

NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT

IN SUPPORT OF THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

FOR THE ANCIENT DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN *

*THE "ANCIENT DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN" WAS REFERRED TO AS THE "DRAFT ANCIENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN" DURING EARLIER CONSULTATIONS AND WITHIN EARLIER DOCUMENTS AND NOTICES. IT WAS DECIDED TO CHANGE THE TITLE OF THE PLAN TO THE "ANCIENT DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN" BEFORE IT WAS FINALISED. THIS CHANGE IS LIMITED TO THE TITLE AND WOULD NOT HAVE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTIONS.

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Statement has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Ancient Destination Development Plan (DDP) in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

The "Ancient Destination Development Plan" was referred to as the "Draft Ancient Visitor Experience Development Plan" during earlier consultations and within earlier documents and notices. It was decided to change the title of the Plan to the "Ancient Destination Development Plan" before it was finalised. This change is limited to the title and would not have any environmental interactions.

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

1.2 Legislative Context

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

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

1.3 Approach

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

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

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

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

Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

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

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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

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

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

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor¹ model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

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

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

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

¹ Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works; Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European sites.

Section 2 Description of the Plan

The Ancient Destination Development Plan is a five-year destination development plan. It is designed to be a roadmap for enhancing the existing Ancient visitor proposition to achieve the objectives of addressing seasonality, increasing visitor numbers, improving dwell time and visitor dispersion across the destination.

The DDP provides a destination wide tourism development focus, harnessing existing plans and examining new projects to create a world class destination, using Ancient as the core theme. The DDP seeks to capture these projects within one plan and maximise their potential.

The target outputs from the DDP include a reduction in seasonality, increase visitor spend and a growth in visitor bednights, employment and visitor dispersion. In addition to the core economic performance measurements, the DDP is designed to address the following objectives:

1. Ensure visitor experience consistency across the Ancient destination in visitor experience delivery and throughout all phases of the visitor journey from pre visit to post visit.
2. Address existing destination 'bottlenecks' to tourism growth.
3. Promote tourism vibrancy within the destination through visitor dispersion across a range of Ancient Experience clusters.
4. Realise the value of the core assets within Ancient, including Destination Towns, natural assets and visitor attractions to deliver sustained growth.
5. Engage the visitor with fascinating stories of Ancient in a UNESCO World Heritage area, delivered through best in class immersive experiences and activities.
6. Create the world's most immersive and experiential ancient heritage route linking all strategic development pillars.
7. Become Ireland's food heritage destination told through immersive visitor food experiences telling the Ancient story.
8. Create iconic experiences through iconic visitor attractions and associated experiences within the destination.
9. Address the challenges of evening economy provision.
10. Work with the tourism industry to improve their capacity to deliver new and enhanced experiences.
11. Protect, sustain and enhance the natural environment of the Plan area

In order to achieve the strategic objectives of the DDP, the development framework is structured under **two headings**:

- **The Ancient Routes** (World's leading experiential ancient routes)
- **The Ancient Senses** (Bringing the stories alive through active and cultural immersion in the stories of Ancient).

Three interdependent layers of activity are identified under each heading:

A. Achieving the 'Big Ideas' through Catalyst Projects (Transformational)

There are **two Catalyst Projects** under the Ancient Routes:

1. Re-imagining of the Boyne Valley Drive; and
2. The Boyne Greenway and Navigation.

And **two Catalyst Projects** under the Ancient Senses:

3. Bringing the stories alive, Ancient Alive; and
4. The Irish Food Story.

B. Strategic Development Pillars – that create the conditions for experience development

There are **four Strategic Development Pillars** with associated goals under the Catalyst Projects as follow (each goal has a number of objectives that are identified in the DDP):

- i. **Unlocking the Heritage Assets** - Develop the portfolio of accessible Ancient heritage assets to deliver best in class visitor experiences befitting an area with UNESCO World Heritage status. It will capitalise on the potential of existing sites while expanding the experience capacity of supporting sites to create the world's most experiential trail of Ancient experiences.
- ii. **Reveal the Natural Assets** - The creation a necklace of visitor experiences linking the heritage story through the natural assets of the area e.g. River Boyne, integrating the broader geographic area from Drogheda to Carbury, to Monaghan and Cavan. It will create a focal point for visitors to engage with the ancient story through immersive experiences in the ancient land and waterscapes.
- iii. **Introduce the Legends** - Build on the intrigue of the local stories, myths and legends, integrating these tales with the delivery of experiences linked to Ancient through activities and sectors such as food and agri-tourism. Provide the

industry with an easily accessible narrative and focus for experience development adopting the Ancient legends and stories.

- iv. **Develop the Industry Base** - Support the development of the tourism industry to enhance their delivery of experiences across all stages of the visitor journey and advance the tourism capacity of key towns to deliver a consistent and quality experience to the international visitor.

C. Elevation Projects - enablers

Three Elevation Projects are identified that are designed to focus on industry capacity development, industry collaboration and developing motivational visitor experiences that will leverage assets in the Plan area:

1. An **Industry Ancient Experience Development Programme** will be designed to develop the structures to 'incubate' the tourism industry with a particular focus on product providers with significant growth potential. The programme will also work with the local tourism industry to create new saleable experiences relevant to the Ancient themes while enhancing their ability to scale their business, aligned with the objectives of the Programme.
2. **Experience Innovation Clusters** – the geography of the ADDP predominantly aligns with the River Boyne and a number of natural clusters are formed through the existence of key destination hubs along the river route. A number of clusters are proposed. Central to each cluster area is the location of the destination towns currently in development supported by towns that can emerge as cluster hubs. This targeted cluster focus will also support the industry capacity building process with key alignment with cluster themes.
3. **Partnering with the OPW** - central to the Ancient theme and contributing to the success of the Ancient DDP is the wide portfolio of OPW managed sites. The existence of the strategic partnership between Fáilte Ireland and OPW provides a communications channel to ensure future projects align with each stakeholder's operational remit and ensure a sustainable approach to delivering the Ancient story.

The DDP includes an action plan that identifies a list of actions relating to all proposed projects and Strategic Pillars. The action plan identifies the following 29 numbered projects

- Project 1 - Brú na Bóinne
- Project 2 - Loughcrew Cairns
- Project 3 - Trim Castle
- Project 4 - King John's Castle Carlingford
- Project 5 - Ardee Castle
- Project 6 - Boyne Valley Drive
- Project 7 - Hill of Tara
- Project 8 - Boyne Greenway and Navigation
- Project 9 - Integrated Ancient Trails
- Project 10 - Reconnecting to the River Boyne
- Project 11 - Greenways & Blueways Development
- Project 12 - Experience Innovation Cluster - Ancient Activity Experience Development
- Project 13 - Experience Innovation Cluster - Food & Drink Experience Development
- Project 14 - Experience Innovation Cluster - Ancient Culture & Creative
- Project 15 - Puca - Halloween Festival
- Project 16 - Living History
- Project 17 - Destination Imagery
- Project 18 - Accommodation Capacity Growth
- Project 19 - Evening Economy
- Project 20 - Ancient Experience Industry Development Programme
- Project 21 - Tourism Destination Town – Drogheda
- Project 22 - Tourism Destination Town – Trim
- Project 23 - Tourism Destination Towns
- Project 24 - Developing Navan as a tourism base
- Project 25 - Slane Experience Innovation Cluster
- Project 26 - Develop Carlingford as a tourism hub
- Project 27 - Develop Dundalk as a tourism hub
- Project 28 - Monaghan / Cavan Clusters
- Project 29 - Supporting Our Tourism Partners (23 tourism partners are identified)

Various Guiding Principles for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism have been integrated into the Plan.

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

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

In order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance² with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

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

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the next 22 years. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSEs for the Eastern & Midlands and Northern & Western Regions (the Plan area is located within both of these RSEs Regions) sets out objectives relating tourism development, that have been subject to environmental assessment, including those relating to: enhancing provision of tourism and leisure amenity; promoting tourism activity; developing a road network and public transport services, facilitating improved visitor access and longer dwell times; developing walking and cycling trails, opening greater accessibility to the marine and countryside environment by sustainable modes; and facilitating appropriate tourism development, including that relating to greenways, blueways and peatlands. When adopted, the RSEs will inform the review of existing, assessed lower-tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans, which already include various provisions relating to land use, tourism and infrastructure. Such reviews will also be subject to environmental assessments.

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

² Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

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

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

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat³ or species⁴ at that site have been considered.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European sites

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

Details of European sites that occur within 15 km of the DDP is listed in Table 3.1. European sites and EPA Rivers and Catchments are also mapped in Figure 3.1 below. Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) has been considered by both the AA screening assessment (provided under this section) and Stage 2 AA (provided under Section 4). Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the various NPWS/ Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht documents Conservation Objectives available at www.npws.ie (the most recent version of these documents used by the assessment are those that were available on 9 December 2019).

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

³ Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

⁴ The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

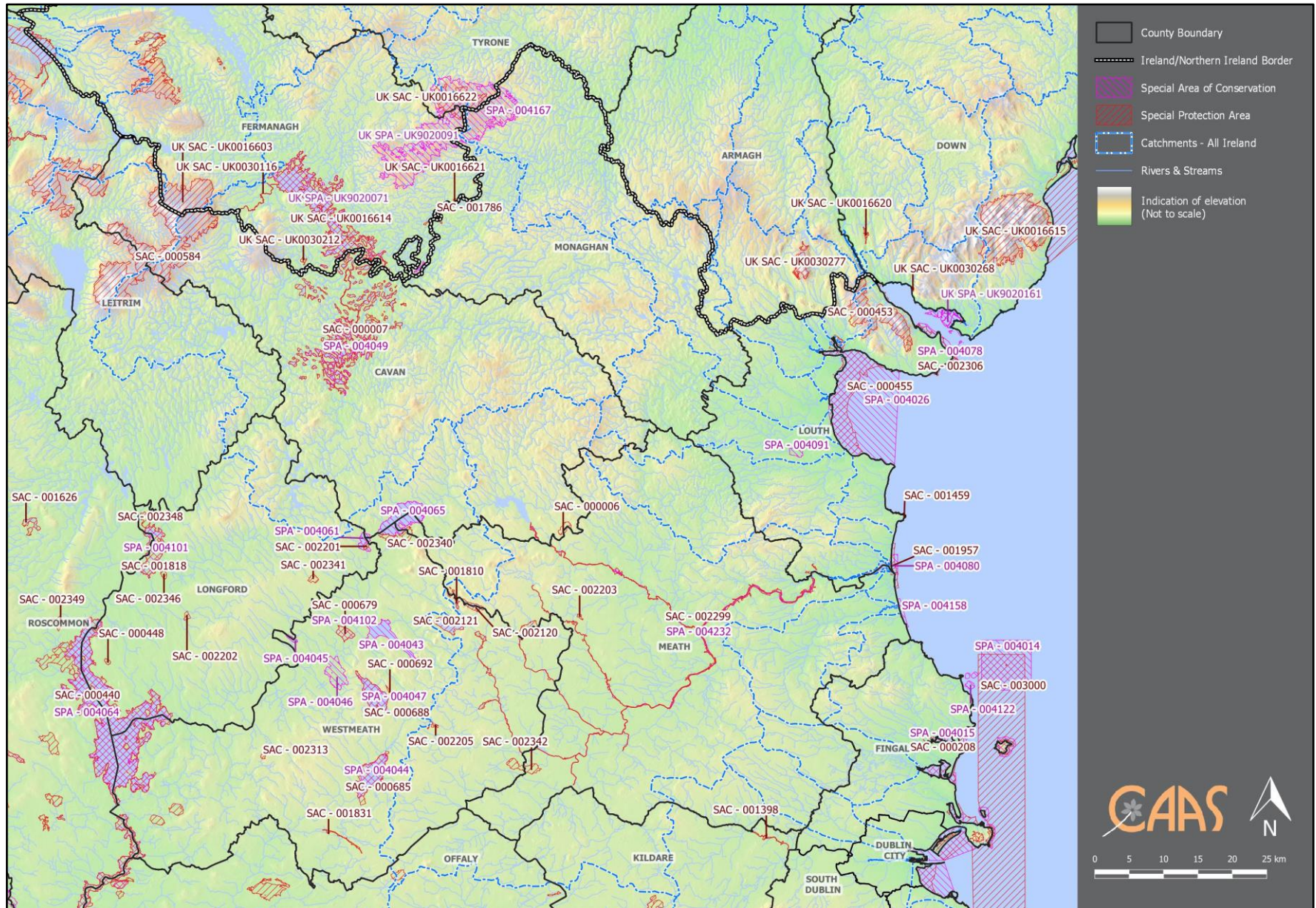


Figure 3.1 European sites within 15km of the DDP boundary⁵

⁵ Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded November 2019)
CAAS for Fáilte Ireland

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

3.3.1 Is the DDP Necessary to the Management of European sites?

The overarching objective of the DDP is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to support the ongoing tourism development of the Ancient area, evolving from visitor attraction to a year-round tourism destination. Therefore, the DDP is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites.

3.3.2 Elements of the DDP with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

The Ancient Destination Development Plan is a five-year destination development plan. It is designed to be a roadmap for enhancing the existing Ancient visitor proposition to achieve the objectives of addressing seasonality, increasing visitor numbers, improving dwell time and visitor dispersion across the destination.

The Plan provides a destination wide tourism development focus, harnessing existing plans and examining new projects to create a world class destination, using Ancient as the core theme. The Plan seeks to capture these projects within one plan and maximise their potential.

The target outputs from the Plan include a reduction in seasonality, increase visitor spend and a growth in visitor bednights, employment and visitor dispersion. In addition to the core economic performance measurements, the Plan is designed to address the following objectives:

1. Ensure visitor experience consistency across the Ancient destination in visitor experience delivery and throughout all phases of the visitor journey from pre visit to post visit.
2. Address existing destination 'bottlenecks' to tourism growth.
3. Promote tourism vibrancy within the destination through visitor dispersion across a range of Ancient Experience clusters.
4. Realise the value of the core assets within Ancient, including Destination Towns, natural assets and visitor attractions to deliver sustained growth.
5. Engage the visitor with fascinating stories of Ancient in a UNESCO World Heritage area, delivered through best in class immersive experiences and activities.
6. Create the world's most immersive and experiential ancient heritage route linking all strategic development pillars.
7. Become Ireland's food heritage destination told through immersive visitor food experiences telling the Ancient story.
8. Create iconic experiences through iconic visitor attractions and associated experiences within the destination.
9. Address the challenges of evening economy provision.
10. Work with the tourism industry to improve their capacity to deliver new and enhanced experiences.

The Plan identifies four Strategic Development Pillars with associated goals, objectives and actions (relating to 29 numbered tourism projects). Various Guiding Principles for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism have been integrated into the Plan.

New or intensified land uses and/or activities could lead to increased visitor numbers, an increased dwell time and a broader seasonal spread each have the potential to encourage visitors to unmanaged or mismanaged European sites that may be vulnerable to increased recreational activity and amenity use has the potential to encouraged visitors to these sites and introduce effects. The nature and scale of these effects vary depending on the nature of the tourist enterprise and the location of their operation.

Increased levels of tourism may lead to development such as renovation work to existing structures or construction of new infrastructure such as carparks etc. However, the Plan does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent. In order to be realised, projects included in the Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Plan is not part and does not contribute towards.

Increased visitor numbers to the Ancient area will also influence capacities associated with waste water and drinking water services.

3.3.3 Characterising Visitor Interactions at Tourist Destinations

Fáilte Ireland regularly engages with environmental research that is used to make informed management decisions and produce robust guidelines to facilitate the protection of the environment. From its inception in 2014, the Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) Operational Programme Monitoring Programme (undertaken to date by CAAS on behalf of Fáilte Ireland guided by relevant stakeholders) has been conducting research into the impacts of tourism on the receiving environment. To date the surveys have covered 57 sites and monitored the activities and effects of over 20,000 visitors to WAW discovery points.

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

This research characterises visitor movements at each site while examining the ecological features and sensitives present. A detailed assessment of the site facilities and management actions on site is also undertaken. From this data, impacts to ecological features are quantified in a systematic way and management recommendations are made. Over the 5 years of the monitoring, the data has shown that visitors themselves cause low level effects, and high-level effects are predominantly caused by the mismanagement of sites. As well as the site-specific data being collected, the monitoring program collates and interprets existing national environmental indicator data compiling the results into annual macro monitoring reports. The WAW monitoring research is guided by an independent working group which steers the research and develops the program as the data is collected. This working group comprises of members from the EPA, NPWS, the Environmental Pillar and a representative from each of the County Councils along the WAW.

Each year the results are refined and published online in the form of Visitor Observation Reports, Ecological Impact Reports and the Macro Monitoring Reports. The reports are then dissected and detailed reports containing all relevant site-specific information are sent to each of the County Councils along the WAW; as well as any site management teams at sites not under the management of the County Council. This ensures that the research can be harnessed on site by those responsible while contributing towards informed management plans and guidelines created by Fáilte.

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

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

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

3.3.4 Screening of Sites

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

- Where it can be shown that there are significant pathways such as hydrological links DDP proposals and the site to be screened;
- Where the site is located at such a distance from that area to which the DDP relates that effects are not foreseen; and
- Where it is that known threats or vulnerabilities at a site cannot be linked to potential impacts that may arise from the DDP.

Table 3.1 Screening of European sites within 15km of the DDP boundary

Site Name	Site Code	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
002341	Ardagullion Bog SAC	0	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	<p>There are no site-specific threats identified in the standard data form by the NPWS.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	0	Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]	<p>Forestry, agriculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, and hunting/poaching are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
001957	Boyne Coast And Estuary SAC	0	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	<p>Urbanisation, invasive species, human disturbance from recreational pressures particularly nautical activities, storm damage, succession processes, bridge works, and coastal defence works are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, interactions with marine trophic structure, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; 	Yes	Yes

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>		
004080	Boyne Estuary SPA	0	<p>Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>Urbanisation, recreational pressures particularly golf courses and horse riding/walking, coastal defence works, hydrological interactions and invasive species are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
002346	Brown Bog SAC	0	<p>Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]</p>	<p>There are few land uses associated with this site. There are no high bog drains and only two sets of marginal drains are present in the cutover to the north-west. At present there is no active peat-cutting on the site. A large area of cutover to the east of the site has been recently afforested with Sitka Spruce (<i>Picea sitchensis</i>). The majority of the bog has not been burnt for some time, although recent localised burning has taken place along the southern margin. Overall there has been little damage to this bog, with only small areas of cutover present. Most of the extent of the original peat basin appears to be remaining. However, peat-cutting and burning are the two main threats to the site.</p> <p>Drainage and human interactions with hydrological conditions are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use management, interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes

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004078 & UK90201 61	Carlingford Lough SPA	0	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<p>Marine and freshwater aquaculture are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
000453	Carlingford Mountain SAC	0	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Alkaline fens [7230] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]	<p>Agriculture, invasive species, trampling/overuse, sports and leisure activities/structures, human disturbances, communication masts, infilling, hydrological interaction, fires and forestry are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, drainage, fire management, substrate stability, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
002306	Carlingford Shore SAC	0	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	<p>The principal activities in the site are recreational usage and shellfish production. Much of the area around the mean low water mark (MLWM) between Carlingford Harbour and Greenore is under production of oyster, and to a lesser extent, clams. The principal threat to the shoreline habitats is further commercial development, either for shellfish or tourism. Coastal defence works is also a threat to the shoreline. Aquaculture occurs in Carlingford Lough and may have negative impacts on the wintering bird populations.</p> <p>Fisheries activities including the use of drift nets, hunting, marine or freshwater aquaculture, hydrological interactions trampling/overuse, sports and leisure activities/structures, and human disturbances are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; 	Yes	Yes

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>		
001459	Clogher Head SAC	0	<p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]</p>	<p>Urbanisation, agriculture, invasive species and transport infrastructure specifically paths tracks and trails are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
002348	Clooneen Bog SAC	0	<p>Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Bog woodland [91D0]</p>	<p>Current land use on the site consists of mechanised peat-cutting to the north-west and south-west of the high bog. Some areas of cutover have been reclaimed for agriculture to the south-east and there are small conifer plantations to the east. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include drainage and burning. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site and pose a continuing threat to its viability. The bog is generally Sphagnum-poor due to burning, but regeneration is taking place.</p> <p>Agriculture and turf cutting are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use management, interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
002201	Derragh Bog SAC	0	<p>Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Bog woodland [91D0]</p>	<p>Invasive species, fire regime and human induced changes in hydraulic conditions are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use management, interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of</p>	Yes	Yes

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			<p>visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>			
000455	Dundalk Bay SAC	0	<p>Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p>	<p>Hydrological interactions, urbanisation, invasive species, trampling/overuse, sports and leisure activities/structures, human disturbances, communication masts, infilling, hydrological interaction, fires and forestry are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, drainage, substrate stability, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	0	<p>Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182]</p>	<p>Transport infrastructure, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, agriculture, urbanisation, changes to hydrological condition and invasive species are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes

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			Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			
000679	Garriskil Bog SAC	0	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	<p>Turf cutting, invasive species, agriculture, as well as interactions with ground and surface water are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
ES	Garriskil Bog SPA	0	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	<p>Turf cutting, invasive species, agriculture, as well as interactions with ground and surface water are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
002203	Girley (Drewstown) Bog SAC	0	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	<p>Current landuse on the site consists of conservation management with the removal of conifer plantations and the blocking of the drainage associated with these plantations, both on the high bog and on the cutover. However, active drains are still present on the northern and eastern boundaries of the SAC which are adversely impacting on its restoration and need to be blocked in consultation with other stakeholders. In addition, there have been fires on the adjacent bog and within the SAC causing some damage to the recovering vegetation. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. There is also some dumping around the site.</p> <p>Invasive species, fire regime and human induced changes in hydraulic conditions are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and 	Yes	Yes

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>		
004045	Glen Lough SPA	0	Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]	<p>Agriculture and forestry are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance of wildlife; Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; Removal and throwing of large rocks; and Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
000006	Killyconny Bog (Cloghbally) SAC	0	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	<p>Fencing, off road motorised driving, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, vandalism, hunting, forestry, agriculture, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, waste/litter, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, as well as mining/quarrying are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
001786	Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC	0	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chari spp. [3140] Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	<p>Urbanisation, agriculture, invasive species, sports and leisure structures, and hydrological interactions are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, hydrological interactions, ground water interactions, community composition, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; Disturbance of wildlife; Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; 	Yes	Yes

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>		
002120	Lough Bane And Lough Glass SAC	0	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	<p>Agriculture is the main threat or pressure identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, hydrological interactions, ground water interactions, community composition, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
004043	Lough Derravaragh SPA	0	Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<p>Forestry, agriculture, fisheries activities (demersal longlining) and hunting are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
000685	Lough Ennell SAC	0	Alkaline fens [7230]	<p>Agriculture, forestry, noise, recreational activities, pollution through surface water or groundwater, dumping, drainage and transport infrastructure are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater,</p>	Yes	Yes

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				<p>inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>		
004044	Lough Ennell SPA	0	Alkaline fens [7230]	<p>Agriculture, forestry, noise, recreational activities, pollution through surface water or groundwater, dumping, drainage and transport infrastructure are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	0	<p>Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation [3150] Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</p>	<p>The raised bogs are vulnerable to water loss from peat-cutting and drainage, though ongoing restoration work involving blocking of drains is occurring. There are no known threats to the wintering birds though the increased use of the River Shannon system by leisure craft could cause disturbance.</p> <p>Agriculture, invasive species, hunting, fisheries activities and groundwater interactions are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, hydrological interactions, groundwater interactions, direct land use management, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p>	Yes	Yes

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004046	Lough Iron SPA	0	<p>Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p> <p>Agriculture and forestry are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
004061	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA	0	<p>Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p> <p>Agriculture, fisheries activities (bottom culture) and forestry are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
002121	Lough Lene SAC	0	<p>Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]</p>	<p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p> <p>Agriculture, surface water pollution and transport infrastructure paths, tracks, cycling tracks are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, hydrological interactions, community composition, direct land use management, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p>	Yes	Yes

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000007	Lough Oughter And Associated Loughs SAC	0	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation [3150] Bog woodland [91D0] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	<p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p> <p>The main threats to the quality of the site are water polluting activities (such as runoff from fertiliser and slurry application, and sewage discharge) which have raised the nutrient status of some lakes to hypertrophic. Housing and boating developments are on the increase, both adjacent to and within the site. There is also significant fishing and shooting pressure on and around the lakes. Increased afforestation has resulted in some loss of wetland habitat and also loss of feeding ground for wintering birds such as Greenland White-fronted Goose.</p> <p>Urbanisation, invasive species, hydrological interactions, agriculture, forestry, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, and flooding/rising precipitation are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, hydrological interactions, direct land use management, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
004049	Lough Oughter SPA	0	Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<p>Agriculture, forestry, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, hunting and fishing are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
000688	Lough Owel SAC	0	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	<p>Potential threats to the conservation interest of Lough Owel include the increasing level of water supply to Mullingar, overfishing, eutrophication caused by local farming practices and pressure from amenity uses such as boating and fishing.</p> <p>Agriculture, noise, recreational activities, pollution through surface water or groundwater, dumping, drainage and transport infrastructure paths, tracks, cycling tracks are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>	Yes	Yes

				<p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, hydrological interactions, groundwater interactions, community composition, direct land use management, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>		
004047	Lough Owel SPA	0	Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<p>Agriculture, forestry and human induced changes in hydraulic conditions are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
004065	Lough Sheelin SPA	0	Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<p>Agriculture, forestry and leisure fishing are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
002340	Moneybeg And Clareisland Bogs SAC	0	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	<p>Land use at Moneybeg Bog includes active peat-cutting to the east and west and forestry along the western margin. Current land use at Clareisland Bog includes peat-cutting to the west and north-west of the high bog and forestry along the southern margin. Damaging activities</p>	Yes	Yes

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			Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	<p>associated with these land uses include drainage and burning. Drainage has occurred on these high bogs in the past and at Moneybeg Bog there is evidence of recent and frequent burning of the high bog. These activities have resulted in habitat loss and damage to the hydrological status, and pose a continuing threat to the viability of these high bogs.</p> <p>Agriculture, invasive species, extraction, road infrastructure, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, urbanisation, fire and drainage issues are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>		
002342	Mount Hevey Bog SAC	0	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	<p>Current land use on the site consists of limited mechanised peat-cutting, mostly on the eastern end of the high bog. There are areas of old peat cuttings all around the site with some very old abandoned regenerating cutover along the edge of the railway. The area to the east of the site has been afforested. Areas of cutover have been reclaimed for agricultural purposes. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include drainage throughout the site (both old and recent) and burning of the high bog. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability.</p> <p>Agriculture, invasive species, extraction, road infrastructure, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, urbanisation, fire and drainage issues are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
002202	Mount Jessop Bog SAC	0	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Bog woodland [91D0]	<p>Mount Jessop Bog SAC occurs within the larger raised bog system that is designated as Mount Jessop Bog NHA (001450). It is situated 5 km south-west of Longford Town in the townland of Mount Jessop, Co. Longford. The site is part of a basin raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The site is bordered by open high bog on its northern and western sides and by agricultural land on its eastern side and southern side. The underlying geology is carboniferous limestone.</p>	Yes	Yes

				<p>Invasive species, human induced change to hydrological condition/characteristics and burning are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, direct land use management, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>		
002299	River Boyne And River Blackwater SAC	0	<p>Alkaline fens [7230] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p>	<p>Fishing is a main tourist attraction on the Boyne and Blackwater and there are a number of Angler Associations, some with a number of beats. Fishing stands and styles have been erected in places. The Eastern Regional Fishery Board have erected fencing along selected stretches of the river as part of their salmonid enhancement programme. Parts of the river system have been arterially dredged. In 1969 an arterial dredging scheme commenced and disrupted angling for 18 years. The dredging altered the character of the river completely and resulted in many areas in very high banks. The main channel from Drogheda upstream to Navan was left untouched, as were a few stretches on the Blackwater. Ongoing maintenance dredging is carried out along stretches of the river system where the gradient is low. This is extremely destructive to salmonid habitat in the area. Drainage of the adjacent river systems also impacts on the many small wetland areas throughout the site. The River Boyne is a designated Salmonid Water under the E.U. Freshwater Fish Directive.</p> <p>Urbanisation, invasive species, hydrological interactions, agriculture, forestry, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, and flooding/rising precipitation are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, dredging, hydrological interactions, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes

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004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	0	Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) [A229]	<p>Urbanisation, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, transport infrastructure and human induced changes in hydraulic conditions are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
004158	River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA	0	Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<p>Urbanisation, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
000692	Scragh Bog SAC	0	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> (Slender Green Feather-moss) [1393]	<p>Agriculture, pollution through surface water or groundwater, and transport infrastructure paths, tracks, cycling tracks are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
004167	Slieve Beagh SPA	0	Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]	<p>Peat extraction, paths, tracks, cycling tracks and road infrastructure are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>	Yes	Yes

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				<p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>		
004091	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA	0	Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043]	<p>Agriculture and paths, tracks, cycling tracks are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
001810	White Lough, Ben Loughs And Lough Doo SAC	0	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	<p>Agriculture, recreational activities, trapping/poisoning/poaching, infilling of drainage ditches, and urbanisation are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, hydrological interactions, community composition, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
002205	Wooddown Bog SAC	0	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	<p>Current landuse on the site consists of conservation management with the removal of conifer plantations and the blocking of drainage associated with these plantations, both on the high bog and on the cutover. This work was undertaken as part of the Coillte E.U. Life Project Demonstrating Best Practice in Raised Bog Restoration in Ireland. Active peat-cutting and</p>	Yes	Yes

				<p>drainage is occurring outside the south-western boundary and to the north-east of the SAC and there is a major drain running through the centre of the adjacent high bog. There is also some dumping around the site. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. The site is being actively managed for conservation as part of the Coillte E.U. LIFE Project and most of the required restoration measures have already been carried out. However, some significant threats remain and an After-LIFE management plan is being developed for the future conservation management of the SAC.</p> <p>Turf cutting, invasive species, as well as interactions with ground and surface water are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>		
UK00166 21	Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC	Adjacent	<p>Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] Alkaline fens [7230] Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210] White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092]</p>	<p>Invasive species, hydrological interactions, agriculture, threats outside the member state, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, and flooding/rising precipitation are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, hydrological interactions, community composition, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
UK90200 91	Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA	Adjacent	<p>Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]</p>	<p>Invasive species, climate change, hydrological interactions, agriculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, fire, mining/quarrying and forestry are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; 	Yes	Yes

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>		
UK00166 22	Slieve Beagh SAC	Adjacent	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] European dry heaths [4030]	<p>Invasive species, mining/quarrying, agriculture, air pollution, air-borne pollutants, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions and fire are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, hydrological interactions, fire management, direct land use management, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
UK00166 14	Upper Lough Erne SAC	Adjacent	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]	<p>Forestry, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Sports and leisure structures, hunting, and invasive species are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, hydrological interactions, fire management, direct land use management, community composition, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes

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UK90200 71	Upper Lough Erne SPA	Adjacent	Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]	<p>Climate change, transport infrastructure, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Sports and leisure structures, and Changes in biotic conditions are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Therefore, further consideration is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
UK00302 12	Moninea Bog SAC	0.50	Active raised bogs [7110]	<p>Agriculture, hydrological interactions, fire and Air pollution, air-borne pollutants species are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.</p> <p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to ground water interactions and local effects such as hydrological interactions, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. There are no sources for ground water interactions within the DDP. Sources for effects from tourism are known to be localised, ancillary developments are assumed to be small in scale. Therefore, the distances between Ancient DDP area and the European site mean that there are no pathways for effects and therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No
UK00302 68	Rostrevor Wood SAC	2.76	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	<p>Air pollution, air-borne pollutants and invasive species are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.</p> <p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct land use management, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. Sources for effects from tourism are known to be localised, ancillary developments are assumed to be small in scale. Therefore, the distances between Ancient DDP area and the European site mean that there are no pathways for effects and therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No
UK00302 77	Slieve Gullion SAC	3.31	European dry heaths [4030]	<p>Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, agriculture, Air pollution, air-borne pollutants species, hydrological interactions, fire and invasive species are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.</p> <p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct land use management, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. Sources for effects from tourism are known to be localised, ancillary developments are assumed to be small in scale. Therefore, the distances between Ancient DDP area and the European site mean that there are no pathways for effects and therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No
UK00166 20	Derryleckagh	4.38	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	<p>Agriculture, surface water pollution and invasive species are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to ground water interactions and local effects such as direct land use management, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. There are no sources for groundwater interactions in the DDP. Sources for effects from tourism are known to be localised, ancillary developments are assumed to be small in scale. Therefore, the distances between Ancient DDP area and the European site mean that there are no pathways for effects and therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No
002313	Ballymore Fen SAC	6.05	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	<p>Agriculture, forestry, Air pollution, air-borne pollutants species, surface water pollution and invasive species are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>	No	No

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				<p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to ground water interactions and local effects such as direct land use management, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. There are no sources for groundwater interactions in the DDP. Sources for effects from tourism are known to be localised, ancillary developments are assumed to be small in scale. Therefore, the distances between Ancient DDP area and the European site mean that there are no pathways for effects and therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>		
000440	Lough Ree SAC	6.93	<p>Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharitum - type vegetation [3150] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements [8240] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Bog woodland [91D0] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p>	<p>Land uses within the site include recreation in the form of cruiser hire, angling, camping, picnicking and shooting. Chalet accommodation occurs at a few locations around the lake. Low-intensity grazing occurs on dry and wet grassland around the shore, and some hay is made within the site. Some of these activities are damaging, but in a very localised way, and require careful planning. The main threat to the aquatic life in the lake comes from artificial enrichment of the waters by agricultural and domestic waste, and also by peat silt in suspension which is increasingly limiting the light penetration, and thus restricting aquatic flora to shallower waters. At present Lough Ree is less affected by eutrophication than Lough Derg.</p> <p>Agriculture, forestry, invasive species, recreational activities, hydrological interactions, transport infrastructure, inundation (natural processes), and urbanisation are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to ground water interactions, hydrological interactions and local effects such as direct land use management, groundwater interactions, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. There are no sources for groundwater interactions in the DDP. Sources for effects from tourism are known to be localised, ancillary developments are assumed to be small in scale. All developments that arise due to the implementation of the DDP will be subject to their own AA considerations when project specifics are known to assess hydrological connectivity in detail. Given the characteristics of the DDP and the distances between Ancient DDP area and the European site mean that there are no pathways for significant effects and therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No
000464	Lough Ree SPA	6.94	<p>Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>Agriculture, forestry. Fishing activities, recreation and invasive species are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Potential developments that may arise due to increased demand for facilities or other tourism related infrastructure are expected to be small in scale. Given the distances between Ancient DDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No
000448	Fortwilliam Turlough SAC	9.63	<p>Turloughs [3180]</p>	<p>Threats to turloughs stem mainly from drainage and agricultural improvement. Fortwilliam seems largely unaffected by drainage, and standing water may persist throughout the summer. It is an oligotrophic site, which indicates that it has escaped significant nutrient input but renders it sensitive to damage should this occur. The turlough is grazed by cattle and sheep, but is undivided.</p> <p>Agriculture, ground water pollution, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general and modification of hydrographic functioning, general are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to ground water interactions and local effects such as hydrological interactions, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. There are no sources for ground water interactions within the DDP. Sources for effects from tourism are known to be localised, ancillary developments are assumed to be small in scale. Therefore, the distances</p>	No	No

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				between Ancient DDP area and the European site mean that there are no pathways for effects and therefore, no further consideration is required.		
UK00301 16	Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River	10.66	Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260]	Forestry, hydrological interactions, transport infrastructure, invasive species, Renewable abiotic energy use and mining/ quarrying are the main threats or pressures identified by the JNCC in the standard data form. The QIs for the site are sensitive to hydrological interactions, land use management and alteration to community dynamics etc. The DDP does not provide for any development, it aims to increase the regionality and seasonality of existing and future tourism in the Boyne Valley area. There are a number of plans and programs that provide for increasing visitor numbers in the Boyne Valley area such as the Louth CDP and the Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016-2020. All projects that arise as a result of the DDP must comply with the all relevant local planning consent processes. Potential developments that may arise due to increased demand for facilities or other tourism related infrastructure are expected to be small in scale. The sources for effects identified look at visitor interactions at a local level. Due to the distance these sources are not present; therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No
004122	Skerries Islands SPA	10.99	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) [A148] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]	Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites. The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Potential developments that may arise due to increased demand for facilities or other tourism related infrastructure are expected to be small in scale. Given the distances between Ancient DDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No
004014	Rockabill SPA	11.08	Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) [A148] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, transportation and communication infrastructure are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites. The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Potential developments that may arise due to increased demand for facilities or other tourism related infrastructure are expected to be small in scale. Given the distances between Ancient DDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	11.16	Reefs [1170] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Large shipping vessel traffic, urbanisations, human induced changes to hydraulic condition, noise pollution, port infrastructure and fisheries are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites. The QIs for the site are sensitive to hydrological interactions, fisheries activities, noise pollution and alteration to community dynamics etc. The DDP does not provide for any development, it aims to increase the regionality and seasonality of existing and future tourism in the Boyne Valley area. There are a number of plans and programs that provide for increasing visitor numbers in the Boyne Valley area such as the Louth CDP and the Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016-2020. All projects that arise as a result of the DDP must comply with the all relevant local planning consent processes. Potential developments that may arise due to increased demand for facilities or other tourism related infrastructure are expected to be small in scale. The sources for effects identified look at visitor interactions at a local level. Due to the distance these sources are not present; therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No
002349	Corbo Bog SAC	11.40	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	Except at the far western and southern edges of the site, active peat-cutting is carried out all around the high bog. There are two areas in particular where mechanised peat-cutting is affecting the high bog: in the north of the site the cut face is less than 50 m from the pool systems and in the east the peat is being cut near to a flush. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include drainage and burning of the high bog. Two areas of the site in the north and north-east have recently been damaged by burning. Drains in the east of the site are also having a damaging effect. These are all activities that have resulted in the loss of habitat,	No	No

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				<p>damage the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. Finally, in the north and east of the site dumping of old cars has occurred.</p> <p>Human induced changes in hydraulic condition and mechanical peat extraction are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to hydrological interactions including groundwater, land use management and alteration to community dynamics etc. The DDP does not provide for any development, it aims to increase the regionality and seasonality of existing and future tourism in the Boyne Valley area. There are a number of plans and programs that provide for increasing visitor numbers in the Boyne Valley area such as the Louth CDP and the Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016-2020. All projects that arise as a result of the DDP must comply with the all relevant local planning consent processes. Potential developments that may arise due to increased demand for facilities or other tourism related infrastructure are expected to be small in scale. The sources for effects identified look at visitor interactions at a local level. Due to the distance these sources are not present; therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>		
000584	Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC	11.44	<p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> (Slender Green Feather-moss) [1393]</p>	<p>Urbanisation, invasive species, hydrological interactions, agriculture, forestry, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, paths, tracks, cycling tracks and flooding/rising precipitation are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to hydrological interactions including groundwater, land use management and alteration to community dynamics etc. The DDP does not provide for any development, it aims to increase the regionality and seasonality of existing and future tourism in the Boyne Valley area. There are a number of plans and programs that provide for increasing visitor numbers in the Boyne Valley area such as the Louth CDP and the Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016-2020. All projects that arise as a result of the DDP must comply with the all relevant local planning consent processes. Potential developments that may arise due to increased demand for facilities or other tourism related infrastructure are expected to be small in scale. The sources for effects identified look at visitor interactions at a local level. Due to the distance these sources are not present; therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No
UK00166 15	Eastern Mourmes SAC	11.84	<p>Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands [6150] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030]</p>	<p>Agriculture, climate change, invasive species, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, hydrological interactions, biocenotic evolution, succession and fire are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.</p> <p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to hydrological interactions, land use management and alteration to community dynamics etc. The DDP does not provide for any development, it aims to increase the regionality and seasonality of existing and future tourism in the Boyne Valley area. There are a number of plans and programs that provide for increasing visitor numbers in the Boyne Valley area such as the Louth CDP and the Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016-2020. All projects that arise as a result of the DDP must comply with the all relevant local planning consent processes. Potential developments that may arise due to increased demand for facilities or other tourism related infrastructure are expected to be small in scale. The sources for effects identified look at visitor interactions at a local level. Due to the distance these sources are not present; therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No
001831	Split Hills And Long Hill Esker SAC	12.45	<p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</p>	<p>The main threat to the esker is quarrying for sand and gravel. This activity already occurs on the site at several locations. Grazing is a critical factor affecting esker habitats, and getting a balance right is important. The presence of too many grazers causes damage to the ground vegetation in both woodlands and grasslands and prevents regeneration of woody species. However, if the grazing level is too low, grasslands are vulnerable to the encroachment of scrub at the expense of species which require open conditions. Fertiliser application, associated with agricultural improvement, also leads to a reduction in species-richness of grasslands.</p>	No	No

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				<p>Recreational activities, agriculture, floral competition and compositional dynamics are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct land use management, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. Sources for effects from tourism are known to be localised, ancillary developments are assumed to be small in scale. Therefore, the distances between Ancient DDP area and the European site mean that there are no pathways for effects and therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>		
001398	Rye Water Valley/ Carton SAC	13.01	<p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]</p>	<p>Urbanisation, agriculture, roads, forestry and hydrological interactions are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to hydrological interactions including groundwater, land use management and alteration to community dynamics etc. The DDP does not provide for any development, it aims to increase the regionality and seasonality of existing and future tourism in the Boyne Valley area. There are a number of plans and programs that provide for increasing visitor numbers in the Boyne Valley area such as the Louth CDP and the Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016-2020. All projects that arise as a result of the DDP must comply with the all relevant local planning consent processes. Potential developments that may arise due to increased demand for facilities or other tourism related infrastructure are expected to be small in scale. The sources for effects identified look at visitor interactions at a local level. Due to the distance these sources are not present; therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No
000584	Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC	13.63	<p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> (Slender Green Feather-moss) [1393]</p>	<p>Urbanisation, invasive species, hydrological interactions, agriculture, forestry, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, paths, tracks, cycling tracks and flooding/rising precipitation are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to hydrological interactions including groundwater, land use management and alteration to community dynamics etc. The DDP does not provide for any development, it aims to increase the regionality and seasonality of existing and future tourism in the Boyne Valley area. There are a number of plans and programs that provide for increasing visitor numbers in the Boyne Valley area such as the Louth CDP and the Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016-2020. All projects that arise as a result of the DDP must comply with the all relevant local planning consent processes. Potential developments that may arise due to increased demand for facilities or other tourism related infrastructure are expected to be small in scale. The sources for effects identified look at visitor interactions at a local level. Due to the distance these sources are not present; therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No
000208	Rogerstown Estuary SAC	13.76	<p>Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</p>	<p>Urbanisation, agriculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, leisure fishing, Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, road infrastructure. erosion, hydrological interactions, and invasive species are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to hydrological interactions, fisheries activities, land use management and alteration to community dynamics etc. The DDP does not provide for any development, it aims to increase the regionality and seasonality of existing and future tourism in the Boyne Valley area. There are a number of plans and programs that provide for increasing visitor numbers in the Boyne Valley area such as the Louth CDP and the Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016-2020. All projects that arise as a result of the DDP must comply with the all relevant local planning consent processes. Potential developments that may arise due to increased demand for facilities or other tourism related infrastructure are expected to be small in scale. The sources for effects identified look at visitor interactions at a local level. Due to the distance these sources are not present; therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No

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001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC	14.02	Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	<p>This site is relatively intact with only minor damage caused by cattle poaching and some burning on the fen. Some infilling of wetland vegetation has occurred between the northern shore of the lake and the nearby road. Drainage is a potential threat to the site and associated flood lands</p> <p>Fire management and agriculture are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct land use management, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. Sources for effects from tourism are known to be localised, ancillary developments are assumed to be small in scale. Therefore, the distances between Ancient DDP area and the European site mean that there are no pathways for effects and therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No
004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	14.27	<p>Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>Urbanisation, agriculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, leisure fishing, Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, road infrastructure. erosion, hydrological interactions, and invasive species are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Potential developments that may arise due to increased demand for facilities or other tourism related infrastructure are expected to be small in scale. Given the distances between Ancient DDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No
UK00166 03	Cuilcagh Mountain SAC	14.44	<p>Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</p>	<p>Agriculture, invasive species, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, hydrological interactions, biocenotic evolution, succession and fire are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.</p> <p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to hydrological interactions, fisheries activities, land use management and alteration to community dynamics etc. The DDP does not provide for any development, it aims to increase the regionality and seasonality of existing and future tourism in the Boyne Valley area. There are a number of plans and programs that provide for increasing visitor numbers in the Boyne Valley area such as the Louth CDP and the Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016-2020. All projects that arise as a result of the DDP must comply with the all relevant local planning consent processes. Potential developments that may arise due to increased demand for facilities or other tourism related infrastructure are expected to be small in scale. The sources for effects identified look at visitor interactions at a local level. Due to the distance these sources are not present; therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No

3.4 Other Plans and Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon European sites. Appendix II outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the DDP to cause in-combination effects to European sites such as the Tourism Action Plan 2016-2018. These plans and programmes were considered throughout the assessment.

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

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the next 22 years. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSEs for the Eastern & Midlands and Northern & Western Regions (the Plan area is located within both of these RSE Regions) sets out objectives relating tourism development, that have been subject to environmental assessment, including those relating to: enhancing provision of tourism and leisure amenity; promoting tourism activity; developing a road network and public transport services, facilitating improved visitor access and longer dwell times; developing walking and cycling trails, opening greater accessibility to the marine and countryside environment by sustainable modes; and facilitating appropriate tourism development, including that relating to greenways, blueways and peatlands. When adopted, the RSE will inform the review of existing, assessed lower-tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans, which already include various provisions relating to land use, tourism and infrastructure. Such reviews will also be subject to environmental assessments.

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

Additional information on the relationship with other plans and programmes is provided at Appendix II.

3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

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

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant adverse effects on 48 (no.) European sites.

Therefore, a Stage 2 AA is required for the DDP (see Section 4 of this report). An Ancillary AA determination is provided at Figure 3.2.

Ancillary AA determination, further to the main AA Natura Impact Statement

under the
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)
for the
Ancient Visitor Experience Development Plan

Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening

This ancillary determination is ancillary to both:

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

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

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

Signatory:



Date: 12/12/2019

Figure 3.2 Ancillary AA Determination

Section 4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the Plan alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse impacts on the integrity of the 48 European sites brought forward from screening (see Table 3.1), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified 48 European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the DDP (see Section 2).

Appendix I characterises each of the qualifying features of the 48 European sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites' vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website⁶.

4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters are described when characterising impacts⁷:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SSCOs have been prepared for a number of European sites. These detailed SSCOs aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes which define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable

⁶ last accessed 9 December 2019 at www.npws.ie

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

condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

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

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

Generic Conservation Objective for cSACs:

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

One generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:

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

4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects

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

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

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

Each of these potential changes are considered below and in Table 4.1 with reference to the QIs/SCIs of all of the European sites brought forward from Stage 1 of the AA process (see Section 3).

4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

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

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

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

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the Plan (see Section 5), e.g. in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance⁸ with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

⁸ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

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

4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

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

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

These sources for effects are localised and small scale; however, if unmanaged, the provisions to increase tourist numbers to the Ancient area could result in habitat loss (as indicated above) which could affect the connectivity of habitats and species populations. Similarly, the DDP area contains 48 European sites with a multitude ecological resources with a variety of connectivity pathways. The promotion of tourism in this area and potential increases in tourism could introduce habitat or species fragmentation through development pressures, lighting schemes and or human disturbance effects etc. The fragmentation of habitats is a known threat for the Boyne Valley, specifically in relation to riparian and freshwater habitats. There is a clear need for considerations in relation to salmonid migration within the Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC identified in the literature. This relates to both instream works and bankside edge conditions such as openness of vegetation, lighting condition etc. Typical effects that relate to construction phase elements of projects include light pollution, excess noise, the removal of vegetation etc.

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

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the DDP (see Section 5), e.g. in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance⁹ with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

Disturbance effects through recreation and amenity are identified as a known threat to 30 of the 48 sites brought forward from Stage 1 Screening. Visitor movement patterns and activities on site can introduce direct and indirect disturbance effects to designated species. Similarly, potential disturbance effects could occur during construction at a destination. These effects are dependent on on-site management practices, visitor behaviours and the operational procedures of strategic partners. Increased visitor numbers could lead to additional ancillary/infrastructural development demands that could, if unmitigated, impact species distributions.

Fáilte Ireland provides funding for sustainable tourism projects that emerge as part of specific, competitive, themed and time-bound grant schemes or as part of wider strategic partnerships. These include projects relating to land use, infrastructural development and land use activities and attractions.

⁹ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

Reference made to such projects included in the Plan does not guarantee funding. While funding is provided to certain projects, Fáilte Ireland is not the developer.

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the DDP (see Section 5), e.g. in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance¹⁰ with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density

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

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

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the DDP (see Section 5), e.g. in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance¹¹ with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

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

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

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

¹⁰ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

¹¹ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

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

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the DDP (see Section 5), e.g. in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance¹² with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

4.3.1.6 Climate change

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

¹² Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

Table 4.1 Characterisation of Potential Effects arising from the DDP

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹⁴
002341	Ardagullion Bog SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
001957	Boyne Coast And Estuary SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, interactions with marine trophic structure, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004080	Boyne Estuary SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;

¹³ For distance from Plan boundary and qualifying features for each European site (QIs and SCIs), please refer to Table 3.1.

¹⁴ Informed by, inter alia, *The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland, Overview Volume 1* (NPWS, 2013)

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Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹⁴
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, new tourism-related developments/infrastructure could introduce construction phase effects such as noise pollution, dust, surface water interactions etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002346	Brown Bog SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use management, interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004078 & UK9020161	Carlingford Lough SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000453	Carlingford Mountain SAC	<p>Agriculture, invasive species, trampling/overuse, sports and leisure activities/structures, human disturbances, communication masts, infilling, hydrological interaction, fires and forestry are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p> <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, drainage, fire management, substrate stability, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002306	Carlingford Shore SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise.

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹⁴
		<p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
001459	Clogher Head SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002348	Clooneen Bog SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use management, interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002201	Derragh Bog SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use management, interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000455	Dundalk Bay SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, drainage, substrate stability, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹⁴
004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000679	Garriskil Bog SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
ES	Garriskil Bog SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002203	Girley (Drewstown) Bog SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004045	Glen Lough SPA	<p>Agriculture and forestry are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p> <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and

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Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹⁴
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000006	Killyconny Bog (Cloghbally) SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
001786	Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, hydrological interactions, ground water interactions, community composition, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; Disturbance of wildlife; Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; Fishing activities; Removal and throwing of large rocks; and Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002120	Lough Bane And Lough Glass SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, hydrological interactions, ground water interactions, community composition, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; Disturbance of wildlife; Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; Fishing activities; Removal and throwing of large rocks; and Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004043	Lough Derravaragh SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance of wildlife; Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;

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Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹⁴
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000685	Lough Ennell SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004044	Lough Ennell SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, hydrological interactions, groundwater interactions, direct land use management, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004046	Lough Iron SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.

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		<p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004061	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002121	Lough Lene SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, hydrological interactions, community composition, direct land use management, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000007	Lough Oughter And Associated Loughs SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, hydrological interactions, direct land use management, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004049	Lough Oughter SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹⁴
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000688	Lough Owel SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, hydrological interactions, groundwater interactions, community composition, direct land use management, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004047	Lough Owel SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004065	Lough Sheelin SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002340	Moneybeg And Clareisland Bogs SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise.

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		<p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002342	Mount Hevey Bog SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002202	Mount Jessop Bog SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, direct land use management, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002299	River Boyne And River Blackwater SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, dredging, hydrological interactions, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹⁴
004158	River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000692	Scragh Bog SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004167	Slieve Beagh SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004091	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
001810	White Lough, Ben Loughs And Lough Doo SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, hydrological interactions, community composition, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹⁴
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002205	Wooddown Bog SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as interactions with groundwater, compaction of substrate, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
UK0016621	Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, hydrological interactions, community composition, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
UK9020091	Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
UK0016622	Slieve Beagh SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, hydrological interactions, fire management, direct land use management, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife;

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹⁴
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
UK0016614	Upper Lough Erne SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, hydrological interactions, fire management, direct land use management, community composition, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
UK9020071	Upper Lough Erne SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Therefore, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through increased visitor numbers which could impact upon the SCIs. These sources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> <p>Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>

Section 5 Mitigation Measures

The SEA and AA team worked with the Plan-preparation team at Fáilte Ireland in order to integrate requirements for environmental protection and management into the Plan. In addition to the mitigation identified below, various Guiding Principles for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism have been integrated into the Plan.

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

In order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance¹⁵ with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

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

- Requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment, including EIA and AA;
- Statutory land use plans that form part of the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework (e.g. Development Plans and Local Area Plans) and that have undergone environmental assessment, as appropriate, including various provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management; and
- The Climate Action Plan 2019, the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions), the National Mitigation Plan (2017 and any subsequent versions) and planning authority Climate Change Action Plans.

Infrastructure Capacity

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

Visitor Management

Those receiving funding shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance, including ensuring that new projects are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities.

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

Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services

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

¹⁵ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

Section 6 Conclusion

Stage 1 Screening and Stage 2 AA has been carried out. The implementation of the DDP would have the potential to result in effects to the integrity of European sites, if unmitigated.

The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the QIs, SCIs and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and mitigate potential effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, lower level plans, if any, and projects arising through the implementation of the DDP will themselves be subject to their own AA/screening for AA processes, as relevant. Furthermore, in order to be realised, projects included in the DDP will have to comply, as relevant, with the various provisions of legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier AA) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the DDP is not part and does not contribute towards.

In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects were considered in the assessment and the mitigation measures incorporated into the DDP allow a conclusion to be arrived at that there will be no significant adverse effects as a result of the implementation of the DDP either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the DDP will not give rise to any effect on the ecological integrity of any European sites, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes or projects¹⁶. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated.

¹⁶ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:
a) no alternative solution available,
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Appendix I Background information on European sites

List of European sites within 15 km of the DDP boundary; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity

Site Name	Site Code	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Site Description/Vulnerability
002341	Ardagullion Bog SAC	0	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	Ardagullion Bog is located 5 km north-east of Edgeworthstown, mainly in the townlands of Cloonshannagh (Coolamber Manor Demesne) and Ardaguillon in Co. Longford. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The site is bounded in the north-east by the local road running to Coolagherty. Current land uses on the site include forestry, peat-cutting and agriculture. The forestry is found on a small section of high bog and adjoining cutover in the southwest of the site. Areas of cutover in the south and west of the site that were previously forested have only recently been clear-felled. Active peat-cutting is taking place in the north-west, east and south-east of the site. Two fields in the north of the site have been reclaimed for agriculture. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include drainage throughout the site and burning of the high bog. There is also evidence of old burning in the northern part of the high bog. All these activities have resulted in the loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. There are no site-specific threats identified in the standard data form by the NPWS.
004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	0	Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA is located on the border between Counties Longford and Roscommon in the north-central midlands and is underlain by Carboniferous limestone. It is centered around Lough Forbes, a naturally eutrophic lake on the River Shannon system which is fed also from the north by the River Rinn. The lake has well-developed swamp vegetation and displays natural transitions to seasonally flooded grassland, marsh and raised bog. The raised bogs, known as the Ballykenny-Fisherstown complex, are separated by the Camlin River, which has further areas of callow grassland. The central core areas of the bogs are quite wet with a good complement of bog mosses (<i>Sphagnum</i> spp.) and well-developed hummocks. Ballykenny Bog is unusual in that some of its margins are intact, a rare feature in the Irish midlands. Between the Camlin River and this bog, a complete transition from raised bog to callow grasslands can be seen, while the interface between the bog and lake is colonised by a narrow band of deciduous woodland. Forestry, agriculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, and hunting/poaching are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
001957	Boyne Coast And Estuary SAC	0	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC is a coastal site which includes most of the tidal sections of the River Boyne, intertidal sand- and mudflats, saltmarshes, marginal grassland, and the stretch of coast from Bettystown to Termonfeckin that includes the Mornington and Baltray sand dune systems. This site has been somewhat modified by human activities. The river is regularly dredged to accommodate cargo ships, which causes disturbance to the bird, fish and invertebrate communities in the estuary. Several factories operate upstream from the estuary and pollution and disturbance associated with them has had an impact on the ecology of the area. There is a proposal to create a deep-water facility at the north end of Mornington Dunes on the mouth of the Boyne estuary Urbanisation, invasive species, human disturbance from recreational pressures particularly nautical activities, storm damage, succession processes, bridge works, and coastal defence works are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
004080	Boyne Estuary SPA	0	Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	This moderately-sized coastal site is situated west of Drogheda on the border of Counties Louth and Meath. The site comprises most of the estuary of the Boyne River, a substantial river which drains a large catchment. Apart from one section which is over 1 km wide, its width is mostly less than 500 m. The river channel, which is navigable and dredged, is defined by training walls, these being breached in places. Intertidal flats occur along the sides of the channelled river. The sediments vary from fine muds in the sheltered areas to sandy muds or sands towards the river mouth. The linear stretches of intertidal flats to the north and south of the river mouth are mainly composed of sand. One or more species of Eelgrass (<i>Zostera</i> spp.) occur in the estuary. Parts of the intertidal areas are fringed by salt marshes, most of which are of the Atlantic type, and dominated by Sea-purslane (<i>Halimione portulacoides</i>). Other species present include Common Saltmarsh-grass (<i>Puccinellia maritima</i>), Sea Plantain (<i>Plantago maritima</i>), Lax-flowered Sea-lavender (<i>Limonium humile</i>) and Glasswort (<i>Salicornia</i> spp.). Common Cord-grass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>) occurs frequently on the flats and salt marshes. Urbanisation, recreational pressures particularly golf courses and horse riding/walking, coastal defence works, hydrological interactions and invasive species are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.

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002346	Brown Bog SAC	0	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	<p>Brown Bog NHA is located 5 km north-west of Longford town, mainly in the townlands of Tully, Lissanurlan and Cartronlebagh. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The bog margins are mainly surrounded by scrub/woodland.</p> <p>There are few land uses associated with this site. There are no high bog drains and only two sets of marginal drains are present in the cutover to the north-west. At present there is no active peat-cutting on the site. A large area of cutover to the east of the site has been recently afforested with Sitka Spruce (<i>Picea sitchensis</i>). The majority of the bog has not been burnt for some time, although recent localised burning has taken place along the southern margin. Overall there has been little damage to this bog, with only small areas of cutover present. Most of the extent of the original peat basin appears to be remaining. However, peat-cutting and burning are the two main threats to the site.</p> <p>Drainage and human interactions with hydrological conditions are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
004078 & UK90201 61	Carlingford Lough SPA	0	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<p>Carlingford Lough SPA comprises parts of the south side of Carlingford Lough, Co. Louth, between Carlingford Harbour and Ballagan Point. The predominant habitats present are intertidal sand and mud flats.</p> <p>Marine and freshwater aquaculture are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
000453	Carlingford Mountain SAC	0	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Alkaline fens [7230] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]	<p>The only upland area in Co. Louth, the Carlingford Mountain range consists of an inverted 'Y' shaped ridge of dolerite forming the rugged backbone of the Carlingford Peninsula. Granite, slates and gabbro also contribute to the geology of the area. The Carlingford Mountain site comprises two main blocks - one northern, from Anglesey Mountain to Carnavaddy, and one southern, centred around Carlingford Mountain itself. The two blocks are linked at the Windy Gap.</p> <p>Agriculture, invasive species, trampling/overuse, sports and leisure activities/structures, human disturbances, communication masts, infilling, hydrological interaction, fires and forestry are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p>
002306	Carlingford Shore SAC	0	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	<p>The Carlingford Shore SAC site comprises the entire southern shoreline of Carlingford Lough and continues round the tip of the Cooley Peninsula to just west of Cooley Point. While the principal conservation interests lie in the perennial vegetation of shingle banks and the annual vegetation of drift lines, the site also has intertidal sand and mudflats, patches of saltmarsh, some areas of dry grassland, and an area of mixed deciduous woodland. The site is flanked by Carlingford Mountain to the south-west. The underlying rock within the SAC is mainly carboniferous limestone. This outcrops in places in the form of bedrock shore or reefs. Granite boulders are occasionally found. Intertidal mudflats and sand/gravel banks also occur.</p> <p>The principal activities in the site are recreational usage and shellfish production. Much of the area around the mean low water mark (MLWM) between Carlingford Harbour and Greenore is under production of oyster, and to a lesser extent, dams. The principal threat to the shoreline habitats is further commercial development, either for shellfish or tourism. Coastal defence works is also a threat to the shoreline. Aquaculture occurs in Carlingford Lough and may have negative impacts on the wintering bird populations.</p> <p>Fisheries activities including the use of drift nets, hunting, marine or freshwater aquaculture, hydrological interactions trampling/overuse, sports and leisure activities/structures, and human disturbances are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p>
001459	Clogher Head SAC	0	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	<p>Clogher Head is a promontory of Silurian quartzite, located approximately 10 km north-east of Drogheda in Co. Louth. The rocks are covered with a thin layer of soil that, in places, supports a coastal heath community. Areas of sea cliff, bedrock shore and dry grassland also occur within the site.</p> <p>The main land use at Clogher Head is sheep grazing. The site is very susceptible to damage from a variety of sources including fire, over-grazing and amenity pressures such as littering and building.</p> <p>Urbanisation, agriculture, invasive species and transport infrastructure specifically paths tracks and trails are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p>

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002348	Clooneen Bog SAC	0	<p>Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Bog woodland [91D0]</p>	<p>Clooneen Bog lies approximately 3 km south-east of Roosky in Co. Longford on the east bank of the River Shannon, just north of Lough Forbes. It is located almost entirely in the townlands of Clooneen, Bunanass, Edercloon and Cloonart (North and South). The site comprises areas of high bog, including bog woodland and cutover bog, and is bounded by a mineral ridge to the east and agricultural fields to the north. Although it would have originally adjoined the River Shannon to the west and Lough Forbes to the south, it is now separated from these by a road and agricultural fields.</p> <p>Current land use on the site consists of mechanised peat-cutting to the north-west and south-west of the high bog. Some areas of cutover have been reclaimed for agriculture to the south-east and there are small conifer plantations to the east. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include drainage and burning. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site and pose a continuing threat to its viability. The bog is generally Sphagnum-poor due to burning, but regeneration is taking place.</p> <p>Agriculture and turf cutting are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
002201	Derragh Bog SAC	0	<p>Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Bog woodland [91D0]</p>	<p>Derragh Bog SAC includes most of the raised bog system known as Derragh Bog which occurs within Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough NHA (000985). The boundary in the west and south of the site is contiguous with the boundary of Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA (site code 004061). It is a small raised bog situated 2.5 km east of Abbylara in county Longford in the townland of Derragh. This bog is an example of a floodplain raised bog which borders two lakes, Lough Kinale to the west and Derragh Lough to the south, the River Inny to the east and wet agricultural grassland to the north. To the west and south there is a full transition from high bog to cutover bog to semi-natural birch woodland, fen and swamp to Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough. The underlying geology of both lakes and bog is carboniferous limestone.</p> <p>Invasive species, fire regime and human induced changes in hydraulic conditions are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
000455	Dundalk Bay SAC	0	<p>Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p>	<p>Dundalk Bay, Co. Louth, is a very large open, shallow sea bay with extensive saltmarshes and intertidal sand/mudflats, extending some 16km from Castletown River on the Cooley Peninsula in the north, to Annagassan/Salterstown in the south. The bay encompasses the mouths and estuaries of the Rivers Dee, Glyde, Fane, Castletown and Flurry.</p> <p>Hydrological interactions, urbanisation, invasive species, trampling/overuse, sports and leisure activities/structures, human disturbances, communication masts, infilling, hydrological interaction, fires and forestry are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p>
004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	0	<p>Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>Dundalk Bay is a large open shallow sea bay with extensive saltmarshes and intertidal sand/mudflats, extending some 16 km from Castletown River on the Cooley Peninsula, in the north, to Annagassan/Salterstown in the south. The site is a large bay-like estuarine complex, extending c.15 km from north to south and on average of 4-5 km in width. It contains the estuaries of a number of moderately sized rivers, principally the Castletown, the Flurry, the Fane and the Glyde/Dee. These rivers drain fairly intensive agricultural catchments, and the Castletown flows through Dundalk town and serves the port. The site contains the largest expanse of intertidal flats on the east coast and has a very marked tidal range. The sediments are predominantly sands though fine muds or muddy sands occur in the sheltered areas at Dundalk and Ballymascanlan. Salt marshes are well represented, especially in the more sheltered areas such as the estuaries of the Castletown and Flurry rivers. Spartina is frequent in parts. Post-glacial raised beaches are a feature of the shoreline.</p> <p>Transport infrastructure, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, agriculture, urbanisation, changes to hydrological condition and invasive species are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p>

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000679	Garriskil Bog SAC	0	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	<p>Garriskil Bog SAC consists of two areas of raised bog: Garriskil Bog, which covers 324.81 ha and lies 3 km east of Rathowen in Co. Westmeath; and a small outlier, within the townland of Derrya, which covers 22.9 ha and lies 2.2 km to the east on the northern shore of Lough Derravaragh. Both bogs are remnants of the large river floodplain bogs which developed where the River Inny enters and leaves Lough Derravaragh. Garriskil Bog is bounded to the south-east and south-west by the rivers Inny and Riffey and by the Dublin-Sligo railway line to the north. It is considered an exceptional example of a midland raised bog and includes 170.26 ha of uncut raised bog and 154.55 ha of surrounding areas which includes 109 ha of cutover bog. The section at Derrya (which comprises part of Lough Derravaragh Bog NHA (site code 000684)) has been restored as part of an EU LIFE project. The site consists of 2.5 ha of high bog and 20.4 ha of cutover, all of which, except for a broadleaf woodland fringe along the River Inny, was afforested in the 1970s. All the conifer plantations were recently clear-felled and restored by drain-blocking. It is bordered by open high bog to the north-east, by the River Inny to the west and by cutover bog grading into Lough Derravaragh to the south-east. The bedrock geology of both sites is carboniferous limestone.</p> <p>Turf cutting, invasive species, agriculture, as well as interactions with ground and surface water are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
004102	Garriskil Bog SPA	0	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	<p>Garriskil Bog SAC consists of two areas of raised bog: Garriskil Bog, which covers 324.81 ha and lies 3 km east of Rathowen in Co. Westmeath; and a small outlier, within the townland of Derrya, which covers 22.9 ha and lies 2.2 km to the east on the northern shore of Lough Derravaragh. Both bogs are remnants of the large river floodplain bogs which developed where the River Inny enters and leaves Lough Derravaragh. Garriskil Bog is bounded to the south-east and south-west by the rivers Inny and Riffey and by the Dublin-Sligo railway line to the north. It is considered an exceptional example of a midland raised bog and includes 170.26 ha of uncut raised bog and 154.55 ha of surrounding areas which includes 109 ha of cutover bog. The section at Derrya (which comprises part of Lough Derravaragh Bog NHA (site code 000684)) has been restored as part of an EU LIFE project. The site consists of 2.5 ha of high bog and 20.4 ha of cutover, all of which, except for a broadleaf woodland fringe along the River Inny, was afforested in the 1970s. All the conifer plantations were recently clear-felled and restored by drain-blocking. It is bordered by open high bog to the north-east, by the River Inny to the west and by cutover bog grading into Lough Derravaragh to the south-east. The bedrock geology of both sites is carboniferous limestone.</p> <p>Turf cutting, invasive species, agriculture, as well as interactions with ground and surface water are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
002203	Girley (Drewstown) Bog SAC	0	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	<p>Girley (Drewstown) Bog SAC occurs within the larger raised bog system that is designated as Girley Bog NHA (001580). It is situated 5.5 km north of Athboy in the townland of Drewstown, Co. Meath. The site is part of a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. It is bordered by open high bog on its northern and eastern margins, by agricultural land on its western margin and by a conifer plantation on cutover bog on its southern side. The underlying geology is carboniferous limestone.</p> <p>Current landuse on the site consists of conservation management with the removal of conifer plantations and the blocking of the drainage associated with these plantations, both on the high bog and on the cutover. However, active drains are still present on the northern and eastern boundaries of the SAC which are adversely impacting on its restoration and need to be blocked in consultation with other stakeholders. In addition, there have been fires on the adjacent bog and within the SAC causing some damage to the recovering vegetation. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. There is also some dumping around the site.</p> <p>Invasive species, fire regime and human induced changes in hydraulic conditions are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
004045	Glen Lough SPA	0	Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]	<p>Glen Lough is situated about 5 km north-west of Lough Iron on the border of Co. Westmeath and Co. Longford. Extensive drainage in the 1960s has resulted in a dramatic drop in the watertable here, with the result that there is now little open water, except during flooding in the winter months. Sedge-dominated freshwater marsh now occupies the majority of what was once open water. Plant species present include Bottle Sedge (<i>Carex rostrata</i>), Water Horsetail (<i>Equisetium fluviatile</i>) and Canary Reed-grass (<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>). Other habitats present include reedswamp, wet and dry grassland, cutaway bog colonised by heath vegetation, scrub and wet willow (<i>Salix</i> spp.) woodland.</p> <p>Agriculture and forestry are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
000006	Killyconny Bog (Cloghbally) SAC	0	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	<p>Killyconny Bog is a raised bog situated approximately half way between Virginia and Kells on the Cavan/Meath border and some 8 km from each. It is underlain by Lower Palaeozoic shales and consists of two small basins which have coalesced over a low drumlin ridge. There are few raised bogs in the north-east region and Killyconny Bog seems to be one of the best developed. Though some marginal drainage and cutting has taken place, the central part of the bog is relatively intact.</p>

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				Fencing, off road motorised driving, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, vandalism, hunting, forestry, agriculture, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, waste/litter, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, as well as mining/quarrying are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.
001786	Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC	0	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chari</i> spp. [3140] Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	Kilroosky Lough Cluster straddles the border with Northern Ireland, and is located approximately 2 km north-west of Clones, Co. Monaghan. The site consists of three separate areas which contain several calcium-rich, clean water (oligo-mesotrophic) lakes and their marginal fen vegetation. Urbanisation, agriculture, invasive species, sports and leisure structures, and hydrological interactions are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.
002120	Lough Bane And Lough Glass SAC	0	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	This site is located on the Meath/Westmeath border, about 10 km south of Oldcastle. It comprises three lakes situated in a shallow valley. Lough Bane is by far the largest of the group, with the much smaller Lough Glass occurring immediately to the east and Lough Glass North to the north-west. The lakes occur at the headwaters of the River Deel, with the main outflow at the south-east end of Lough Bane. The outflow is not very substantial and partly overgrown with vegetation. The connection between Lough Glass and Lough Bane has now been severed and the flow from Lough Glass is diverted to the south-west. The water level has dropped over the years and has exposed soft marl along parts of the shore. Agriculture is the main threat or pressure identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
004043	Lough Derravaragh SPA	0	Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Lough Derravaragh is located approximately 12 km north of Mullingar town in Co. Westmeath. It is a medium- to large-sized lake of relatively shallow water (maximum depth 23 m). The lake extends along a south-east/north-west axis for approximately 8 km. The Inny River, a tributary of the River Shannon, is the main inflowing and outflowing river. It is a typical limestone lake with water of high hardness and alkaline pH, and is classified as a mesotrophic system. Forestry, agriculture, fisheries activities (demersal longlining) and hunting are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.
000685	Lough Ennell SAC	0	Alkaline fens [7230]	Lough Ennell is a large, open, steep-sided lake, located 3 km south of Mullingar in Co. Westmeath. The lake bottom is of limestone with a marl deposit. The water is markedly alkaline and mesotrophic, possibly owing to effluents received from Mullingar town and to fertilizer inputs from farmland surrounding the lake. The River Brosna flows into the lake from the north at Butler's Bridge, and out from the south. Levels of planktonic algal growth in the lake water continue to fluctuate, in response to the variable efficiency of the phosphate removal facility at the sewage treatment plant and the re-mobilization of phosphate from the lake sediments. Agriculture, forestry, noise, recreational activities, pollution through surface water or groundwater, dumping, drainage and transport infrastructure are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
004044	Lough Ennell SPA	0	Alkaline fens [7230]	Lough Ennell is a large, open, steep-sided lake, located 3 km south of Mullingar in Co. Westmeath. The lake bottom is of limestone with a marl deposit. The water is markedly alkaline and mesotrophic, possibly owing to effluents received from Mullingar town and to fertilizer inputs from farmland surrounding the lake. The River Brosna flows into the lake from the north at Butler's Bridge, and out from the south. Levels of planktonic algal growth in the lake water continue to fluctuate, in response to the variable efficiency of the phosphate removal facility at the sewage treatment plant and the re-mobilization of phosphate from the lake sediments. Agriculture, forestry, noise, recreational activities, pollution through surface water or groundwater, dumping, drainage and transport infrastructure are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	0	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation [3150] Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	This site consists of a number of different habitats, and is centred around Lough Forbes, a lake formed by a broadening of the River Shannon. As well as the lake itself, there is also a series of raised bogs, callow grasslands and a variety of other aquatic and terrestrial habitats to the west of Newtown Forbes on the Longford/Roscommon boundary. The raised bogs are vulnerable to water loss from peat-cutting and drainage, though ongoing restoration work involving blocking of drains is occurring. There are no known threats to the wintering birds though the increased use of the River Shannon system by leisure craft could cause disturbance.

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			Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]	Agriculture, invasive species, hunting, fisheries activities and groundwater interactions are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
004046	Lough Iron SPA	0	Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Lough Iron is a small- to moderately-sized midland lake, located some 12 km northwest of Mullingar. It is situated on the Inny River, which flows from Lough Derravaragh approximately 5 km to the north-east. Lough Owel occurs a few kilometres to the south-east and is connected to Lough Iron by a small stream. The underlying geology is limestone and the lake is mesotrophic in character. Agriculture and forestry are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
004061	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA	0	Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Lough Kinale is a relatively small lake that is situated immediately downstream of Lough Sheelin, both lakes being near the top of the catchment of the Inny River, a main tributary of the River Shannon. Derragh Lough, a much smaller system, is connected to Lough Kinale and the Inny River. The site is located on the border of Cos Cavan, Longford and Westmeath. This is a typical limestone system and is very shallow (maximum depth of Lough Kinale is c. 4 m). As with Lough Sheelin, the trophic status of the lake has varied greatly since the 1970s due to pollution. It was recently (1998-2000) classified as a highly eutrophic system. The lake was formerly an important Trout fishery. Agriculture, fisheries activities (bottom culture) and forestry are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
002121	Lough Lene SAC	0	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	This lake is situated 4 km north-east of Castlepollard in Co. Westmeath. It is a deep (20 m maximum depth), clear, hard-water lake with marl deposition (especially noticeable on the margins). Agriculture, surface water pollution and transport infrastructure paths, tracks, cycling tracks are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
000007	Lough Oughter And Associated Loughs SAC	0	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation [3150] Bog woodland [91D0] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	Lough Oughter and its associated loughs occupy much of the lowland drumlin belt in north and central Cavan between Upper Lough Erne, Killeshandra and Cavan town. The site is a maze of waterways, islands, small lakes and peninsulas including some 90 inter-drumlin lakes and 14 basins in the course of the Erne River. The area lies on Silurian and Ordovician strata with Carboniferous limestone immediately surrounding. The main threats to the quality of the site are water polluting activities (such as runoff from fertiliser and slurry application, and sewage discharge) which have raised the nutrient status of some lakes to hypertrophic. Housing and boating developments are on the increase, both adjacent to and within the site. There is also significant fishing and shooting pressure on and around the lakes. Increased afforestation has resulted in some loss of wetland habitat and also loss of feeding ground for wintering birds such as Greenland White-fronted Goose. Urbanisation, invasive species, hydrological interactions, agriculture, forestry, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, and flooding/rising precipitation are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.
004049	Lough Oughter SPA	0	Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Lough Oughter and its associated loughs occupy much of the lowland drumlin belt in north and central Co. Cavan between Belturbet, Killeshandra and Cavan town. This area comprises a maze of waterways, islands, small lakes and peninsulas. Lough Oughter, the largest lake in the site, is relatively shallow (maximum depth of 10 m) and considered to be a naturally eutrophic system. Its main inflowing rivers are the River Erne and the Annalee River, whilst the main outflow is the River Erne, which connects the lake to Upper Lough Erne and Lower Lough Erne to the north. Agriculture, forestry, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, hunting and fishing are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.
000688	Lough Owel SAC	0	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	Lough Owel is a large hard water lake located approximately 4 km north-west of Mullingar in Co. Westmeath. It is a relatively shallow lake with a rocky, marl-covered bottom. Potential threats to the conservation interest of Lough Owel include the increasing level of water supply to Mullingar, overfishing, eutrophication caused by local farming practices and pressure from amenity uses such as boating and fishing.

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				Agriculture, noise, recreational activities, pollution through surface water or groundwater, dumping, drainage and transport infrastructure paths, tracks, cycling tracks are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
004047	Lough Owel SPA	0	Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Lough Owel is a medium- to large-sized lake in Co. Westmeath, with a length of c. 6 km along its long axis and a maximum width of 3 km. It is fed by a number of small streams and the main outflow is to the Royal Canal. Water is relatively shallow, with a maximum depth of 22 m. Overlying Carboniferous limestone, Lough Owel is one of the most important examples of a limestone lake in the Midlands. The water is moderately hard, alkaline and virtually colourless. The lake appears to be relatively unproductive with low levels of orthophosphate and moderate chlorophyll concentrations. The lake is classified as a mesotrophic system and its status has been stable in recent years. Agriculture, forestry and human induced changes in hydraulic conditions are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
004065	Lough Sheelin SPA	0	Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Lough Sheelin is a medium to large-sized lake, located on the border of Counties Cavan, Westmeath and Meath. It is a relatively shallow alkaline lake with a maximum depth of 14 m. The Inny River, a main tributary of the River Shannon, is the main outflow from the lake. Agriculture, forestry and leisure fishing are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
002340	Moneybeg And Clareisland Bogs SAC	0	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	This site is located on the border of Counties Meath and Westmeath, 9 km east of the town of Granard. It is situated mainly in the townlands of Clareisland or Derrymacegan, Williamstown and Moneybeg in Co. Westmeath, and Ross in Co. Meath. Land use at Moneybeg Bog includes active peat-cutting to the east and west and forestry along the western margin. Current land use at Clareisland Bog includes peat-cutting to the west and north-west of the high bog and forestry along the southern margin. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include drainage and burning. Drainage has occurred on these high bogs in the past and at Moneybeg Bog there is evidence of recent and frequent burning of the high bog. These activities have resulted in habitat loss and damage to the hydrological status, and pose a continuing threat to the viability of these high bogs. Agriculture, invasive species, extraction, road infrastructure, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, urbanisation, fire and drainage issues are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
002342	Mount Hevey Bog SAC	0	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	Mount Hevey Bog is situated approximately 4 km north-east of Kinnegad, in the townlands of Cloncrave, White Island, Aghamore, Kilwarden and Kilnagalliagh. The Meath-Westmeath County boundary runs through the centre of the bog. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The Dublin-Sligo railway runs through the northern part of the bog isolating two northern lobes. The northern lobes are adjacent to the Royal Canal. Current land use on the site consists of limited mechanised peat-cutting, mostly on the eastern end of the high bog. There are areas of old peat cuttings all around the site with some very old abandoned regenerating cutover along the edge of the railway. The area to the east of the site has been afforested. Areas of cutover have been reclaimed for agricultural purposes. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include drainage throughout the site (both old and recent) and burning of the high bog. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. Agriculture, invasive species, extraction, road infrastructure, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, urbanisation, fire and drainage issues are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
002202	Mount Jessop Bog SAC	0	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Bog woodland [91D0]	Mount Jessop Bog SAC occurs within the larger raised bog system that is designated as Mount Jessop Bog NHA (001450). It is situated 5 km south-west of Longford Town in the townland of Mount Jessop, Co. Longford. The site is part of a basin raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The site is bordered by open high bog on its northern and western sides and by agricultural land on its eastern side and southern side. The underlying geology is carboniferous limestone. Invasive species, human induced change to hydrological condition/characteristics and burning are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
002299	River Boyne And River Blackwater SAC	0	Alkaline fens [7230] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]	This site comprises the freshwater element of the River Boyne as far as the Boyne Aqueduct, the Blackwater as far as Lough Ramor and the Boyne tributaries including the Deel, Stoneyford and Tremblestown Rivers. These riverine stretches drain a considerable area of Meath and Westmeath, and smaller areas of Cavan and Louth. The underlying geology is Carboniferous Limestone for the most part, with areas of Upper, Lower and Middle well represented. In the vicinity of Kells Silurian Quartzite is present while close to Trim are

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			<i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	<p>Carboniferous Shales and Sandstones. There are many large towns adjacent to but not within the site, including Slane, Navan, Kells, Trim, Athboy and Ballivor.</p> <p>Fishing is a main tourist attraction on the Boyne and Blackwater and there are a number of Angler Associations, some with a number of beats. Fishing stands and styles have been erected in places. The Eastern Regional Fishery Board have erected fencing along selected stretches of the river as part of their salmonid enhancement programme. Parts of the river system have been arterially dredged. In 1969 an arterial dredging scheme commenced and disrupted angling for 18 years. The dredging altered the character of the river completely and resulted in many areas in very high banks. The main channel from Drogheda upstream to Navan was left untouched, as were a few stretches on the Blackwater. Ongoing maintenance dredging is carried out along stretches of the river system where the gradient is low. This is extremely destructive to salmonid habitat in the area. Drainage of the adjacent river systems also impacts on the many small wetland areas throughout the site. The River Boyne is a designated Salmonid Water under the E.U. Freshwater Fish Directive.</p> <p>Urbanisation, invasive species, hydrological interactions, agriculture, forestry, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, and flooding/rising precipitation are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p>
004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	0	Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) [A229]	<p>The River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA is a long, linear site that comprises stretches of the River Boyne and several of its tributaries; most of the site is in Co. Meath, but it extends also into Cos Cavan, Louth and Westmeath. It includes the following river sections: the River Boyne from the M1 motorway bridge, west of Drogheda, to the junction with the Royal Canal, west of Longwood, Co Meath; the River Blackwater from its junction with the River Boyne in Navan to the junction with Lough Ramor in Co. Cavan; the Tremblestown River/Athboy River from the junction with the River Boyne at Kilnagross Bridge west of Trim to the bridge in Athboy, Co. Meath; the Stoneyford River from its junction with the River Boyne to Stonestown Bridge in Co. Westmeath; the River Deel from its junction with the River Boyne to Cummer Bridge, Co. Westmeath. The site includes the river channel and marginal vegetation.</p> <p>Urbanisation, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, transport infrastructure and human induced changes in hydraulic conditions are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
004158	River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA	0	Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<p>The site comprises the estuary of the River Nanny and sections of the shoreline to the north and south of the estuary (c. 3 km in length), in Co. Meath. The estuarine channel, which extends inland for almost 2 km, is narrow and well sheltered. Sediments are muddy in character and edged by saltmarsh and freshwater marsh/wet grassland. The saltmarsh is best developed in the eastern portion of the estuarine channel, with species such as Sea Plantain (<i>Plantago maritima</i>), Sea Aster (<i>Aster tripolium</i>), Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>) and Sea Purslane (<i>Halimione portulacoides</i>) occurring. Further up the estuary, the marsh habitats support species such as Bulrush (<i>Typha latifolia</i>) and Yellow Flag (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>). The shoreline, which is approximately 500 m in width to the low tide mark, comprises beach and intertidal habitats. It is a well-exposed shore, with coarse sand sediments. The welldeveloped beaches, which are backed in places by clay cliffs, provide high tide roosts for the birds. The village of Laytown occurs in the northern side of the River Nanny estuary.</p> <p>Urbanisation, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
000692	Scragh Bog SAC	0	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> (Slender Green Feather-moss) [1393]	<p>Scragh Bog lies approximately 10 km north-west of Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. This site comprises a wet transition fen with a floating root mat which has developed in a small oval-shaped depression. The fen is fed by weak surface springs and drains by an artificially defined outlet. The fen becomes open carr in the central area and in places grades into ombrotrophic bog.</p> <p>Agriculture, pollution through surface water or groundwater, and transport infrastructure paths, tracks, cycling tracks are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
004167	Slieve Beagh SPA	0	Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]	<p>The Slieve Beagh SPA comprises much of the eastern and south-eastern sectors of the Slieve Beagh upland area that extends from County Monaghan into Northern Ireland. The site consists of mountain blanket bog, which is well developed at the higher altitudes and especially at Eshbrack (peak of 365m). In places the bog is cutover and there are also wet and dry heaths present. The mid-slopes are afforested, with plantations of various ages. The remainder of the site is rough or marginal grassland. Some of the old fields system support species-rich wet grassland vegetation dominated by soft rush. Several small dystrophic lakes are present within the site.</p> <p>Peat extraction, paths, tracks, cycling tracks and road infrastructure are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
004091	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA	0	Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043]	<p>This site, situated approximately 4 km from Dundalk Bay, is a small, very flat alluvial plain adjacent to the River Glyde. It is bounded to the north and south by low, rolling hills. Much of the site was formerly marshland or wet grassland, but is now drained and agriculturally improved. It is farmed intensively for grass, cereals and root crops.</p>

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				Agriculture and paths, tracks, cycling tracks are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
001810	White Lough, Ben Loughs And Lough Doo SAC	0	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo SAC is comprised of four hard water lakes in a small, poorly-drained valley, 4 km east of Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath. Agriculture, recreational activities, trapping/poisoning/poaching, infilling of drainage ditches, and urbanisation are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
002205	Wooddown Bog SAC	0	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	Wooddown Bog SAC occurs within the larger raised bog system that is designated as Wooddown Bog NHA (000694). It is situated 5.0 km north-east of Mullingar in the townland of Wooddown, Co. Westmeath. The underlying geology is carboniferous limestone. Current landuse on the site consists of conservation management with the removal of conifer plantations and the blocking of drainage associated with these plantations, both on the high bog and on the cutover. This work was undertaken as part of the Coillte E.U. Life Project Demonstrating Best Practice in Raised Bog Restoration in Ireland. Active peat-cutting and drainage is occurring outside the south-western boundary and to the north-east of the SAC and there is a major drain running through the centre of the adjacent high bog. There is also some dumping around the site. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. The site is being actively managed for conservation as part of the Coillte E.U. LIFE Project and most of the required restoration measures have already been carried out. However, some significant threats remain and an After-LIFE management plan is being developed for the future conservation management of the SAC. Turf cutting, invasive species, as well as interactions with ground and surface water are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
UK00166 21	Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC	Adjacent	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] Alkaline fens [7230] Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092]	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 1000 hectares. Alkaline fens for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Invasive species, hydrological interactions, agriculture, threats outside the member state, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, and flooding/rising precipitation are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.
UK90200 91	Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA	Adjacent	Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]	The Slieve Beagh – Mullaghfad - Lisnaskea SPA comprises a single land unit extending between Slatbeg in the north-east and Coolnasillagh in the south-west and incorporating the Slieve Beagh massif, Mullaghfad Forest and Lisnaskea Forest. Slightly more than half the eastern boundary is formed by the border with the Republic of Ireland. The site is delimited principally by physical boundaries closest to merged radii extending 2.5km from nest sites used by hen harriers between 1997 and 2004. The site encompasses all lands within these boundaries, excluding wholly-improved pasture, arable land, buildings and associated lands. It includes coniferous plantations, blanket bog, wet and dry heath, grass moor, scrub and limited semi-improved agricultural grassland. Invasive species, climate change, hydrological interactions, agriculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, fire, mining/quarrying and forestry are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.
UK00166 22	Slieve Beagh SAC	Adjacent	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] European dry heaths [4030]	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. European dry heaths for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Blanket bogs for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Invasive species, mining/quarrying, agriculture, air pollution, air-borne pollutants, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions and fire are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.
UK00166 14	Upper Lough Erne SAC	Adjacent	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation [3150] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> -type vegetation for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. <i>Lutra lutra</i> for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Forestry, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Sports and leisure structures, hunting, and invasive species are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.
UK90200 71	Upper Lough Erne SPA	Adjacent	Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]	Upper Lough Erne is a very large and complex freshwater system located in the south of Northern Ireland. It lies within the catchment of the River Erne, a river shared with the Irish Republic. A series of flooded drumlins in the course of the River Erne give rise to a

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				<p>complex of islands, bays and many lakes bordered by damp pastures, fens, reedswamp, Alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>-willow <i>Salix</i> sp. carr, and Oak <i>Quercus</i> sp. Woodland. The site supports a wide range of breeding and wintering waterbirds, but is especially important for wintering Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>.</p> <p>Climate change, transport infrastructure, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Sports and leisure structures, and Changes in biotic conditions are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.</p>
UK00302 12	Moninea Bog SAC	0.50	Active raised bogs [7110]	<p>Moninea Bog represents a comparatively large area of raised bog in Co. Fermanagh. It lies to the west of Upper Lough Erne directly south-west of Teemore and represents one of the few remaining examples from the complex of small raised bogs which once occupied hollows between the drumlins of South Ulster.</p> <p>The bog lies at an elevation of about 50m O.D. and is completely surrounded by a series of low drumlin hills which in turn are surrounded by a series of rivers. The peat deposits are deep and permanently waterlogged and the main feature of interest is a large intact dome supporting a good surface microtopography. In addition, a number of notable plant species have been recorded including <i>Sphagnum fuscum</i>, <i>S. imbricatum</i> and <i>S. pulchrum</i>.</p> <p>Agriculture, hydrological interactions, fire and Air pollution, air-borne pollutants species are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.</p>
UK00302 68	Rostrevor Wood SAC	2.76	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	<p>Rostrevor Wood is a mature Oak Woodland known to be at least 250 years old and may be a remnant of the original forest which once covered the region. The dominant woodland type occurs on the upper, freely-draining slopes that are acidic in nature. The tall, dense canopy is dominated by oak with an understorey of hazel and occasional holly and a field layer of bramble, honeysuckle and bilberry. The ground flora is typically acidic with carpets of greater wood-rush. The lower slopes are flushed and mildly base-rich resulting in the presence of ash, and to a lesser extent goat willow and Wych elm in the canopy.</p> <p>The field layer and the ground flora are typically much more diverse. The woodland flora also includes a number of rare plants such as wood fescue, toothwort and bird's-nest orchid. A number of nationally scarce species of Lichen have also been recorded for the site including <i>Melaspilea granitophia</i>, a record new to Ireland. Invertebrate sampling has indicated that the site is also important for a number of hoverflies and house-flies from the order Diptera.</p> <p>Air pollution, air-borne pollutants and invasive species are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.</p>
UK00302 77	Slieve Gullion SAC	3.31	European dry heaths [4030]	<p>This area has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) because it contains habitat types and/or species which are rare or threatened within a European context. The ASSI citation describes the special interests for which the site was notified in the Northern Ireland context. The interests for which the site was selected as ASSI may differ from the interests selected in a European context. The habitats and/or species for which this area has been designated as a SAC are listed below. The reasons for their selection are listed, together with a brief description of the habitats and species as they typically occur across the UK. This area contains the interests described although it may not contain all the typical features.</p> <p>Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, agriculture, Air pollution, air-borne pollutants species, hydrological interactions, fire and invasive species are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.</p>
UK00166 20	Derryleckagh	4.38	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	<p>Derryleckagh is a large lowland transitional valley mire occupying a valley floor with a central basin mire which has a small, base-rich Hazel/Oak woodland on the eastern valley slope. The mire is in a transitional stage between fen and bog, and is characterised by its broad range of surface conditions, ranging from slightly base-rich to markedly acidic. These soil conditions are dependent upon the influence of the ground water on the surface peat layer and have a marked effect upon the plant communities present. The diversity of wetland habitats supports rich invertebrate communities, and supports notable wetland bird numbers.</p> <p>Agriculture, surface water pollution and invasive species are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
002313	Ballymore Fen SAC	6.05	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	<p>Ballymore Fen lies approximately 17 km west of Mullingar adjacent to the Mullingar to Ballymore road (R390) in Co. Westmeath. The geology of the area is Carboniferous Limestone. The site occupies a relatively wide and deep depression in the surrounding drift which is fed on both the east and west by springs. The area may at one stage have been a lake of some size but at present is occupied by a transition mire complex with a characteristic lagg fen at the edges.</p> <p>Agriculture, forestry, Air pollution, air-borne pollutants species, surface water pollution and invasive species are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
000440	Lough Ree SAC	6.93	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150]	<p>Lough Ree is the third largest lake in Ireland and is situated in an ice-deepened depression in Carboniferous limestone on the River Shannon system between Lanesborough and Athlone. The site spans Counties Longford, Roscommon and Westmeath. Some of its</p>

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			<p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements [8240] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Bog woodland [91D0] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p>	<p>features (including the islands) are based on glacial drift. It has a very long, indented shoreline and hence has many sheltered bays. Although the main habitat, by area, is the lake itself, interesting shoreline, terrestrial and semiaquatic habitats also occur.</p> <p>Land uses within the site include recreation in the form of cruiser hire, angling, camping, picnicking and shooting. Chalet accommodation occurs at a few locations around the lake. Low-intensity grazing occurs on dry and wet grassland around the shore, and some hay is made within the site. Some of these activities are damaging, but in a very localised way, and require careful planning. The main threat to the aquatic life in the lake comes from artificial enrichment of the waters by agricultural and domestic waste, and also by peat silt in suspension which is increasingly limiting the light penetration, and thus restricting aquatic flora to shallower waters. At present Lough Ree is less affected by eutrophication than Lough Derg.</p> <p>Agriculture, forestry, invasive species, recreational activities, hydrological interactions, transport infrastructure, inundation (natural processes), and urbanisation are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
004064	Lough Ree SPA	6.94	<p>Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>Situated on the River Shannon between Lanesborough and Athlone, Lough Ree is the third largest lake in the Republic of Ireland. It lies in an ice-deepened depression in Carboniferous Limestone. Some of its features (including the islands) are based on glacial drift. The main inflowing rivers are the Shannon, Inny and Hind, and the main outflowing river is the Shannon. The greater part of Lough Ree is less than 10 m in depth, but there are six deep troughs running from north to south, reaching a maximum depth of about 36 m just west of Inchmore. The lake has a very long, indented shoreline and hence has many sheltered bays. It also has a good scattering of islands, most of which are included in the site.</p> <p>Agriculture, forestry, fishing activities, recreation and invasive species are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
000448	Fortwilliam Turlough SAC	9.63	<p>Turloughs [3180]</p>	<p>Fortwilliam Turlough is situated close to the eastern shore of Lough Ree, 6 km south of Lanesborough, in Co. Longford. The surrounding countryside is flat, with a thin cover of drift. The floor of the basin is at two levels, a lower central area with several lakes and ponds, and a higher surrounding area of till with scattered rocks, extending north-westwards into flat fields and woodland. There is a little surface flow into the basin and floodwater appears to be strongly calcareous.</p> <p>Threats to turloughs stem mainly from drainage and agricultural improvement. Fortwilliam seems largely unaffected by drainage, and standing water may persist throughout the summer. It is an oligotrophic site, which indicates that it has escaped significant nutrient input but renders it sensitive to damage should this occur. The turlough is grazed by cattle and sheep, but is undivided.</p> <p>Agriculture, ground water pollution, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general and modification of hydrographic functioning, general are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
UK00301 16	Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River	10.66	<p>Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]</p>	<p>The Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River rises on Cuilcagh Mountain and flows through County Cavan in the Republic of Ireland before crossing the border into County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland, and eventually entering Upper Lough Erne. It is a moderately large river, being ultra-oligotrophic in its upland reaches within the Republic of Ireland, before gradually becoming oligotrophic and oligo-mesotrophic through its middle and lower reaches within Northern Ireland. The freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> population, which is estimated to have a minimum number of 10,000 individuals, is confined to 6 km of undisturbed river channel in the middle section of the river. It is one of the largest known populations surviving in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Forestry, hydrological interactions, transport infrastructure, invasive species, Renewable abiotic energy use and mining/ quarrying are the main threats or pressures identified by the JNCC in the standard data form.</p>
004122	Skerries Islands SPA	10.99	<p>Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) [A148] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]</p>	<p>The Skerries Islands are a group of three small uninhabited islands, Shenick's Island, St Patrick's Island and Colt Island, situated between 0.5 km and 1.5 km off the north Co. Dublin coast. Skerries Islands SPA comprises the three islands and the seas surrounding them, to a distance of 200 m from the shore. The three islands are all low-lying with maximum heights ranging from 8 m to 13 m above sea level. St Patrick's Island and Colt Island have low cliffs, while Shenick's Island has more extensive expanses of intertidal rocky shore and sand flats. Shenick's Island also has a shingle bar and is connected to the mainland at low tides; it became a BirdWatch Ireland Reserve in 1987. The vegetation of the islands is dominated by rank grasses, with Brambles (<i>Rubus</i> spp.) and other species such as Hogweed (<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>) occurring commonly.</p> <p>Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>

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004014	Rockabill SPA	11.08	Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) [A148] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]	Rockabill consists of two small, low-lying, granitic islets situated c. 7 km off the Co. Dublin coast. The islands are separated by a narrow channel, though are connected at low spring tides. The main island, known as the Lighthouse Island, is vegetated by a scrubby sward of Tree Mallow (<i>Lavatera arborea</i>), with a range of other maritime species occurring, such as Sea Mayweed (<i>Matricaria maritima</i>), Sea Campion (<i>Silene maritima</i>), Sorrel (<i>Rumex</i> spp.), Common Scurvy-grass (<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>), Orache (<i>Atriplex</i> spp.) and Rock Sea-spurrey (<i>Spergularia rupicola</i>). The smaller island, known as the Bill, is very exposed and is sparsely vegetated. A lighthouse, manned until 1989, is situated on the main island. The site includes the two islands and the surrounding seas to a distance of 3.5 km from the islands. Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, transportation and communication infrastructure are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	11.16	Reefs [1170] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	This site includes a range of dynamic inshore and coastal waters in the western Irish Sea. These include sandy and muddy seabed, reefs, sandbanks and islands. This site extends southwards, in a strip approximately 7 km wide and 40 km in length, from Rockabill, running adjacent to Howth Head, and crosses Dublin Bay to Frazer Bank in south Co. Dublin. The site encompasses Dalkey, Muglins and Rockabill islands. Large shipping vessel traffic, urbanisations, human induced changes to hydraulic condition, noise pollution, port infrastructure and fisheries are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
002349	Corbo Bog SAC	11.40	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	Corbo Bog is located 7 km west of Lanesborough, mainly in the townlands Corbo, Cloonageeragh, Clooncassel Beg and Coolshagtena, in Co. Roscommon. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The site is bounded on the south by the Lanesborough to Roscommon road, and a road from this one to Killoosky forms part of the western boundary. Except at the far western and southern edges of the site, active peat-cutting is carried out all around the high bog. There are two areas in particular where mechanised peat-cutting is affecting the high bog: in the north of the site the cut face is less than 50 m from the pool systems and in the east the peat is being cut near to a flush. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include drainage and burning of the high bog. Two areas of the site in the north and north-east have recently been damaged by burning. Drains in the east of the site are also having a damaging effect. These are all activities that have resulted in the loss of habitat, damage the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. Finally, in the north and east of the site dumping of old cars has occurred. Human induced changes in hydraulic condition and mechanical peat extraction are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.
000584	Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC	11.44	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] <i>Drepanocladus vermicosus</i> (Slender Green Feather-moss) [1393]	This site follows a series of shale uplands in the counties of Cavan and Leitrim, including to the north, Cuilcagh Mountain on the border with Northern Ireland, Benbrack, Bencroy, and to the south, Slieve Anierin, rising above Lough Allen. It links the following pre-existing Areas of Scientific Interest: Bellavally Mountain, Cuilcagh Mountain and Lough Cratty Bog, Moneenterriff Cliffs and Levenakilla Bog. The site is of special interest because of its geology, physiography and upland flora and fauna. Urbanisation, invasive species, hydrological interactions, agriculture, forestry, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, paths, tracks, cycling tracks and flooding/rising precipitation are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.
UK00166 15	Eastern Mourne SAC	11.84	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands [6150] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. European dry heaths for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Alpine and Boreal heaths for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) for which the

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			<p>Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030]</p>	<p>area is considered to support a significant presence. Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Blanket bogs for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Agriculture, climate change, invasive species, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, hydrological interactions, biocenotic evolution, succession and fire are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.</p>
001831	Split Hills And Long Hill Esker SAC	12.45	<p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</p>	<p>Split Hills and Long Hill Esker is a 5 km long site which crosses the main GalwayDublin road mid-way between Kilbeggan and Tyrrellspass in Co. Westmeath. It is a prominent feature on the local landscape.</p> <p>The main threat to the esker is quarrying for sand and gravel. This activity already occurs on the site at several locations. Grazing is a critical factor affecting esker habitats, and getting a balance right is important. The presence of too many grazers causes damage to the ground vegetation in both woodlands and grasslands and prevents regeneration of woody species. However, if the grazing level is too low, grasslands are vulnerable to the encroachment of scrub at the expense of species which require open conditions. Fertiliser application, associated with agricultural improvement, also leads to a reduction in species-richness of grasslands.</p> <p>Recreational activities, agriculture, floral competition and compositional dynamics are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
001398	Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC	13.01	<p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]</p>	<p>A river valley site which includes at its western end a large area of estate woodland and an artificial lake. The eastern section of the site includes a section of railway, canal and aquaduct; it continues as far as leixlip town. The site is underlain by carboniferous limestone over which has been laid a layer of glacial drift.</p> <p>Urbanisation, agriculture, roads, forestry and hydrological interactions are the main threats or pressures identified by the NPWS in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats have been identified from the NPWS database of protected sites.</p>
000584	Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC	13.63	<p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> (Slender Green Feather-moss) [1393]</p>	<p>This site follows a series of shale uplands in the counties of Cavan and Leitrim, including to the north, Cuilcagh Mountain on the border with Northern Ireland, Benbrack, Bencroy, and to the south, Slieve Anierin, rising above Lough Allen. It links the following pre-existing Areas of Scientific Interest: Bellavally Mountain, Cuilcagh Mountain and Lough Cratty Bog, Moneenteriff Cliffs and Levenakilla Bog. The site is of special interest because of its geology, physiography and upland flora and fauna.</p> <p>Urbanisation, invasive species, hydrological interactions, agriculture, forestry, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, paths, tracks, cycling tracks and flooding/rising precipitation are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p>
000208	Rogerstown Estuary SAC	13.76	<p>Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</p>	<p>Rogerstown Estuary is situated about 2 km north of Donabate in Co. Dublin. It is a relatively small, narrow estuary separated from the sea by a sand and shingle bar. The estuary is divided by a causeway and narrow bridge, built in the 1840s to carry the Dublin-Belfast railway line. Site comprises a relatively small estuarine system in north County Dublin. Receives the Ballyboghil and Ballough rivers, both of which flow through an agricultural catchment. It is a funnel shaped estuary, extending for about 6 km from east to west and up to 2 km at its widest. Has a wide salinity range, from near full sea water to near full fresh water. Estuary is bisected by a causeway and bridge which carries the Dublin-Belfast railway line. A sandy peninsula stretches across the outer part of the estuary, restricting water flow to a channel of c.200 m. In addition to salt marsh and sand dune habitats, some agricultural fields which adjoin the estuary are included in site - some of these have botanical or ornithological interests.</p> <p>Urbanisation, agriculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, leisure fishing, Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, road infrastructure. erosion, hydrological interactions, and invasive species are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.</p>

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001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC	14.02	Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	Annaghmore Lough is located 5 km north-west of Strokestown, Co. Roscommon. It lies at the centre of a network of small lakes in a rolling, drift-covered landscape. The shoreline slopes gently to the lake and these low-lying margins are extensively flooded in winter. In summer, when water levels recede, substantial areas of this shallow calcareous lake dry out, leaving flat expanses of exposed marl. A smaller, less calcareous lake occurs to the south of the site. This site is relatively intact with only minor damage caused by cattle poaching and some burning on the fen. Some infilling of wetland vegetation has occurred between the northern shore of the lake and the nearby road. Drainage is a potential threat to the site and associated flood lands Fire management and agriculture are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.
004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	14.27	Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Rogerstown Estuary is situated about 2 km north of Donabate in north County Dublin. It is a relatively small, funnel shaped estuary separated from the sea by a sand and shingle peninsula; the site extends eastwards to include an area of shallow marine water. The estuary receives the waters of the Ballyboghil and Ballough rivers and has a wide salinity range, from near full seawater to near full freshwater. The estuary is divided by a causeway and narrow bridge, built in the 1840s to carry the Dublin-Belfast railway line. At low tide extensive intertidal sand and mud flats are exposed and these provide the main food resource for the wintering waterfowl that use the site. The intertidal flats of the estuary are mainly of sands, with soft muds in the northwest sector and along the southern shore. Associated with these muds are stands of Common Cord-grass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>). Green algae (mainly <i>Ulva</i> spp.) are widespread and form dense mats in the more sheltered areas. The intertidal vascular plant Beaked Tasselweed (<i>Ruppia maritima</i>) grows profusely in places beneath the algal mats and is grazed by herbivorous waterfowl (notably Light-bellied Brent Goose and Wigeon). Salt marsh fringes parts of the estuary, especially its southern shores. Common plant species of the saltmarsh include Sea Rush (<i>Juncus maritimus</i>), Sea Purslane (<i>Halimione portulacoides</i>) and Common Saltmarsh-grass (<i>Puccinellia maritima</i>). Urbanisation, agriculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, leisure fishing, Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, road infrastructure, erosion, hydrological interactions, and invasive species are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form. No other site-specific threats were identified in the NPWS protected sites database.
UK00166 03	Cuilcagh Mountain SAC	14.44	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. European dry heaths for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Alpine and Boreal heaths for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Blanket bogs for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Agriculture, invasive species, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, hydrological interactions, biocenotic evolution, succession and fire are the known threats and pressures identified for the site in the standard data form.

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

Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]	Inappropriate grazing levels; invasive species; and clearance for agriculture or felling for timber	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in management.
Alosa fallax fallax (<i>Twaite Shad</i>) [1103]	Habitat quality, particularly at spawning sites is the most notable threat to this species.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change
Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	Abandonment; overgrazing; burning; outdoor recreation; quarries; communication networks; and wind farm developments.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change
Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	Grazing; sand and gravel extraction; recreational activities; coastal protection works	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion
Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes

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Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170]	Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	Natural erosion processes exacerbated by recreation and sand extraction. Coastal protection interfering with natural processes	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Estuaries [1130]	Pollution, fishing /aquaculture and habitat quality.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity and
<i>Euphydrys aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]	Declines in habitat quality lead to species decline.	Habitat management; land use change and drainage.
European dry heaths [4030]	Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	Recreation; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing: non-native plant species, particularly sea buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>),	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Distance to human activities, accidental entanglement in fishing gear competition for prey resources, illegal killing, pollution and habitat degradation.	Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
Humid dune slacks [2190]	Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change.
<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change
<i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change
<i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); unting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution
<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution
Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]	Over-grazing by cattle or sheep; infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]	Nutrient alterations; management shifts in the associated peatland habitat, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]	Reclamation, afforestation and burning; overstocking; invasion by non-heath species; exposure of peat to severe erosion.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]	There are no significant impacts affecting this species.	None identified
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]	Barriers to upstream migration (e.g. weirs), which limit access to spawning beds and juvenile habitat are main threats to this species.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity.
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	The main threats to this species include; by-catch in fishing gear, pollution of the marine environment and habitat degradation.	Falling prey densities is a threat to this species.
Reefs [1170]	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.

Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Statement for the Ancient Destination Development Plan

Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species
<i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]	Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations.	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]	Removal of beach material and interference with the supply of sand; construction of coastal defences; sand compaction caused by vehicles and trampling.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation
Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]	Forestry planting and agricultural improvements are ongoing and causing habitat loss, along with succession to heath and scrub.	Land use management activities
<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]	Threatened by habitat loss, deliberate collection, encroachment of invasive or vigorous species, or indirectly by water pollution, removal of woodland or alteration of watercourses.	Land use management and direct impacts
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	Erosion; grazing; recreational pressures; development of golf courses and housing; dumping; cutting of peat; coastal protection works; climate change	Coastal development. Erosion, over-grazing and recreation
<i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]	Eutrophication; overgrazing, excessive fertilisation; afforestation; and the introduction of invasive alien species.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Submerged or partially submerged seacaves [8330]	No specific threats were identified for the habitat.	Sensitive to natural processes and human activities.
Soft waterlakes with base rich influences [3130]	Eutrophication, peat cutting, losses from agriculture and peatland drainage.	Highly sensitive to hydrological change and water pollution.
Coastal Lagoons [1150]	Drainage, natural silting, nutrient enrichment, water pollution from industrial and commercial activities.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Drainage, siltation and pollution are threats to this habitat type	Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Kerry Slug (<i>Geomalacus maculosus</i>) [1024]	Main threats to this species include; afforestation, forestry management, invasion of woodland by <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> , agricultural reclamation and infrastructure development	Land use management, groundwater dependant
<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	Overgrazing; fire; agricultural expansion; invasion by alien species particularly <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> ; and poor regeneration.	Onset of inundation or waterlogging Inappropriate management
<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [9130]	Invasive alien's species. Restricted distribution and limited suitable habitat	Inappropriate management, Invasion by alien species
Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	Loss of roosting sites due to deterioration or renovation of old buildings, loss of commuting routes linking roosts to foraging sites, and unsympathetic management of foraging habitats are the major threats to this species.	Highly sensitive to disturbance.
Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833]	Fertilization; disposal of household waste; water pollution; eutrophication; and invasion by alien species.	Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Sandbanks [1110]	The NPWS state that it is considered that current pressures and future threats are unlikely to significantly impact this habitat.	None identified
Bottle-Nosed Dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) [1349]	The bottlenose dolphin is vulnerable to a range of threats and pressures in its natural habitat. Such threats and pressures include accidental entanglement in fishing gear, competition for prey resources, pollution and other habitat degradation, and disturbance by human activities.	Human interaction, pollution, noise.
Alkaline fens [7230]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]	Ground water interactions, on site management activities	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
Active raised bogs [7110]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes
Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes
Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes
Bog woodland [91D0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.

Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Statement for the Ancient Destination Development Plan

Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
<i>Austroptamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution
Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140]	Hydrological changes, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation [3150]	Hydrological changes, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
<i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> (Slender Green Feather-moss) [1393]	Pollution, land use, climate change and invasive species	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austroptamobius pallipes</i>) [1092]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution
Limestone pavements [8240]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Turloughs [3180]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Hydrological interactions, fisheries activities, human disturbance effects, prey availability	Noise, prey availability/trophic interactions, hydrological interactions.
Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands [6150]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) [1016]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes
<i>Vertigo geyeri</i> (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes

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

Special Conservation Interests				Vulnerabilities of Special Conservation Interests
Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]	Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) [A229] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]	Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059] Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) [A148] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]	Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird species are particularly vulnerable to direct disturbance due to noise and/or vibration. These effects are localised, and disturbance effects are foreseen to be low at distances beyond 2km. Direct habitat loss is a serious concern for bird species, as well as the reduction in habitat quality. Habitat degradation could occur through effects such as local enrichment due to agricultural practices or damage to habitat through activities such as trampling. Prey species diversity and availability is a key element of species conservation. Community dynamics and ecosystem functionality are complex concepts and require site specific information. The site synopsis and conservation objectives for the SPAs identified within the ZOI were used to identify any specific prey sensitivities. Availability of nesting/roosting habitat. Particularly for the Hen Harrier. Vegetation composition, structure and functionality.
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]				Direct land take is a common vulnerability to all sites; as well as significant water quality effects. The conservation objective of all SPAs designated for Wetland and Waterbirds is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds using it.

Appendix II Relationship Other Plans and Programmes

Relationship Other Plans and Programmes	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Relevance to the Plan
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, (replacing the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020) and the National Development Plan (2018-2027)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> €27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; "<i>Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way.</i>" 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)	<p>Vision: "<i>Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU.</i>"</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Marine Spatial Plan for Ireland (in/pending preparation)	It is intended that the Marine Spatial Plan will be finalised in 2020, and forwarded to the European Commission at that time, ahead of the due date for submission by Member States of their plans in March 2021.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Action Plan 2016-2018	Includes a total of 23 actions to be addressed in the period between now and 2018 aimed at securing continued growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Harvest 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Statement for the Ancient Destination Development Plan

Relationship Other Plans and Programmes	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Relevance to the Plan
National Rural Development Programme	<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 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
River Basin Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Basin Management Plans set out the status of waters in the River Basin District. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010	<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 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010	<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 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies,	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest To describe the site and its management To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities" 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Planning Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines planning objectives for land use development (including transport objectives). Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. Sets out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appendix III Fáilte Ireland published documents referenced in the DDP/SEA Environmental Report

Contents of this Appendix:

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



WILD ATLANTIC WAY

SLÍ FHIÁIN AN ATLANTAIGH

Site Maintenance Guidelines

*for launching the
Wild Atlantic Way*



Fáilte Ireland

National Tourism Development Authority

the **paulhogarth** company



BRADY SHIPMAN MARTIN



INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

What does it look like?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Ferry to Island

P Car parks & Lay-bys

 Potential Discovery Points

OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

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



SITE APPROACH AND ENTRANCE

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

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

Typical maintenance works may include:

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



PARKING SURFACES

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

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

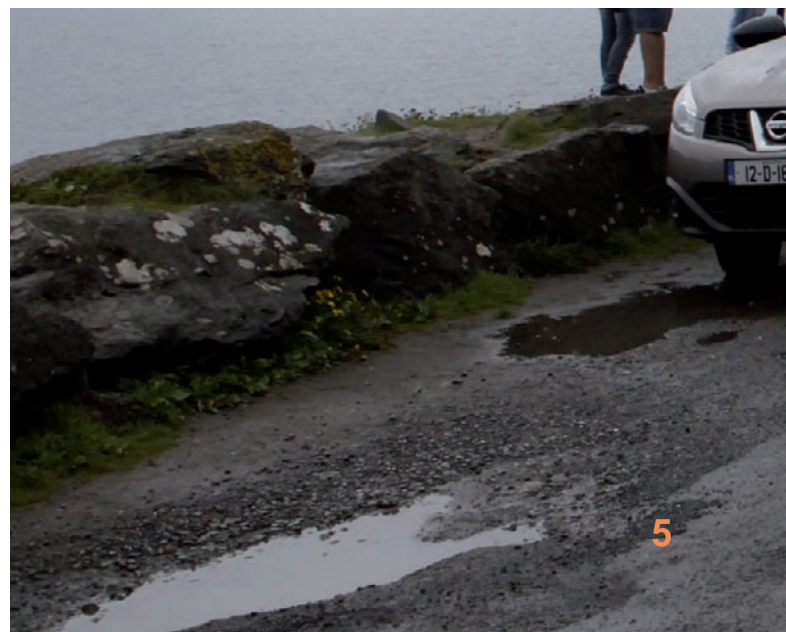
Surface materials will typically include tar and chip or compacted stone for rural sites, whereas village and harbour sites might include bitumen macadam, tar and chip, and possibly concrete.

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

Issues to Consider

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

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



SITE BOUNDARIES

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

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

Repair and maintenance works for improved presentation may require:

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

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

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



SIGNAGE

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

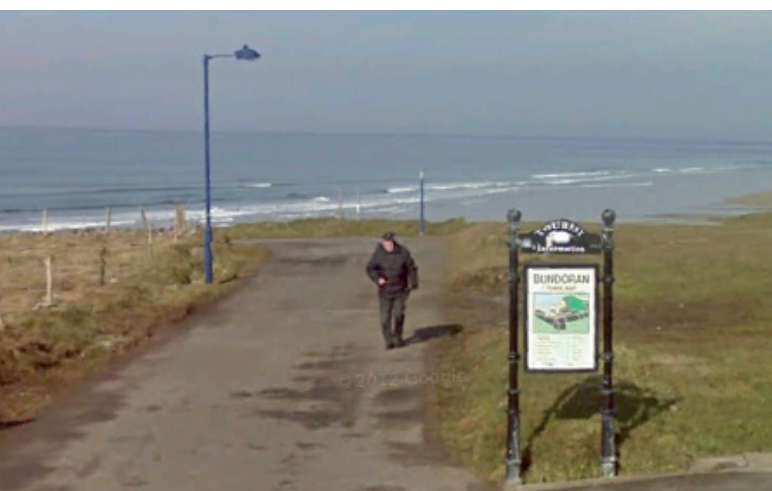
In many instances, typical actions required that may include:

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

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

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

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



SITE FURNITURE

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

Actions required may include:

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

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

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

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

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



SITE FACILITIES

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

Actions required:

Toilet Blocks

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

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

Temporary Toilets

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

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

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

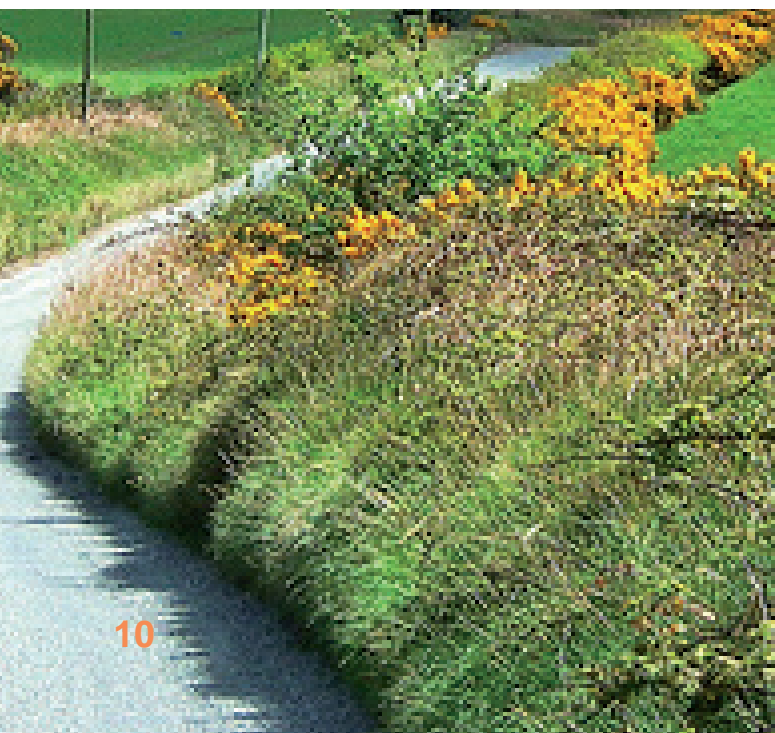
Recycling:

Consider possible alternative sites

Ensure they are located out of sight of visitors;

Provide screening, perhaps using timber panels and hedgerow surrounds





SITE LIGHTING

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

Inappropriate lighting installations should be removed.

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

SOFT LANDSCAPING

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

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

SUSTAINABILITY

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





MAINTENANCE & SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

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

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

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

What will the Service Level Agreement include?

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

Typically, they are likely to include:

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

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



ECOLOGICAL METHOD STATEMENT

1.1 Introduction

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

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

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

Table 1.1 Proposed Works for Wild Atlantic Way candidate Discovery Points

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

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

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

1.2 Ecological Control Measures

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

Table 1.2 Ecological Control Measures

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

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

1.3 Advisory Measures

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

Table 1.3 Advisory Measures

No.	Description
<p>1. Protection of Biodiversity including Natura 2000 Network</p>	<p>Contribute as appropriate towards the protection of designated ecological sites including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries, Ramsar Sites, Salmonid Waters and Wicklow National Park.</p> <p>The protection of natural heritage and biodiversity, including European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network, will be supported in accordance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including the following and any updated/superseding documents):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended)¹, the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)², the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)³, 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 1976⁴, 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 2008⁵ and the Flora Protection Order 1999. • National policy guidelines, including the Landscape and Landscape Assessment Draft Guidelines 2000, the Environmental Impact Assessment Sub-Threshold Development Guidelines 2003, Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines 2004 and the Appropriate Assessment Guidance 2010. • Catchment and water resource management Plans. • Biodiversity Plans and guidelines, including Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016: and Ireland’s National Biodiversity Plan; • Ireland’s Environment 2012 (EPA, 2012), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report’s goals and challenges.

¹ 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.

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

³ Including protected species and natural habitats

⁴ Including species of flora and fauna and their key habitats.

⁵ Including protected species and natural habitats

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

No.	Description
3. AA and Exemptions	<p>Proposals for development must be screened for the need to undertake AA as per the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (Part 5, Section 42). A local authority is unlikely to carry out an AA of their own development as the competent authority in such instances is likely to be An Bord Pleanála. A local authority must screen proposed developments for AA to determine whether a Section 177AE application to An Bord Pleanála is required.</p> <p>If proposals are screened out then planning exemptions are not lost. If a Stage 2 AA is required then planning exemptions are lost and planning permission must be sought⁶. If a local authority is applying for the permission and Stage 2 AA is required, then the application must go to An Bord Pleanála.</p> <p>Developments or works by other groups or individuals may require planning permission or, if not, may require Ministerial consent in European sites. Local authorities are likely to be responsible for deciding whether there are restrictions on exemptions in the case of exempted development by a group or individual.</p>
4. Environmental Control Measures	<p>A number of Environmental Control Measures have been integrated into the design of each site. The Measures have been detailed and tailored by giving due consideration to the sensitivity of the receiving environment and the scale of works proposed. These measures should be taken into account by any Appropriate Assessments and are part of the design and are not mitigation.</p>
5. Protection of Natura 2000 Sites	<p>No projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects⁷).</p>
6. Coastal Focus	<p>Works undertaken in coastal areas will be in accordance with best practice and support measures to protect the coast, the coastal edge and coastal habitats. Protect, enhance and conserve the beaches from inappropriate development. Facilitate and Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach to ensure the conservation, management and projection of man-made and natural resources of the coastal zone.</p>
7. Biodiversity and Ecological Networks	<p>Support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, semi-natural grasslands, rivers, streams, natural springs, wetlands, geological and geo-morphological systems, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p>

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

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

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

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



WILD ATLANTIC WAY

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Appendix 6

'Environmental Management for Local Authorities and Others'

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

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

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

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

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

If proposals are screened out then planning exemptions are not lost. If a Stage 2 AA is required then planning exemptions are lost and planning permission must be sought¹. 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.

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

Topic ²	Requirement ³
All	<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	<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	<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, k. disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil, 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, m. details of a water quality monitoring and sampling plan. n. if peat is encountered - a peat storage, handling and reinstatement management plan. o. measures adopted during construction to prevent the spread of invasive species (such as Japanese Knotweed). p. appointment of an ecological clerk of works at site investigation, preparation and construction phases.
All	<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	<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>

² 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.

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

	<p>Local authorities and others shall demonstrate compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including the following and any updated/superseding documents):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended)⁴, the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)⁵, the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)⁶, 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 1976⁷, 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 2008⁸ 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 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>Protection of Natura 2000 Sites</p> <p>No projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this programme (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects⁹).</p>
	<p>NPWS & Integrated Management Plans</p> <p>Regarding, integrated management plans, Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive requires that Member States establish the necessary conservation measures for Special Area of Conservation involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans. The NPWS's current priority is to identify site specific conservation objectives; management plans may be considered after this is done.</p> <p>Where Integrated Management Plans are being prepared for all Natura sites (or parts thereof), Fáilte Ireland and local authorities shall engage with the National Parks and Wildlife Service in order to ensure that plans are fully integrated with the Operational Programme and other plans and programmes, with the intention that such plans are practical, achievable and sustainable and have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and economic considerations and with special regard to local communities.</p>

⁴ 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.

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

⁶ Including protected species and natural habitats.

⁷ Including species of flora and fauna and their key habitats.

⁸ Including protected species and natural habitats.

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 project to proceed; and

c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

	<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 projection 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>
Population and human health	<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>
Soil	<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> <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	<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	<p>Infrastructure for Walking, Cycling and Water-based activities Local Authorities and others shall work with Fáilte Ireland, the National Trails Office, Coillte, the</p>

Factors	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.
Material Assets	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.
	Waste Creation Local authorities and others shall support the minimisation of waste creation and promote a practice of reduce, reuse and recycle where possible.
	Waste Disposal Local authorities and others shall safeguard the environment by seeking to ensure that residual waste is disposed of appropriately.
	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.
Cultural Heritage	Archaeological Heritage Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage, in particular by implementing the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the National Monuments Act, 1930 (as amended).
	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.
	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.
	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.
	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).
Landscape	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).
	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.