantic Way.</p>
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to provide adequate and appropriate water services (it is the function of Irish Water to provide for such needs) Increases in waste levels 	<p>Construction Waste Local authorities and others shall demonstrate that all waste arising during construction phase will be managed and disposed of in a way that ensures the provisions of the Waste Management Acts and regulations and Regional Waste Management Plans. Construction Waste Management Plans will be implemented by local authorities and others to minimise waste and ensure correct handling and disposal of construction waste streams in accordance with the Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects, Department of the Environment, July 2006.</p>
		<p>Waste Creation Local authorities and others shall support the minimisation of waste creation and promote a practice of reduce, reuse and recycle where possible.</p>
		<p>Waste Disposal Local authorities and others shall safeguard the environment by seeking to ensure that residual waste is disposed of appropriately.</p>
		<p>Irish Water Local authorities and others shall co-operate with and support, as relevant and appropriate, Irish Water in its new role as the lead authority for water services.</p>
Cultural Heritage	Potential effects on protected and	<p>Archaeological Heritage Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage, in particular by</p>

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	<p>unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation</p>	<p>implementing the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the National Monuments Act, 1930 (as amended).</p> <p>Protection of Archaeological Sites Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of archaeological sites and monuments and their settings, archaeological objects and underwater archaeological sites that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments. Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places.</p> <p>Consultation Local authorities and others shall consult with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites.</p> <p>Underwater Archaeological Sites Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine, intertidal and sub-tidal locations.</p> <p>Architectural Heritage Local authorities and others shall help to ensure the appropriate protection of architectural heritage by complying, as appropriate, with the legislative provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to architectural heritage and the policy guidance contained in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011 (and any updated/superseding document).</p>
<p>Landscape</p>	<p>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape</p>	<p>Landscape Designations Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of county and local level landscape designations from incompatible developments. Proposals for development that have the potential to significantly adversely impact upon these designations shall be accompanied by an assessment of the potential landscape character and visual impacts of the proposed development - demonstrating that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation. Such assessments should be prepared having regard to the relevant aspects of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2013 Landscape Institute).</p> <p>Coastal Areas and Seascapes Local authorities and others shall protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.</p>

Section 10 Monitoring Measures

10.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. This section details the measures which will be used in order to monitor the likely significant effects of implementing the Operational Programme.

Monitoring can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

Central to the Monitoring Programme will be the establishment of a Monitoring Group. This establishment is provided for by the Operational Programme on foot of submissions from various environmental authorities including the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency. The establishment of the Monitoring Group is to ensure that robust systems are in place, in appropriate existing authorities, to ensure that all key commitments made at the Programme level will be delivered effectively (including at the appropriate time), and to ensure that no adverse effects on the integrity of the environment will result.

10.2 Updating Monitoring Measures

Monitoring is an ongoing process. The measures identified for monitoring in this section will be further refined when the findings of the Monitoring Strategy for Operational Programme candidate Signature Discovery Points emerge. This Monitoring Strategy is included as an Appendix to the Operational Programme.

The Monitoring Strategy contains three elements or levels of monitoring, as follows:

1. Macro monitoring of Regional/County visitor numbers and associated level effects caused by the visitor contributions to loadings on transportation, waste and water infrastructure;

2. Site Surveys of visitor behaviour to describe general activities and associated environmental effects of visitors (including impacts on wildlife, vegetation, monuments and site features); and
3. Site Surveys to describe the specific effects on the ecology of areas that were observed to have been used/trafficked by visitors.

The Environmental Survey and Monitoring Strategy intends to produce data relating to:

- Movement patterns of visitors at sites along the route;
- Variations in visitor/traffic numbers;
- Water quality effects at tourism settlements along the route;
- Increases in tourism related planning applications;
- Patterns of visitor activity, movement and behaviour at candidate Signature Discovery Points and control sites;
- An indication of types of impacting activities at candidate Signature Discovery Points and control sites;
- An indication of extent of ecological effect zones around candidate Signature Discovery Points and control sites; and
- The need and type mitigation responses.

10.3 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified in Section 5 and used in the evaluation. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions.

Table 10.1 overleaf shows the indicators and targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Programme, if unmitigated.

Monitoring is an ongoing process and targets and indicators will be further refined when the findings of the Monitoring Strategy (see Section 10.2) for Operational Programme candidate Signature Discovery Points emerge. The Monitoring Programme may also be updated to deal with specific environmental issues - including unforeseen effects - as they arise.

Many of the indicators below relate to more than one of the marine, freshwater and terrestrial environments, for example: indicator B1 'Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive' relates to marine, freshwater and terrestrial habitats and species; and indicator W1 'To maintain and improve, where possible, the quality and status of surface waters' relates to coastal and estuarine waters as well as rivers.

10.4 Sources

Measurements for indicators generally come from existing monitoring sources. Existing monitoring sources include those maintained by the relevant authorities e.g. local authorities, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Central Statistics Office.

Where significant effects - including positive, negative, cumulative and indirect - have the potential to occur upon environmental components as a result of the undertaking of individual projects or multiple individual projects such instances should be identified and recorded by local authorities and others and should feed into the monitoring evaluation.

10.5 Reporting

There will be mid-term review of the Operational Programme. A stand-alone Monitoring Report on the significant environmental effects of implementing the Operational Programme will be prepared in advance of this review and in advance of the 5 year review. These reports will address the indicators set out below which may be refined when the findings of the Monitoring Strategy (see Section 10.2) for Operational Programme candidate Signature Discovery Points emerge.

Fáilte Ireland will coordinate the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action. Input will be sought from local authorities and others with respect to lower tier environmental assessment and decision making undertaken.

10.6 Thresholds and Corrective Action

The occurrence of persistent significant adverse environmental effects which are directly attributable to tourism would necessitate consideration of the effects in the context of the OP and a possible review of part(s) of the OP.

The route and the candidate Discovery Points may change if the Monitoring Strategy produces results that show that visitor activity and/or visitor intensification is predicted or observed to result in a negative impact on the environment in particular locations. For this reason, a mid-term review of the route and the candidate Discovery Points has been built into the Operational Programme. Changes that could be made include the de-marketing of candidate Discovery Points, the removal of signage and the temporary or permanent removal of candidate Discovery Points from the route.

Examples of where consultation with local authorities and others and the possible coordination of corrective action may be required include:

- Complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable impacts on any environmental components resulting from development which is granted permission under the Programme;
- Court cases taken by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht regarding impacts upon archaeological heritage from development which is granted permission under the Programme;
- Failure to meet bathing water Mandatory Values directly attributable to tourism;

- Fish kills directly attributable to tourism; and
- Boil notices on drinking water directly attributable to tourism.

Table 10.1 Selected Indicators, Targets and Monitoring Sources

Environmental Component	Current Indicators (subject to review of findings from Monitoring Strategy for Operational Programme candidate Signature Discovery Points)	Current Target(s) (subject to review of findings from Monitoring Strategy for Operational Programme candidate Signature Discovery Points)	Source (Frequency)
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive	B1: Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under National and International legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Programme ⁸³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years) • Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's National Monitoring Report for the Birds Directive under Article 12 (every 3 years) • Consultations with the NPWS (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 10.5)
	B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Programme	B2: No significant ecological networks or parts thereof which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • Review of permissions granted and the SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • CORINE mapping resurvey (every c. 5 years) • Review of EPA Ecological Network Mapping (if available)
	B3i: Number of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Programme B3ii: Number of significant impacts on the protection of listed species	B3i: Avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Programme B3ii: No significant impacts on the protection of listed species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • Review of permissions granted and the SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Consultations with the NPWS (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 10.5)
Population and Human Health	PHH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors resulting from development provided for by the Programme, as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency	PHH1: No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • Consultations with EPA and Health Service Executive (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 10.5)

⁸³ Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:
(a) No alternative solution available;
(b) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the programme to proceed; and
(c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

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Soil	S1: Soil extent and hydraulic connectivity	S1: To minimise reductions in soil extent and hydraulic connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • Review of permissions granted and the SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies)
Water	W1i: Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009)	W1i: Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' ⁸⁴ by 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities. • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Data issued under the Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme for Ireland (multi-annual) • EPA <i>The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland</i> reports
	W1ii: Mandatory and Guide values as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008)	W1ii: To achieve - as a minimum - Mandatory values and, where possible, to achieve Guide values as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008)	
	W2: Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC	W2: Not to affect the ability of groundwaters to comply with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Data issued under the Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme for Ireland (multi-annual)
	Compliance of lower tier assessments and decision making by local authorities with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines	W3: For all lower tier assessments and decision making by local authorities to comply with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies)
Air and Climatic Factors	C1: Percentage of population using the Wild Atlantic Way travelling by non-mechanical means	C1: To contribute towards an increase in the percentage of the population using the Wild Atlantic Way travelling by non-mechanical means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Fáilte Ireland monitoring
Material Assets	M1: Number of Wild Atlantic Way developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment, if required	M1: All new Wild Atlantic Way developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment, if required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies)
	M2: Number of non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health as a result of implementing the Programme	M2: No non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health as a result of implementing the Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland reports (multi-annual) • EPA Remedial Action List (every quarter)

⁸⁴ Good status as defined by the WFD equates to approximately the following in the current national schemes of classification as set out by the EPA:

- *Q4* in the biological classification of *rivers*;
- *Mesotrophic* in the trophic classification of lakes, as set out by the EPA;
- *Unpolluted status* in the Assessment of Trophic Status of Estuaries and Bays in Ireland (ATSEBI).

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	M3: Preparation and implementation of construction and environmental management plans	M3: For construction and environmental management plans to be prepared and implemented for relevant projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal examination of compliance with SEA and lower tier assessment mitigation measures
	M4: Percentage length of the Wild Atlantic Way route aligned to existing infrastructure	M4: To maximise the length of Wild Atlantic Way route developed along existing infrastructure, taking into account other factors such as environmental protection and planning considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal identification of percentage length of the Wild Atlantic Way route aligned to existing infrastructure
Cultural Heritage	CH1: Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - including Zones of Archaeological Potential (and the context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant) - protected from significant adverse effects arising from development of the Wild Atlantic Way	CH1: Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - including Zones of Archaeological Potential (and their context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant) from significant adverse effects arising from development of the Wild Atlantic Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of permissions granted and the Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) Consultation with Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 10.5)
	CH2: Percentage of entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from development of the Wild Atlantic Way	CH2: Protect entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from development of the Wild Atlantic Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) Consultation with Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 10.5)
Landscape	L1: Number of unmitigated conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in the land use plans of local authorities	L1: No unmitigated conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in the land use plans of local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies)

Section 11 SEA Summary Table

Below is a summary table outlining how potential significant effects are linked to relevant mitigation measures and indicators for monitoring.

Table 11.1 SEA Summary Table

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Mitigation Reference (see Section 9)	Primary Indicator for monitoring (subject to review of findings from Monitoring Strategy for Operational Programme Signature candidate Discovery Points)
All – see below	All – see below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor Management • Focus on Paid Bednights rather than Visitors • Environmental Management and Sustainability Strategy • Detailed Monitoring Strategy and Guidelines for Local Authorities • Regulatory framework for environmental protection and management • Information to be considered by local authorities and others at lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment • Construction and Environmental Management Plan • Maintenance Plan 	All – see below
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arising from both construction (including reuse and reinforcement of existing viewing points and lay-bys) and operation: loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna • Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects • Disturbance and displacement of protected species and coastal squeeze 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of Biodiversity including Natura 2000 Network • Appropriate Assessment • Protection of Natura 2000 Sites • NPWS & Integrated Management Plans • Coastal Zone Management • Biodiversity and Ecological Networks • Protection of Riparian Zone and Waterbodies and Watercourses • Non-Designated Sites • Non-native invasive species 	<p>B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive</p> <p>B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Programme</p> <p>B3i: Number of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Programme</p> <p>B3ii: Number of significant impacts on the protection of listed species</p>
Population and human health	Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water are not mitigated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Health 	PHH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors resulting from development provided for by the Programme, as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency

Soil	Adverse impacts on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil Protection and Contamination • Areas of geological interest 	S1: Soil extent and hydraulic connectivity
Water	Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas, arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Framework Directive and associated legislation • River Basin Management Plan • Bathing Water • Flood Risk Management Guidelines • Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) 	<p>W1i: Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009)</p> <p>W1ii: Mandatory and Guide values as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008)</p> <p>W2: Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC</p> <p>W3: Compliance of lower tier assessments and decision making by local authorities with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines</p>
Air and Climatic Factors	Failure to contribute towards sustainable transport and associated impacts (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure for Walking, Cycling and Water-based activities 	C1: Percentage of population using the Wild Atlantic Way travelling by non-mechanical means
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to provide adequate and appropriate water services (it is the function of Irish Water to provide for such needs) • Increases in waste levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction Waste • Waste Creation • Waste Disposal • Irish Water 	<p>M1: Number of Wild Atlantic Way developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment, if required</p> <p>M2: Number of non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health as a result of implementing the Programme</p> <p>M3: Preparation and implementation of construction and environmental management plans</p> <p>M4: Percentage length of the Wild Atlantic Way route aligned to existing infrastructure</p>
Cultural Heritage	Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological Heritage • Protection of Archaeological Sites • Consultation • Underwater Archaeological Sites • Architectural Heritage 	<p>CH1: Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - including Zones of Archaeological Potential (and the context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant) - protected from significant adverse effects arising from development of the Wild Atlantic Way</p> <p>CH2: Percentage of entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from development of the Wild Atlantic Way</p>

Landscape	Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Designations • Coastal Areas and Seascapes 	L1: Number of unmitigated conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in the land use plans of local authorities
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Appendix I: Detailed Assessment of candidate Discovery Points and Embarkment Points

This Appendix comprises a 'Detailed Assessment of candidate Discovery Points and Embarkment Points'. Spatial coordinates for each point were used to identify potential conflicts with the following databases of environmental sensitivities:

- Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - the National Parks and Wildlife Service Map Viewer⁸⁵ was used to identify whether cSACs or SPAs occur at or adjacent to the point in question. This record was cross checked with the findings of the Appropriate Assessment to ensure all Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius are accounted for.
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)⁸⁶ - this dataset was used to identify if any architectural designations occur at the point in question.
- National Monuments Service - Record of Monuments and Places⁸⁷ - this dataset was used to identify if any archaeological designations occur at or adjacent to the location the point in question. If a designation occurred in an enclosed field system separate to the site, or across a stream, on rocky cliffs etc., it is considered that they are inaccessible to the general public and will be unaffected.
- Landscape designations - the landscape designations of local authorities, including those contained in land use plans, were used to identify if the point in question occurred within an area to which a landscape designation applies such as: landscapes designated as more sensitive or vulnerable or valuable; and designated views and routes/prospects

The overall findings of the evaluation are that:

- All candidate Signature Discovery Points, Discovery Point or Embarkment Points occur at pre-existing lay-bys and viewing points.
- The majority of sites occur at or within 15km of a Natura 2000 site. Detailed project level examination by Local Authorities will contribute towards compliance with be required to ensure protection afforded by the Habitats Directive.
- Architectural and archaeological designated occur at or adjacent to some sites.
- The majority of sites are subject to landscape designations under specific land use plans.
- The undertaking of the 'Strategy for Environmental Monitoring' (including Ecological Method Statement and included as an Appendix to the Programme) would benefit all environmental components. This and other mitigation measures are detailed under Section 9 'Mitigation Measures'.

⁸⁵ <http://webgis.npws.ie/npwsviewer/>

⁸⁶ <http://webgis.buildingsofireland.ie/niahviewer/>

⁸⁷ <http://webgis.archaeology.ie/NationalMonuments/FlexViewer/>

Explanation of codes assigned to each candidate Discovery Point/Embarkment Point and accompanying notes

The SEO codes in the table below were assigned to each candidate Discovery Point/Embarkment Point:

SEO Code	SEO	Interaction with environment
C1	To reduce travel related emissions to air and to encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport	Potential Conflict which can be mitigated
M1	For new development to be served with adequate and appropriate waste water treatment	Potential Conflict which can be mitigated
M2	For new development to be served with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean	Potential Conflict which can be mitigated
M3	To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse	Potential Conflict which can be mitigated
PHH1	To ensure that the WAW route is aligned on existing infrastructure and takes into account the capacity of roads and road safety	Likely to Improve the status of SEO
PHH2	To protect populations and human health from exposure to incompatible landuses	Potential Conflict which can be mitigated
B1	To ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and Annexed habitats and species ⁸⁸	Potential Conflict which can be mitigated Likely to Improve the status of the SEO
B2	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function act as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species	Potential Conflict which can be mitigated Likely to Improve the status of the SEO
B3	To avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources within and outside of designated sites including Wildlife Sites ⁸⁹ and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of listed species	Potential Conflict which can be mitigated Likely to Improve the status of the SEO
S1	To avoid damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource	Potential Conflict which can be mitigated
W1	To maintain and improve, where possible, the quality and status of surface waters	Potential Conflict which can be mitigated
W2	To prevent pollution and contamination of groundwater	Potential Conflict which can be mitigated
W3	To comply as appropriate with the provisions of the <i>Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i>	Potential Conflict which can be mitigated
CH1	To protect archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context	Potential Conflict which can be mitigated Likely to Improve the status of the SEO The likelihood to improve depends on archaeological designation being present
CH2	To protect architectural heritage including entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context	Potential Conflict which can be mitigated Likely to Improve the status of the SEO Both of these depends on archaeological designation being present
L1	To avoid adverse visual effects including those upon statutory designations relating to the landscape e.g. those included in the Development Plans of local authorities	Potential Conflict which can be mitigated Likely to Improve the status of the SEO

⁸⁸ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

⁸⁹ The Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended defines a 'wildlife site'.

The following was noted under each candidate Discovery Point/Embarkment Point as they occurred:

1. Identify whether candidate Discovery Point/Embarkment Point is within/adjacent to a Natura 2000 /NHA site/sites (name them). If not within/adjacent refer to closest site.
2. Identify whether an entry to the Record of Monuments and Places is within/adjacent to a candidate Discovery Point/Embarkment Point (name and identify number).
3. Identify whether an entry to the archaeological designations (Architectural Conservation Area, Record of Protected Structures and National Inventory Architectural Heritage entries is within/adjacent to a candidate Discovery Point/Embarkment Point (name and identify number).
4. Identify whether a sensitive landscape designations e.g. the most important landscape sensitivity and value areas; High amenity zones and Scenic views and prospects (name the designation).

Detailed Assessment of candidate Discovery Points and Embarkment Points				
	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Donegal				
Inishowen Head	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with North Inishowen Coast (002012) SAC, Lough Foyle SPA (004087) Natura 2000 Site Northern Ireland Designations: Potential conflict with Lough Foyle SPA, Magilligan cSAC, Lough Foyle Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) Interactions with architectural designations: Strove Lighthouse 40901301, Lighthouse store/warehouse 4091302, Lighthouse keeper's house 40901303, 40901304, 40901305 It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Magilligan Point View	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with North Inishowen Coast (002012) SAC, Lough Foyle SPA (004087) Natura 2000 Site Northern Ireland Designations: Potential conflict with Lough Foyle SPA, Magilligan cSAC, Lough Foyle Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Kinnagoe Bay	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with North Inishowen Coast (002012) SAC, Lough Foyle SPA (004087) Natura 2000 Site Northern Ireland Designations: Potential conflict with Lough Foyle SPA, Magilligan cSAC, Lough Foyle Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Culdaff Beach	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with 'North Inishowen Coast (002012) SAC, Trabreaga Bay SPA (004034) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: DG005-036 Promontory fort - coastal Interactions with architectural designations: Warren Lodge 40900514, House 40900513, House 40900511, Boat house 40900510, Lifeboat station 40900508, Bunagee Pier 40900509 It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Malin Head	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with 'North Inishowen Coast (002012) SAC, Malin Head SPA (004146) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: DG001-002002 Standing stone, DG001-006 Signal tower , DG001-002001 Place name Evidence				

Detailed Assessment of candidate Discovery Points and Embarkment Points				
	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Interactions with architectural designations:: Watchman's Hut 40900104, Marconi Telegraph Station 40900113, Malin Signal Tower 40900101 It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Pollan Bay	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with 'North Inishowen Coast (002012) SAC, Trabreaga Bay SPA (004034) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with: RPM DG003-007 Ritual site - holy well It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Gap of Mamore	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with North Inishowen Coast (002012) SAC, Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) Natura 2000 Site It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Dunree Head	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with North Inishowen Coast (002012) SAC, Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: DG018-007 Midden, DG018-008 Burial ground, DG018-013 Cist Interactions with architectural designations: Dunree Fort Barracks (40901824), Dunree Fort (40901827), Dunree Fort Barracks (40901828), Lighthouse (40901829), Lighthouse (40901830), Dunree Fort Officers House (40901831), Battery (40901813) It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Lisfannon Beach	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Lough Swilly SPA (004075), Lough Swilly SAC (002287) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Woodlands House (40903818) It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Inch Island	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Lough Swilly SAC (002287), Castlemaine Harbour SPA (0040209) Natura 2000 site Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Baylet Outbuilding (40903838) It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				

Detailed Assessment of candidate Discovery Points and Embarkment Points				
	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Manorcunningham View	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Lough Swilly SPA (004075), Lough Swilly SAC (002287) Natura 2000 Site				
Ballymastocker Strand	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) and Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC (001975) Natura 2000 Site It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Cionn Fhánada	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) and Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC (001975) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: DB009-011 Promontory Fort Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Bá Bhaile Uí Thiarnáin	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) and Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC (001975) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Oileán an Bhráighe	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Mulroe Bay SAC (002159) , Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) Natura 2000 site Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Ros Goill	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Tranarossan And Melmore Lough SAC (000194), Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published				

Detailed Assessment of candidate Discovery Points and Embarkment Points				
	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Doe Castle View	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Sheephaven SAC (001190), Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (004039) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Marblehill	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Sheephaven SAC (001190), Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Horn Head	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC (00147), Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Cé Machaire Uí Robhartaigh (Embarkation Point for 20,21)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Bayness Bay cSAC (001090) and Falcarragh to Meenlaragh SPA (004149) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Inis Bó Finne	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Bayness Bay SAC (001090), Inishbofin, Inishdooy and Inishbeg SPA (004083) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				

Detailed Assessment of candidate Discovery Points and Embarkment Points				
	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Toraigh	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Tory Island Coast SAC (002259), Tory Island SPA (004073) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: DG006-002001 Graveyard, DG006-002002 Tau cross, DG006-002011 Habitation site, DG006-001001 Church, DG006-001002 Bullaun stone, DG006-002004 Round tower, DG006-003 Cairn, DG006-002013 Cross, DG006-002012 Cross-slab, DG006-002014 Excavation Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Cnoc Fola	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (001141), West Donegal Coast SPA (004150) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Cé an Bhuna Bhig (Embarkation Point for 21,23)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (001141) and West Donegal Coast SPA (004150) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Gabhla	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (001141) and West Donegal Islands SPA (004230) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Trá na Carraige Finne	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (001141) and West Donegal Coast SPA (004150) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				

Detailed Assessment of candidate Discovery Points and Embarkment Points				
	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Cé Ailt an Chorráin (Embarkation Point for 25,26)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Rutland Island and Sound SAC (002283), Illanacrone and Inishkeeragh SPA (004132) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Inis Fraoigh	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Rutland Island and Sound SAC (002283), Illanacrone and Inishkeeragh SPA (004132) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Árainn Mhór	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Rutland Island and Sound SAC (002283), Illanacrone and Inishkeeragh SPA (004132) Natura 2000 Site It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Narin-Portnoo Strand	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC (000197) and Inishkeel SPA (004116) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:DG064-007, Church, DG064-008 Standing stone, DG064-007001 Graveyard Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Malaidh Ghleann Gheis	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Slieve Tooley/Toormore Island/Loughros Beg SAC (000190) and West Donegal Coast SPA (004150) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				

Detailed Assessment of candidate Discovery Points and Embarkment Points				
	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Málainn Bhig	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Slieve League SAC (000189) and West Donegal Coast SPA (004150) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:DG089-016 Standing Stone Interactions with architectural designations: Survey of area not yet published It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Sliabh Liag	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Slieve League SAC (000189) and West Donegal Coast SPA (004150) Natura 2000 Site It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Cionn Mhucrois	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Slieve League SAC (000189) and West Donegal Coast SPA (004150) Natura 2000 Site It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Bá Fhiontrá	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with St. Johns Point SAC (000191), Inishduff SPA (004155) Natura 2000 site It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Mountcharles Pier	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 CH1 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (000133) and Donegal Bay SPA (004151) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Salthill Pier (40909908) It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Murvagh Beach	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (000133) and Donegal Bay SPA (004151) Natura 2000 Site It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				

Detailed Assessment of candidate Discovery Points and Embarkment Points				
	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Rossnowlagh Beach	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (000133) and Donegal Bay SPA (004151) Natura 2000 Site It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				
Tullan Strand	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 CH1 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC (002303), Donegal Bay SPA (004151) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: DG106-005 Midden It is an objective of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (Objective NH-O-7, NH-P-13, BH-P-10)				

Sligo				
Mullaghmore Head	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Bunduff Lough and Donegal Bay SPA (004151) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with designated Visually Vulnerable Features, Sensitive Rural Landscape and designated Scenic Routes				
Streedagh Beach	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Streedagh Point Dunes SAC (001680), Inishmurray SPA (004068) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with designated Visually Vulnerable Features and Sensitive Rural Landscape				
Rosses Point	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (000627), Cummeen Strand SPA (004035) SAC Natura 2000 Site (00627) Interactions with designated Visually Vulnerable Features				
Strandhill Beach	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (000627), Ballysadare Bay SPA (004129) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with designated Visually Vulnerable Features and Sensitive Rural Landscape				
Aughris Head	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Knockalongry and Knockachree Cliffs SAC (001669), Aughris Head SPA (004133) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Pollachurry Pier (32401210) Interactions with designated Visually Vulnerable Features, Sensitive Rural Landscape and designated Scenic Routes				
Easky Beach	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA (004036), Aughris Head SPA (004133) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:SL11-100 Midden and SL11-020 Castle-Tower Interactions with designated Visually Vulnerable Features, Sensitive Rural Landscape and designated Scenic Routes				
Inishcrone Pier	PHH1 B1B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	

Potential conflict with Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (000458), Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA (004036) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Pier/jetty (23308008) Interactions with designated Visually Vulnerable Features and Sensitive Rural Landscape				
Mayo				
Ballina Quay	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (000458) and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA (004036) Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines and designated Scenic Routes				
Killala Quay	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (000458) and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA (004036) Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines and designated Scenic Routes				
Lackan Strand	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Lackan Saltmarsh and Kilcummin Head SAC (00516) and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA (004036) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines and designated Scenic Routes				
Downpatrick Head	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Glenamoy Bog Complex SAC (000500) and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA (004036) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:MA007-077001 Barrow, MA007-077002 Barrow, MA007-001001 Promontory fort – coastal, MA007-001002, Building, MA007-001003 Mound, MA007-002002 Altar, MA007-002003 Ritual site - holy/saint's stone, MA007-002001 Church, MA007-002004 Penitential station, MA007-002005 Penitential station, MA007-002006 Penitential station, MA007-002007 Mound, MA007-002008 Enclosure, MA007-002009 Cross-slab, MA007-003 Promontory fort – coastal, MA007-004001 Ritual site - holy well, MA007-004002 Penitential station, MA007-005 Penitential station, MA007-079 Furnace Interactions with architectural designation: Miscellaneous building (31300706) Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Céide Fields	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Glenamoy Bog Complex SAC (000500) and Illanmaster SPA (004074) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:MA006-031 Habitation Site, MA006-013 Megalithic Court Tomb Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
An Bhinn Bhuí	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Glenamoy Bog Complex SAC (000500), Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven SPA (004037) Natura 2000 Site				

Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines and Vulnerable Features - Skylines				
Ceann Iorrais	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Erris Head SAC (001501), Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven SPA (004037) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Dún na mBó	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Erris Head SAC (001501), Mullet Peninsula SPA (004227) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:MA009-002004 Hut Site Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Ceann an Eanaigh	PHH1 B1B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Erris Head SAC (001501), Termoncarragh Lake and Annagh Machair (004093) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: MA009-010008 Bullaun Stone and MA009-011 House Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Trá Oilí	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC (000470), Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven SPA (004037) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines and designated Scenic Routes				
An Fál Mór	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC (000470) and Mullet Peninsula SPA (004227) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines and designated Scenic Routes and Views				
An Fód Dubh (Embarkation Point for 55)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC (000470), Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven SPA (004037) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Blacksod Point Lighthouse (31303301), Lighthouse Keepers House (31302405)(31302406)(31302407)(31302408) Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Inis Gé Theas	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Inishkea Island SAC(000507) West Connacht Coast SAC (002998), Inishkea Islands SPA (00400) Natura 2000 Site				

Interactions with RPM: MA023-021 Burial Ground, MA023-020002 Cross-slab Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Oileán Chloigeann	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC (000470) and Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven SPA (004037) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
An Ceann Ramhar	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC (000470) , Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven SPA (004037) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: MA034-008 An Rath Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Doran’s Point (Embarkation Point for 58)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Owenduff/Nepin Complex SAC (000534), Owenduff/Nepin Complex SPA (004098) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Inis Bigil	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Doogart Machair/Lough Doo SAC (001497) and Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven SPA (004037) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Claggan	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Owenduff/Nepin Complex SAC (000534), Owenduff/Nepin Complex SPA (004098) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Dumhach Bheag	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Corraun Plateau SAC (000485) , Owenduff/Nepin Complex SPA (004098) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Spanish Armada Viewpoint	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Corraun Plateau SAC (000485), Clare Island SPA (004136) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:MA075-020 Mine				

Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
An Chéibh Bheag (Embarkation Point for 69)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC (000470) , Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven SPA (004037) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: MA065-026 Field System and Enclosure Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Cuan na hAisléime	PHH1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Keel Machair/Menaun Cliffs (001513), Clare Island SPA (004136) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Trá Dumha Ghoirt	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Doogart Machair/Lough Doo SAC (001497), Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven SPA (004037) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: MA043-003 House Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Keel Strand	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Keel Machair/Menaun Cliffs SAC (001513), Duvillaun Islands SPA (004111) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: MA054-014002 Field System Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Keem Bay	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Croaghaun/Slievemore SAC (001955), Bills Rock SPA (004177) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: MA053-03002 Altar, MA053-003008 Standing Stone, MA053-003003 Settlement Cluster Interactions with architectural designations:- Bridge 31305302 Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines and Vulnerable Features - Skylines				
Croagh Patrick View	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Clew Bay Complex SAC (001482), Owenduff/Nephin Complex SPA (004098) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: MA087-046 Redundant record - previously listed as Togher, MA087-044002 Redundant record - previously listed as Altar, MA087-043001 Enclosure, MA087-044001 Church, MA087-044003 Enclosure, MA087-044004 Penitential station, MA087-045 Penitential station, MA087-046001 Cairn , MA087-044006 Enclosure, MA087-043001 Enclosure, MA087-043003 Penitential station Interactions with architectural designations: Croaghpatrick Hotel 31308706				

Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Old Head	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Oldhead Wood (000532), Clare Island SPA (004136) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: MA086-012 Midden, MA086-018 Midden Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines and Vulnerable Features - Skylines				
Roonagh Pier/Quay (Embarkation Point for 69,70)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Lough Cahasy Lough Baun and Roonah Lough, Clare Island Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Clare Island	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Clare Island Cliffs SAC (002243), Clare Island SPA (004136) Natura 2000 Sites Interactions with RPM: MA085-078 Midden, MA085-023001 Castle, MA085-023002 Promontory Fort Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Inishturk	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC (000278), High Island, Inishshark and Davillaun SPA (004144) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Carrownisky Strand	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough SAC (001529) and Cross Lough (Killadoon) SPA (000484) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: MA095-001, Midden, MA095-023002 Cross-inscribed stone, MA095-032002 Midden, MA095-033 Midden Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Silver Strand	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC (001932), Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Doolough Valley	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC (001932) and Cross Lough (Killadoon) SPA (000484) Natura 2000 Site				

Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines and Vulnerable Features - Skylines				
Aasleagh Falls	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC (001932), Lough Mask SPA (004062) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Vulnerable Areas – Coastline, River Banks and Lake Shorelines				
Galway				
Killary Harbour	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Maumturk Mountains SAC (002008), Illaunonearaun SPA (004114) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 5, Unique and Outstanding Landscape Value				
Islands View	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Rusheenduff Lough SAC (001311), Illaunoon SPA (004221) Natura 2000 site Interactions with RPM:GA10-040 Midden Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 5, Unique and Outstanding Landscape Value				
Cleggan Harbour (Embarkation Point for 77)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Aughrusbeg Machair and Lake SAC (001228), Inishbofin, Omev Island and Turbot Island SPA (004231) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 5, Unique and Outstanding Landscape Value				
Inishbofin	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Inishbofin and Inishshark SPA (000278), Inishbofin, Omev Island and Turbot Island SPA (004231) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:GA009DO20 Redundant Record – recorded previously as Dooneen Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 5, Unique and Outstanding Landscape Value				
Omev Island	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Omev Island Machair SAC (001309), Inishbofin, Omev Island and Turbot Island SPA (004231) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 5, Unique and Outstanding Landscape Value				
Sky Road	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Kingston Bay SAC (002265), Inishbofin, Omev Island and Turbot Island SPA (004231) Natura 2000 Site				

Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 5, Unique and Outstanding Landscape Value				
Derrigimlagh	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Slyne Head Peninsula SAC (002074), Connemara Bog Complex SPA (004181) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 5, Unique and Outstanding Landscape Value				
Bunowen Bay	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Slyne Head Peninsula SAC (002074), Slyne Head Islands SPA (000328) Natura 2000 Sites Interactions with architectural designations: Aillebrack Quay (30404904) Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 5, Unique and Outstanding Landscape Value				
Port na Feadóige	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Dog's Bay SAC (001257), Connemara Bog Complex SPA (004181) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:GA063-001 Graveyard, GA063-022 Children's burial ground, GA063-002 Midden Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 5, Unique Landscape Value				
Glinsk Pier	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Connemara Bog Complex SAC (002034), Connemara Bog Complex SPA (004181) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 3 (High), High Landscape Value				
Teach an Phiarsaigh	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Connemara Bog Complex SAC (002034), Connemara Bog Complex SPA (004181) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:GA065-013 Vernacular House Interactions with architectural designations: Teach an Phiarsaigh, Rosmuc (30406502) Interactions with landscape designations: Area of High Landscape Value				
Droichead Charraig an Logáin	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Kilkiernan Bay and Islands SAC (002111), Connemara Bog Complex SPA (004181) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:GA078-014 Children's Burial Ground Interactions with architectural designations: Carrickaleguan Bridge (30407809) Interactions with landscape designations: Area of High Landscape Value				

Trá an Dóilín	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Kilkiernan Bay and Islands SAC (002111), Connemara Bog Complex SPA (004181) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:GA090-007 Children's Burial Ground Interactions with landscape designations: Area of High Landscape Value				
Calafort Ros an Mhíl (Embarkation Point for 98,99,100)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Connemara Bog Complex SAC (002034), Connemara Bog Complex SPA (004181) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Area of Medium Landscape Value				
Inis Oírr (seaport)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Inisheer Island SAC (001275), Inishmore Island SAC (000213) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 5, Unique and Outstanding Landscape Value				
Inis Oírr (airport)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Inisheer Island SAC (001275), Inishmore Island SAC (000213) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: GA120-036 House Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 5, Unique and Outstanding Landscape Value				
Inis Meáin (seaport)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Inishmaan Island SAC (000212), Inishmore Island SAC (000213) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 5, Unique and Outstanding Landscape Value				
Inis Meáin (airport)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Inishmaan Island SAC (000212), Inishmore Island SAC (000213) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: GA119-072 Mass-rock Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 5, Unique and Outstanding Landscape Value				
Inis Mór (seaport)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Inishmore Island SAC (000213), Inishmore SPA (004152) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Factory (30411108), Pier/Jetty (30411107)				

Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 5, Unique and Outstanding Landscape Value				
Inis Mór (airport)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Inishmore Island SAC (000213), Inishmore SPA (004152) Natura 2000 Site				
Interactions with landscape designations: Landscape Sensitivity Rating – 5, Unique and Outstanding Landscape Value				
Céibh Bhaile na hAbhann	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Connemara Bog Complex SAC (002034), Connemara Bog Complex SPA (004181) Natura 2000 Site				
Interactions with landscape designations: Area of High Landscape Value				
Aerfort Réigiúnach Chonamara (Embarkation Point for 98,99,100)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Connemara Bog Complex SAC (002034), Connemara Bog Complex SPA (004181) Natura 2000 Site				
Interactions with landscape designations: Area of High Landscape Value				
Seanchéibh an Spidéil	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Connemara Bog Complex SAC (002034), Connemara Bog Complex SPA (004181) Natura 2000 Site				
Interactions with RPM: GA092-021001 Graveyard, GA092-021 Church				
Interactions with architectural designations: Church/Chapel (30327012)				
Interactions with landscape designations: Area of Medium to High Landscape Value				
Trá na gCeann	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268), Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031) Natura 2000 Site				
Interactions with landscape designations: Area of High Landscape Value				
Salthill Promenade	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268), Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031) Natura 2000 Site				
Interactions with architectural designations: Miscellaneous Building (30324003)				
Interactions with landscape designations: Area of High Landscape Value				
Rinville Park	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268), Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031) Natura 2000 Site				

Interactions with landscape designations: Area of High Landscape Value				
Traught Beach	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268), Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with landscape designations: Area of High Landscape Value				
Clare				
Flaggy Shore	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268), Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Unique landscape designations, Unique Landscape Sensitivity and Vulnerable Landscape Classification				
Ballyvaughan Pier	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268), Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: CL-002-005 Quay Interactions with Unique landscape designations, Unique Landscape Sensitivity and Vulnerable Landscape Classification				
Murrooghtohy	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Blackhead-Poulsallagh Complex SAC (000020), Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:CL001-007002 Fulacht fia, CL001-009 Ringfort – cashel, CL001-010 Ringfort – cashel, CL001-015 Cairn – unclassified, CL001-007001 House - 18th/19th century, CL001-006 Ringfort – cashel, CL001-003 Redundant record, CL001-002 Fulacht fia, CL001-002001 Kiln – lime, CL001-005 Fulacht fia Interactions with Unique landscape designations, Unique Landscape Sensitivity and Vulnerable Landscape Classification				
Fanore Beach	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Blackhead-Poulsallagh Complex SAC (000020), Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:CL001-001 Hut site Interactions with Unique landscape designations, Unique Landscape Sensitivity and Vulnerable Landscape Classification				
Doolin Pier (Embarkation Point for 98,99,100)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Blackhead-Poulsallagh Complex SAC (000020) and Cliffs of Moher SPA (004005) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:CL008A006 Habitation Site Interactions with Highly Sensitive landscape designations, Unique Landscape Sensitivity, Vulnerable Landscape Classification				

Cliffs of Moher	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Blackhead-Poulsallagh Complex SAC (000020) and Cliffs of Moher SPA (004005) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:CL014-003 Promontory Fort - Coastal Interactions with architectural designations: O'Briens Tower (20101408) Interactions with Highly Sensitive landscape designations, Unique Landscape Sensitivity, Vulnerable Landscape Classification				
Clahane	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with the Inagh River Estuary SAC (000036), Cliffs of Moher SPA (004005) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:CL022-002 Ringfort - Cashel Interactions with Highly Sensitive landscape designations, Special Landscape Sensitivity, Sensitive/Vulnerable Landscape Classification				
Lehinch Beach	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with the Inagh River Estuary SAC (000036), Cliffs of Moher SPA (004005) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Highly Sensitive landscape designations, Special Landscape Sensitivity, Sensitive/Vulnerable Landscape Classification				
Spanish Point	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands SAC (001021), Mid-Clare Coast SPA (004182) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Stellas Maris House (20403019), The Retreat House (20403025) Interactions with Special Landscape Sensitivity, Vulnerable Landscape Classification				
Doughmore Bay	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Carrowmore Dunes SAC (002250), Mid-Clare Coast SPA (004182) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Special Landscape Sensitivity and Vulnerable Landscape Classification				
Kilkee Cliffs	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Kilkee Reefs SAC (002264), Illaunonearaun SPA (004114) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:CL055-002 Promontory Fort - Coastal Interactions with Special Landscape Sensitivity, Vulnerable Landscape Classification				

Bridges of Ross	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), Loop Head SPA (004119) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Special Landscape Sensitivity, Vulnerable Landscape Classification				
Loop Head	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), Loop Head SPA (004119) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:CL071-001001 Promontory Fort-Coastal, CL071-001002 Standing Stone, CL071-002 Lighthouse, CL071-003 CL071-002 Both Redundant Records Interactions with Unique Landscape Sensitivity, Vulnerable Landscape Classification				
Carrigaholt Bay	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:CL065-100002 Gateway, CL065-100001 Castle Tower House, CL065-100003 Ritual Site – Holy Well Interactions with Special Landscape Sensitivity, Vulnerable-Sensitive Landscape Classification				
Kilrush Marina (Embarkation Point for 111)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Highly Sensitive landscape designation				
Cappagh Pier	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Highly Sensitive landscape designation				
Scattery Island				
Potential conflict with Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: CL067-024010 Church, CL067-024008 Church, CL067-024004 Graveyard, CL067-024006 Church, CL067-024007 Ritual site - holy well, CL067-024011 Church, CL067-024012 Graveyard, CL067-024018 Burnt mound, CL067-024024 Habitation site, CL067-024009 Castle - unclassified Interactions with Highly Sensitive landscape designation				
Killimer to Tarbert Ferry				
Potential conflict with Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Highly Sensitive landscape designation				
Killimer Port (Killimer to Tarbert Ferry)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	

Potential conflict with Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Highly Sensitive landscape designation				
Tarbert Port (Killimer to Tarbert Ferry)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:KE003-002 Battery Interactions with Highly Sensitive landscape designation				
Limerick				
Foynes Island Viewpoint	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with architectural designations: Shannon Foynes Port Company – Millers House (21829003)				
Kerry				
Carrigafoyle Castle	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:KE002-045 Castle – Tower, KE002-044 Enclosure, KE002-043001 Church, KE002-043002 Enclosure Interactions with architectural designations: Kilton Farm Yard Complex (21300207) Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Beale Strand	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Ballybunion Beach	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), Kerry Head SPA (004189) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM:KE004031005 Caste/Tower, KE004-031003 Souterrain, KE004-031001 Promontory Fort - Coastal Interactions with architectural designations: Church/Chapel (21400118) Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Ballyheigue Beach	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC (000332), Tralee Bay Complex SPA (004188) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				

Banna Strand	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC (000332), Tralee Bay Complex SPA (004188) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Fenit Beach (Embarkation Point for 119)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC (002070), Tralee Bay Complex SPA (004188) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Samphire Island				
Potential conflict with Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC (002070), Tralee Bay Complex SPA (004188) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Castlegregory Beach	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC (002070), Tralee Bay Complex SPA (004188) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Sròn Bhroin	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Mount Brandon SAC (000375), Dingle Peninsula SPA (004153) Natura 2000 site Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
An Chonair	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Mount Brandon SAC (000375), Dingle Peninsula SPA (004153) Natura 2000 site Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Ceann Sléibhe	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Blasket Islands SAC (002172), Dingle Peninsula SPA (004153) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: KE052-18802 Southerrain, KE052-188005, KE052-188006, KE052-188007, KE052-188008, KE052-189 Clochan, KE052-188003 Cross-slab, Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Radharc na mBlascaodaí	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Blasket Islands SAC (002172), Dingle Peninsula SPA (004153) Natura 2000 Site				

Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Cé Dhún Chaoin (Embarkation Point for 125)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Blasket Islands SAC (002172), Dingle Peninsula SPA (004153) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: KE052-019 Promontory Fort - Coastal Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
An Blascaod Mór	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Blasket Islands SAC (002172) and Blasket Islands SPA (004008) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: KE051-014 House - 18th/19th century, KE051-003 Hut site, KE051-009001 Hut site, KE051-009002 Hut site, KE051-006001 Clochan, KE051-006002 Clochan, KE051-005002 Clochan, KE051-005003 Clochan, KE051-002003 Children's burial ground, KE051-002 Redundant record, KE051-002001 Castle – unclassified, KE051-002002 Church, KE051-004 Ritual site - holy well, KE051-004001 Cross-inscribed stone, KE051-005 Cliff-edge fort, KE051-006 Clochan, KE051-008 Hut site, KE051-009 Hut site, KE051-005004 Hut site, KE051-005005 Souterrain, KE051-008001 Hut site, KE051-008002 Hut site, KE051-008003 Hut site, KE051-008004 Hut site, KE051-007 Hut site, KE051-012 House - 18th/19th century, KE051-013 House - 18th/19th century, KE051-005001 Cliff-edge fort, KE051-007001 Hut site, KE051-007002 Hut site, KE051-007004 Hut site, KE051-007005 Hut site, KE051-007006 Souterrain, KE051-008005 Hut site, KE051-008006 Hut site, KE051-007003 Hut site, KE051-015 Standing stone, KE051-016 Megalithic structure Interactions with architectural designations: Peig Sayer's House (21305101), An Dail House (21305103), The Kings House (21305106), House (21305104), Puicin Bui House (21305105), House 21305107, School (21305108) Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhoir	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Blasket Islands SAC (002172), Dingle Peninsula SPA (004153) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Cuan an Daingin (Embarkation Point for 125)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Mount Brandon SAC (000375), Dingle Peninsula SPA (004153) Natura 2000 site Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Inch Strand	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Castlemaine Harbour SAC (000343) Natura 2000 Sites Interactions with RPM:KE045-087 Ringfort-Rath Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Rossbeigh Strand	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	

Potential conflict with Castlemaine Harbour SAC (000343), Castlemaine Harbour SPA (004029) Natura 2000 Sites Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Mountain Stage	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC 000365, Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154) Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Bray Head	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (002262), Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154) Natura 2000 Sites Interactions with RPM: KE087-081 Anomalous Stone Group, KE087-028 Southerrain, KE087-082 Ritual Site-Holy Well Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Geokaun Mountain	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (002262), Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154) Natura 2000 Sites Interactions with RPM: KE078-021 Hut Site Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Portmagee Harbour (Embarkation Point for 131)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (002262), Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154) Natura 2000 Sites Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Sceilig Mhichíl	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (002262), Skelligs SPA (004007)Natura 2000 Sites Interactions with RPM: KE104A001069 Cross, KE104A001075 Cross, KE104A001024 Cross-slab, KE104A001023 Cross, KE104A001018 Cross, KE104A001084 Cross, KE104A001085 Cross, KE104A001086 Cross-slab KE104A001022 Steps, KE104A001025 Cross-inscribed stone, KE104A001026 Hut site KE104A001028 Cross, KE104A001041 Cross-slab, KE104A001089 Cross, KE104A001095 Cross, KE104A001096Cross, KE104A001097 Cross, KE104A001087 Cross, KE104A001088 Cross, KE104A001090 Cross, KE104A001091 Cross, KE104A001092 Cross, KE104A001093 Cross, KE104A001094 Cross, KE104A001029 Structure, KE104A001030 Enclosure, KE104A001031 Building, KE104A001032 Clochan, KE104A001033 Clochan, KE104A001035 Clochan KE104A001036 Clochan, KE104A001037 Clochan, KE104A001038 Clochan, KE104A001040 Church, KE104A001039 Church, KE104A001042 Church, KE104A001 Redundant record, KE104A001006 Cistern, KE104A001007 Steps, KE104A001009 Road - road/trackway, KE104A001010 Terrace, KE104A001012 Cross, KE104A001013 Enclosure, KE104A001014 Road - road/trackway KE104A001015 Cross, KE104A001017 Steps, KE104A001020 Platform, KE104A001046 Leacht KE104A001047 Leacht, KE104A001050 Leacht, KE104A001051 Latrine, KE104A001053 Leacht KE104A001055 Cistern, KE104A001058 Cistern, KE104A001059 Cistern, KE104A001062 Platform KE104A001034Cross, KE104A001043 Inscribed stone, KE104A001044 Cross, KE104A001019 Cross KE104A001048 Cross, KE104A001049 Cross-slab, KE104A001056 Cross, KE104A001057 Cross KE104A001060 Cross, KE104A001061 Cross-slab, KE104A001063 Redundant record KE104A001066 Clochan, KE104A002 Redundant record, KE104A001115 Cross KE104A001116 Cross, KE104A001114 Cross, KE104A001104 Burial ground, KE104A001098, Cross-slab, KE104A001099 Cross, KE104A001106 Cross-slab, KE104A001107 Cistern, KE104A001103 Structure, KE104A001102 Terrace, KE104A001108 Cross, KE104A001101 Cross-slab, KE104A001027 Cross, KE104A001109 Cross-slab, KE104A001110 Terrace, KE104A001111 Steps, KE104A001112 Cross, KE104A001113 Cross, KE104A001117 Cross-inscribed stone,				

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KE104A001118 Cross, KE104A001100 Cross, KE104A001119 Cross, KE104A001120 Cross, KE104A001121 Cross, KE104A001122 Cross, KE104A001123 Cross, KE104A001124 Cross, KE104A001125 Cross, KE104A001126 Cross, KE104A001128 Cross, KE104A001129 Cross, KE104A001130 Cross, KE104A001131 Cross, KE104A001132 Cross, KE104A001133 Cross, KE104A001134 Cross, KE104A001135 Cross, KE104A001136 Cross-slab, KE104A001137 Cross, KE104A001138 Cross, KE104A001139 Cross, KE104A001141 Cross, KE104A001142 Cross, KE104A001145 Cross, KE104A001147 Cross, KE104A001148 Cross, KE104A001152 Cross, KE104A001154 Cross, KE104A001143 Cross, KE104A001160 Metalworking site, KE104A001158 Leacht, KE104A001021 Cross-slab, KE104A001045 Cross, KE104A001001 Church, KE104A001002 Shrine, KE104A001003 Leacht, KE104A001004 Cross-slab, KE104A001005 Cistern, KE104A001008 Standing stone, KE104A001011 Terrace, KE104A001016 Terrace, KE104A001052 Cross, KE104A001054 Cross, KE104A001064 Cross, KE104A001065 Cross, KE104A001105 Terrace, KE104A001067 Cross, KE104A001068 Cross, KE104A001070 Cross, KE104A001071 Cross, KE104A001072 Cross, KE104A001073 Cross, KE104A001074 Cross, KE104A001076 Cross, KE104A001077 Cross, KE104A001078 Cross, KE104A001079 Cross, KE104A001080 Cross, KE104A001081 Cross, KE104A001082 Cross, KE104A001083 Cross, KE104A001161 Terrace, KE104A001162 Church, KE104A001163 Terrace Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Kerry Cliffs	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (002262), Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154) Natura 2000 Sites Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Coomanaspic	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (002262), Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154) Natura 2000 Sites Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Cé Bhaile an Sceilg (Embarkation Point for 131)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary (000335), Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154) Natura 2000 Sites Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Bá na Scealg	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary (000335), Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154) Natura 2000 Sites Interactions with RPM: KE097-034001 Fish Palace, KE097-034 Castle-Tower House Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Com an Chiste	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC 000365, Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Cé Bhun an Bhaile (Embarkation Point for 131)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	

Potential conflict with Kenmare River SAC (002158), Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Teach Dhoire Fhionáin	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Kenmare River SAC (002158), Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with RPM: KE106-122, KE106-073001 Southerrain, KE106-074 Country House, KE106-073 Interactions with architectural designations: Derrynane Abbey Gatelodge (21310602), Summerhouse (21310603), Country House (21310601) Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Kilmakilloge	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Kenmare River SAC (002158), Beara Peninsula SPA (004155) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with Sensitive Landscape Area				
Cork				
Kenmare River View	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Kenmare River SAC (002158), Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154) Natura 2000 Site Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Dooneen	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Kenmare River SAC (002158), Beara Peninsula SPA (004155) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with RPM:CO114-022004 Promontory Fort – Coastal, CO114-022001 Industrial Chimney, CO114-022002 Mining Complex Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Garinish Point (Embarkation Point for 139)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Kenmare River SAC (002158), Beara Peninsula SPA (004155) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Durseley Island	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Kenmare River SAC (002158), Beara Peninsula SPA (004155) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				

Gour	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Kenmare River SAC (002158), Beara Peninsula SPA (004155) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Castletownbere Harbour (Embarkation Point for 141)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Kenmare River SAC (002158), Beara Peninsula SPA (004155) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with architectural designations: Issie's (House) (20835015), House (20835016), House (20835017), House (20835018) Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Pontoon Pier (Embarkation Point for 141)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Glanmore Bog SAC (001879), Beara Peninsula SPA (004155) Natura 2000 site Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Bere Island (west end pier)	PHH1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Beara Peninsula SPA (004155) Natura 2000 site Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Bere Island (east end pier)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Sheep's Head SAC (000102), Beara Peninsula SPA (004155) Natura 2000 site Interactions with architectural designations: Boathouse (20912831) Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Whiddy Island View	PHH1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Glengarriff Harbour (Embarkation Point for 143)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Kenmare River SAC (002158), Killarney National Park (004038) Natura 2000 site Interactions with architectural designations: Office (20910410) Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				

Blue Pool (Embarkation Point for 143)				
Potential conflict with Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC (000090), Beara Peninsula SPA (004155) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with RPM: CO104-002 Midden, CO104-038001 Midden, CO104-038002 Midden, CO104-039 Midden, Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Garinish Island				
Potential conflict with Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC (000090), Beara Peninsula SPA (004155) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Bantry Harbour (Embarkation Point for 144)	PHH1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC (000090), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 site Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Whiddy Island	PHH1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Caha Mountains SAC (000093), Beara Peninsula SPA (004155) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Seefin Viewpoint	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Sheep's Head SAC (000102), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 site Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Sheep's Head	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Sheep's Head SAC (000102), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 site Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Altar	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC (001040), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 site Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Barley Cove	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC (001040), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 site Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				

Mizen Head	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC (000109), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with architectural designations: Mizen Head Signal Tower (20915203), Lighthouse Keeper's House (20915205), Lighthouse Keeper's House (20915206), Building (20915207) Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Schull Harbour (Embarkation Point for 150,151,152)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Roaring Bay and Islands SAC (000101), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Colla Pier (Embarkation Point for 150a)				
Potential conflict with Roaring Bay and Islands SAC (000101), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Cape Clear Island	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Roaring Bay and Islands SAC (000101), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with RPM: Church CO153-017002, Ritual Site – Holy Well CO153-018002, Cross-slab CO153-018001 Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Long Island				
Potential conflict with Roaring Bay and Islands SAC (000101), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Sherkin Island	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Roaring Bay and Islands SAC (000101), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with RPM: Promontory Fort – Coastal CO149-018001, Bawn CO149-018003 Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Heir Island	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Roaring Bay and Islands SAC (000101), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Cunnamore Pier (Embarkation Point for 152)				
Potential conflict with Roaring Bay and Islands SAC (000101), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				

Baltimore Harbour (Embarkation Point for 150,151,152)	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Roaring Bay and Islands SAC (000101), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with RPM: Ritual Site – Holy Well CO150-036001 Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Inishbeg	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs (000097), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with RPM: Enéasure CO141-114 Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Lough Hyne	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs (000097), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with architectural designations: Quay/Wharf 20915011 Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Toe Head Bay	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs (000097), Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA (004156) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Galley Head	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Kilkieran Lake and Castlefreke Dunes SAC (001061), Galley Head to Duneen Point SPA (004190) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Inchydoney Beach	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Clonakilty Bay SAC (000091), Clonakilty Bay SPA (004081) Natura 2000 sites Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Timoleague Abbey	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1	
Potential conflict with Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC (001230), Courtmacsherry Bay SPA (004219) Natura 2000 sites				

Interactions with RPM: House - Franciscan Friars CO123-050002, Graveyard CO123-050001, Ballaun Stone CO123-050003				
Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				
Old Head of Kinsale	PHH1 B1 B2 B3 L1		C1 M1 M2 M3 PHH2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	
Potential conflict with Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC (001230), Old Head of Kinsale SPA (004021) Natura 2000 site				
Interactions with RPM: Signal Tower CO137-008				
Interactions with architectural designations: Signal Tower (20913706)				
Interactions with Nationally Important, and Very High Value landscape designations				