

SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

FOR THE

CLEW BAY DESTINATION AND EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

for: **Fáilte Ireland**
88-95 Amiens Street
Dublin 1



by: **CAAS Ltd.**
1st Floor
24-26 Ormond Quay Upper
Dublin 7



NOVEMBER 2021

Table of Contents

List of Abbreviations	v
Glossary	vi
Section 1 SEA Introduction and Background	1
1.1 Introduction and Terms of Reference	1
1.2 SEA Definition	1
1.3 SEA Directive and its transposition into Irish Law	1
1.4 Implications for the Plan	1
Section 2 The Plan	3
2.1 Overview	3
2.2 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes	3
Section 3 SEA Methodology	5
3.1 Introduction to the Iterative Approach	5
3.2 Appropriate Assessment and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment.....	5
3.3 Scoping	5
3.4 Alternatives	6
3.5 Environmental Report	6
3.6 The SEA Statement	6
3.7 Difficulties Encountered	7
Section 4 Environmental Baseline	9
4.1 Introduction.....	9
4.2 National Reporting on the Environment	9
4.3 Sustainable Development Goals	9
4.4 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of the Plan	10
4.5 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	12
4.6 Population and Human Health	25
4.7 Soil	25
4.8 Water.....	31
4.9 Air and Climatic Factors	41
4.10 Material Assets.....	43
4.11 Cultural Heritage	45
4.12 Landscape	49
Section 5 Strategic Environmental Objectives	51
Section 6 Description of Alternatives	54
6.1 Introduction.....	54
6.2 Current Situation (Alternative 1: Business as Usual)	54
6.3 Prepare a Plan (Alternatives 2A and 2B: Prepare a Plan)	54
Section 7 Evaluation of Alternatives	56
7.1 Introduction.....	56
7.2 Methodology	56
7.3 Cumulative Effects.....	58
7.4 Detailed Consideration of Alternatives	60
7.5 Selected Alternative for the Plan	62

Section 8	Evaluation of Plan Provisions.....	65
8.1	Introduction.....	65
8.2	Overall Findings	67
8.3	Appropriate Assessment.....	73
8.4	Interrelationship between Environmental Components.....	73
8.5	More Detailed Assessment of Plan Provisions	75
Section 9	Mitigation Measures.....	88
9.1	Introduction.....	88
9.2	Establishing the status of the Plan and its interrelationship with the Statutory Decision-Making and Consent-Granting Framework.....	88
9.3	Integrating Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management into the Plan...91	
Section 10	Monitoring Measures	93
10.1	Introduction.....	93
10.2	Indicators and Targets.....	93
10.3	Sources	93
10.4	Reporting and Responsibility	93
Appendix I	SEA Determination	97
Appendix II	Relationship with Legislation and Other Plans and Programmes	98
Appendix III	Designated Sites.....	138
Appendix IV	Fáilte Ireland published documents referenced in the DEDP/SEA Environmental Report	140
Appendix IV	Non-Technical Summary.....	Separately bound

List of Figures

Figure 4.1 Area to which the Plan relates	11
Figure 4.2 European Sites within and adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates	18
Figure 4.3 Other connected European sites	19
Figure 4.4 NHAs and pNHAs within and adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates.....	20
Figure 4.5 Other ecological designations within and adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates ..	21
Figure 4.6 CORINE Land Cover Mapping 2018	22
Figure 4.7 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Drinking Water, Bathing Waters and Salmonid Regs....	23
Figure 4.8 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Nutrient Sensitive Areas and Shellfish Areas	24
Figure 4.9 Soils.....	28
Figure 4.10 Geological Heritage.....	29
Figure 4.11 Landslide Susceptibility and Previous Landslide Events	30
Figure 4.12 Surface Water Status (2013-2018)	37
Figure 4.13 WFD Groundwater Status (2013-2018)	38
Figure 4.14 Groundwater Vulnerability	39
Figure 4.15 Groundwater Productivity	40
Figure 4.16 Archaeological and Architectural Heritage	48
Figure 4.17 Landscape Designations	50
Figure 9.1 Statutory Decision-Making and Consent-Granting Framework, DEDPs and Environmental Assessment Requirements	90

List of Tables

Table 3.1 Checklist of Information included in this Environmental Report	8
Table 4.1 WFD River, Lake, Coastal and Transitional Waterbodies Status	33
Table 5.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives, Indicators and Targets.....	52
Table 7.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives	57
Table 7.2 Criteria for appraising the effect of Alternatives on SEOs.....	57
Table 7.3 Effects Common to All Alternatives.....	60
Table 7.4 Comparative Evaluation of Alternatives against SEOs.....	63
Table 8.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives	66
Table 8.2 Criteria for appraising the effect of Plan provisions on SEOs	66
Table 8.3 Overall Findings – Environmental Effects arising from Plan Provisions.....	70
Table 8.4 Potential for Interrelationships between Environmental Components.....	74
Table 10.1 Selected Indicators, Targets and Monitoring Sources	94

List of Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
ACA	Architectural Conservation Area
CFRAM	Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
HSE	Health Service Executive
IFI	Inland Fisheries Ireland
pNHA	Proposed Natural Heritage Area
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OPW	Office of Public Works
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPA	Register of Protected Areas
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEO	Strategic Environmental Objective
SI No.	Statutory Instrument Number
SPA	Special Protection Area
WFD	Water Framework Directive

Glossary

Appropriate Assessment

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

Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

Environmental Problems

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

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

Environmental Vectors

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

Mitigate

To make or become less severe or harsh.

Mitigation Measures

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

Protected Structure

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

Recorded Monument

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

Scoping

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

Strategic Actions

Strategic actions include *Policies/Strategies*, which may be considered as inspiration and guidance for action and which set the framework for Plans and programmes; *Plans*, sets of co-ordinated and timed objectives for the implementation of the policy; and *Programmes*, sets of projects in a particular area.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

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

Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO)

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

Section 1 SEA Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction and Terms of Reference

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan (hereafter referred to as 'DEDP' or 'the Plan'). It has been undertaken by CAAS Ltd. on behalf of Fáilte Ireland.

1.2 SEA Definition

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

1.3 SEA Directive and its transposition into Irish Law

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, referred to hereafter as the SEA Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA

be carried out on plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors, including tourism.

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

1.4 Implications for the Plan

Article 3 para. 2 of the SEA Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes, or modifications to these:

- a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive¹, or
- b) which, in view of the likely effect on sites, have been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive² i.e. the Directive requires that SEA is undertaken where Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA)³ is being undertaken on plans, programmes etc.

¹ Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011, on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (codification)

² Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

³ AA is provided for by the Habitats Directive and is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a strategic action or project, alone and in combination

The tourism sector Plan does not contribute towards the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive and does not contain provisions or define rules that must be complied with when administrative consent of other projects is being granted.

The Plan does, however, fall under the definition of a “plan” contained within the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (as amended) and therefore must be screened for the need to undertake AA. The Screening for AA has found that the Plan has the potential, if unmitigated, to affect the ecological integrity of European Sites and that measures to ensure that potential effects are avoided are required. Taking into account the requirements of the Habitats Directive and recent case law (including, European Court of Justice Judgement C323-17), Stage 2 AA was therefore be carried out for the Plan. As Stage 2 AA has been undertaken on the Plan, SEA was also undertaken - see requirement at b) above. An SEA Determination is provided at Appendix I.

This SEA Environmental Report provides the findings of the SEA and should be read in conjunction with the Plan. This report was altered in order to take account of recommendations contained in submissions and in order to take account of changes that were made to the Plan on foot of submissions. Fáilte Ireland have taken into account the findings of an this report and other related SEA output during their consideration of the Plan and before it was finalised. On finalisation of the Plan, an SEA Statement is prepared which summarises, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan.

with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of a European Site in view of its conservation objectives.

Section 2 The Plan

2.1 Overview

The **Vision** of the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan is to extend the season, increase overnight visitation and visitor spend, and attract visitors to Clew Bay while seeking to promote, sustain and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the region.

The **Key Objectives** of the Plan are to develop compelling experiences for this stretch of the Wild Atlantic Way that will:

- Position Clew Bay as a 'must do' destination and motivate visitors to stay overnight and spend more;
- Disperse visitors and spend more evenly about the destination;
- Help attract interest and awareness from new markets, broadening the region's market-mix;
- Extend the length of the season beyond the core summer months by providing a compelling and meaningful experiential offering in the shoulder and off-season;
- Increase the region's stock of indoor and all-weather attractions;
- Improve the overall economy of communities through strengthening individual businesses, creating new entrepreneurial opportunities, sustaining and increasing job creation, and increasing the attractiveness of the area for other forms of economic growth;
- Support community values and aspirations, and strengthen community appreciation of local culture and intangible heritage;
- Promote collaboration and partnership, support engagement of businesses, and build lasting links between national and regional partners, local agencies and associations, and local tourism experiences;
- Protect the natural heritage and special environmental character of the region.
- Protect and celebrate the region's cultural heritage.

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.

⁴ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

⁵ Appendix II is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the

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 compliance⁴ 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).

2.2 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

The Plan sits within 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 documents include plans and programmes such as those detailed in Appendix II⁵ (see also, Section 4 "Environmental Baseline", Section 5 "Strategic Environmental Objectives", Section 6 "Description of Alternatives and Section 9 "Mitigation Measures"). These documents have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and form

regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the Directive, Regulation, Plan or Programme to become familiar with the full details of each.

the decision-making and consent-granting framework.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction up to 2040. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSESs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSES for the Northern and Western Region sets out objectives relating to 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. The RSES provides a framework for the review of existing, assessed Development Plans and Local Area Plans, which already include various provisions relating to land use, tourism and infrastructure. Such reviews are also subject to environmental assessments.

Implementation of the Plan shall be consistent with and conform with the NPF, the 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.

Section 3 SEA Methodology

3.1 Introduction to the Iterative Approach

The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA have taken place concurrently and the findings of the SEA and AA have informed the Plan.

3.2 Appropriate Assessment and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

3.2.1 Appropriate Assessment

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

The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA have taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA.

3.2.2 Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

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

Scoping

- Biodiversity-relevant issues were identified for consideration at scoping stage and these are now detailed in Section 4.
- Reference to a zone of influence is provided at Section 4.

Baseline

- Biodiversity data sources relevant for this local level assessment have been identified and datasets collated/gathered.

- The biodiversity baseline addresses designated sites and other habitats and species of ecological value.
- AA information has been incorporated into the SEA baseline.

Alternatives

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

Impact assessment

- Effects on biodiversity are identified and assessed and the AA considers the interrelationship between biodiversity and potential effects on European Sites.

Mitigation and monitoring

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

Reporting

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

Communication and consultation

- Submissions received have been taken on board.
- The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA are taking place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA.

3.3 Scoping

3.3.1 Introduction

The scope of environmental issues to be dealt with by the SEA together with the level of detail to which they are addressed was broadly decided upon taking into account the collection of environmental baseline data and input from environmental authorities. Scoping allowed the SEA to become focused upon key issues relevant to the environmental components that are specified under the SEA Directive⁶.

As the Plan is not likely to have significant effects on the environment in another Member

archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

⁶ These components comprise biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and

State, transboundary consultations as provided for by Article 7 of the SEA Directive were not undertaken.

3.3.2 Scoping Notices

Relevant environmental authorities⁷ identified under the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations, as amended, were sent SEA scoping notices by Fáilte Ireland indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to Fáilte Ireland.

3.3.3 Scoping Submissions

Submissions from the following environmental authorities were made during the SEA Scoping process (some Department titles have changed since):

- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine;
- Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment; and
- Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

These submissions were taken into account during preparation of the SEA and informed the various SEA recommendations that have been integrated into the Plan (see Section 9).

3.4 Alternatives

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. In accordance with this requirement, alternatives for the Plan are examined in Section 7.

3.5 Environmental Report

In this SEA Environmental Report, an earlier version of which was placed on public display

alongside the Plan, the likely environmental effects of the Plan and the alternatives are predicted and their significance evaluated.

The Environmental Report provides Fáilte Ireland, stakeholders and the public with a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of implementing the Plan.

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

This Environmental Report has been updated in order to take account of recommendations contained in submissions and in order to take account of changes that were made to the original, Draft Plan that was placed on public display. Updates to the Draft Plan did not provide for any uses, works or activities additional to those already provided for by the original Draft Plan that would present additional sources for effects. Consequently, they did not require further, detailed SEA or AA consideration.

This Environmental Report contains the information specified in Schedule 2 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004) as amended (see Table 3.1).

3.6 The SEA Statement

On finalisation of the Plan by Fáilte Ireland, an SEA Statement is prepared that includes information on:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan, highlighting the main changes to the Plan that resulted from the SEA process;
- How the SEA Environmental Report and consultations have been taken into account, summarising the key issues raised in consultations and in the Environmental Report indicating what action was taken in response;
- The reasons for choosing the Plan in the light of the other alternatives, identifying the other alternatives

⁷ The following authorities were notified: The Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, the

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

considered, commenting on their potential effects and explaining why the Plan as adopted was selected; and

- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing of the Plan.

3.7 Difficulties Encountered

No significant difficulties were encountered in undertaking the assessment.

There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a number of waterbodies within the Plan area with overall status currently not assigned to them and the term “unassigned status” applies in respect of these waterbodies. The SEA ensured that the Plan contains measures that will contribute towards the maintenance and improvement of status of all water bodies within the zone of influence.

Table 3.1 Checklist of Information included in this Environmental Report

Information Required to be included in the Environmental Report	Corresponding Section of this Report
(A) Outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Sections 2, 5 and 8
(B) Description of relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the evolution of that environment without implementation of the plan or programme	Section 4
(C) Description of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Sections 4, 7 and 8
(D) Identification of any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, particularly those relating to European Sites	Section 4
(E) List environmental protection objectives, established at international, EU or National level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and describe how those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account when preparing the Plan	Sections 5, 7, 8 and 9
(F) Describe the likely significant effects on the environment	Sections 7 and 8
(G) Describe any measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme	Section 9
(H) Give an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives considered, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken (including any difficulties)	Sections 3, 6, 7 and 8
(I) A description of proposed monitoring measures	Section 10
(J) A non-technical summary of the above information	Appendix V Non-Technical Summary
(K) Interrelationships between each environmental topic	Addressed as it arises within each Section

Section 4 Environmental Baseline

4.1 Introduction

Reflecting the specifications in the SEA Directive, the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment for the following environmental components are identified in this section:

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna;
- Population and Human Health;
- Material Assets;
- Water;
- Air and Climatic Factors;
- Landscape;
- Cultural Heritage;
- Soil; and
- The interrelationship between the above factors.

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

The area to which the Plan relates covers western parts of County Mayo.

4.2 National Reporting on the Environment

The EPA's "*Ireland's Environment - An Assessment 2016*" report provides an integrated assessment of the overall quality of Ireland's environment, the pressures being placed on it and the societal responses to current and emerging environmental issues. This report has informed various parts of the environmental baseline provided below. The key environmental challenges or messages identified by the report are:

Environment and Health and Wellbeing

Recognising the benefits of a good quality environment to health and wellbeing.

Climate Change

Accelerating mitigation actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement adaptation measures to increase resilience in dealing with adverse climate impacts.

Implementation of Legislation

Improving the tracking of plans and policies and the implementation and enforcement of environmental legislation to protect the environment.

Restore and Protect Water Quality

Implementing measures that achieve ongoing improvement in the environmental status of water bodies from source to the sea.

Sustainable Economic Activities

Integrating environmental sustainability ideas and performance accounting across economic sectors and sectoral plans should be a key policy for growth.

Nature and Wild Places

Protecting pristine and wild places that act as biodiversity hubs, contributing to health and wellbeing, and providing tourism opportunities

Community Engagement

Informing, engaging and supporting communities in the protection and improvement of the environment.

The report highlights that high-quality green and blue spaces are not just for nature but are for peoples' health and wellbeing, particularly in the context of an increasingly urban society and increasing settlement densities.

4.3 Sustainable Development Goals

Implementation of the Plan will contribute towards efforts to achieve a number of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which were adopted by world leaders in 2015 at a United Nations Summit and came into force in 2016. These Goals include:

- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

4.4 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of the Plan

The likely evolution of the environment in the absence of a plan would resemble the environmental effects that are described for Alternative 1 (Business as Usual) under Section 7.



Figure 4.1 Area to which the Plan relates

4.5 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

4.5.1 Overview

Information on biodiversity and flora and fauna which is relevant to project planning and development and associated environmental assessment and administrative consent of projects includes available information on designated ecological sites and protected species, ecological connectivity (including stepping stones and corridors) and non-designated habitats.

Key ecological sensitivities across the area to which the Plan relates include those relating to:

- Rare species, such as freshwater pearl mussel, Atlantic salmon, bottle-nosed dolphin, geyer's whorl snail, white-clawed crayfish, sea lamprey, brook lamprey and otter
- Rare habitats, such as wet heath, dry heath, machair, blanket bogs, coastal lagoons, marram dunes and fixed dunes;

- Numerous blanket bog areas and their associated ecology;
- Aquatic and riverine ecology associated with the Bay's various streams, rivers (such as Newport, Erriff and Altaconey) and lakes (such as Glencullin, Moher and Acorrymore); and
- Coastal areas and marine waters and associated aquatic ecology.

Ecological designations include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)⁸ and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)⁹;
- Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)¹⁰ and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs)¹¹;
- National Parks¹²;
- Nature Reserves¹³;
- Ramsar Sites¹⁴;
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)¹⁵;
- Salmonid Waters¹⁶;
- Shellfish Waters¹⁷;
- Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments¹⁸;
- Flora Protection Order¹⁹ sites;
- Certain entries to the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas²⁰;
- Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979)²¹;

⁸ Please refer to Section 4.5.3 for more details. Sites relevant to the area to which the Plan relates are mapped on Figure 4.2 and Figure 4.3 and listed in Appendix III.

⁹ Please refer to Section 4.5.3 for more details. Sites relevant to the area to which the Plan relates are mapped on Figure 4.2 and Figure 4.3 and listed in Appendix III.

¹⁰ Please refer to Section 4.5.4 for more details. Sites relevant to the area to which the Plan relates are mapped on Figure 4.4 and listed in Appendix III.

¹¹ Please refer to Section 4.5.4 for more details. Sites relevant to the area to which the Plan relates are mapped on Figure 4.4 and listed in Appendix III.

¹² Please refer Section 4.5.7 and Figure 4.5 for more details.

¹³ Please refer to Section 4.5.7 and Figure 4.5 for more details.

¹⁴ Please refer to Section 4.5.7 and Figure 4.5 for more details.

¹⁵ Under the OSPAR Convention to Protect the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, Ireland committed to establishing marine protected areas to protect biodiversity (OSPAR MPAs). There are currently 19 OSPAR MPAs in Ireland, which established a number of its cSACs as OSPAR MPAs for marine habitats. **There is one OSPAR Site adjacent to the Plan area: Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex MPA (Site number: O-IE-0002972).**

¹⁶ Salmonid waters are designated and protected as under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1988 (S.I. No. 293 of 1988). Designated Salmonid Waters are capable of supporting salmon (*Salmo salar*), trout (*Salmo trutta*), char (*Salvelinus*) and whitefish (*Coregonus*). **A section of the Castlebar River in the east of the area to which the Plan relates and a section of the River Deel (Crossmolina) in the north of the area to which the Plan relates are both designated as Salmonid Waters under these regulations (as show on Figure 4.7).**

¹⁷ In order to protect existing shellfish waters and to ensure the future protection of these areas, the European Union introduced the Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC). The purpose of this Directive is to put in place concrete measures to protect waters, including shellfish waters, against pollution and to safeguard certain shellfish populations from various harmful consequences, resulting from the discharge of pollutant substances into the sea. The Directive applies to the aquatic habitat of bivalve and gastropod molluscs only (includes oysters, mussels, cockles, scallops and clams). It does not include crustaceans such as lobsters, crabs and crayfish. **There are a number of Shellfish Waters designated within, partially within or adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates (as shown on Figure 4.8): Achill Sound South; Achill Sound North; Clew Bay (East of Old Head); and Killary Harbour.**

¹⁸ For more details refer to Section 4.5.7.

¹⁹ The Flora (Protection) Order, 2015 (S.I. No. 356 of 2015) gives legal protection to 65 species of bryophytes in the Republic of Ireland (25 liverworts and 40 mosses). **There are a number of Flora Protection Orders recorded in various locations across the area to which the Plan relates, including: Old Head (*Radula holtii*); Clare Island (*Petalophyllum ralfsii*); Slievemore Achill Island (*Scapania nimbosa*); Croagh Patrick (*Adelanthus lindenbergianus*); and Sheeffry Hills (*Scapania ornithopodioides*).**

²⁰ For more details refer to Sections 4.5.6 and 4.8.7.

²¹ Wildfowl Sanctuaries are areas that have been excluded from the 'Open Season Order' so that game birds can rest and feed undisturbed. There are 68 sanctuaries in the State. Shooting of game birds is not allowed in these sanctuaries. **Wildfowl Sanctuaries within or adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates include Carrowmore Lake (WFS-37).**

- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)²²;
- Ecological connectivity and networks;
- CORINE Landcover²³;
- Watercourses, wetlands and peatlands; and
- Other sites of high biodiversity value or ecological importance, e.g. BirdWatch Ireland's 'Important Bird Areas'.

4.5.2 Existing Fáilte Ireland Environmental Monitoring

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 43 sites and monitored the activities and effects of over 20,000 visitors to WAW discovery points.

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 first 4 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 that 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.

²² TPOs are a planning mechanism whereby individual trees or groups of trees can be identified as important and protected by a TPO. **There are a number of Tree Preservation Orders designated within the area to which the Plan relates.**

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.

It is assumed that visitor interactions within the area to which the Plan relates will be consistent with the trends, activities and effects recorded in this dataset.

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.

4.5.3 European Sites

A significant portion of the area to which the Plan relates, its coastline and its surrounding

²³ For more details refer to Section 4.5.5 The CORINE Landcover in the area to which the Plan relates is shown on Figure 4.6.

waters are designated as European Sites. European Sites in the area to which the Plan relates occur in the greatest concentrations along the coastline and in upland areas. These European Sites (shown on Figure 4.2 and Figure 4.3.) comprise:

- Special Areas of Conservation²⁴ (SACs), including candidate SACs; and
- Special Protection Areas²⁵ (SPAs).

The SEA uses the same zone of influence cited in the AA; a 15 km buffer around the area to which the Plan relates (see sites within this zone listed in the Appendix III mapped on Figure 4.2). The AA 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 DEDP will not impose effects beyond the 15 km buffer.

There are number of SACs designated within and adjacent to the area to which the Plan

relates, including: Croaghau/Slievemore SAC²⁶; Keel Machair/Menaun Cliffs SAC²⁷; Doogort Machair/Lough Doo SAC²⁸; Corraun Plateau SAC²⁹; Newport River SAC³⁰; West Connacht Coast SAC³¹; Lough Gall Bog SAC³²; Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough SAC³³; Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC³⁴; Bellacragher Saltmarsh SAC³⁵; River Moy SAC³⁶; Brackloon Woods SAC³⁷; Oldhead Wood SAC³⁸; and Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC³⁹.

There are number of SPAs designated within and adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates including: Cross Lough-Killadoon SPA⁴⁰; Bills Rocks SPA⁴¹; Clare Island SPA⁴² and Doogort Machair SPA⁴³; Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven SPA⁴⁴; and Owenduff/Nephin Complex SPA⁴⁵.

Many of the European Sites in the wider area are connected with the Clew Bay via hydrological links (as shown on Figure 4.2),

²⁴ SACs have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union. The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with the SPAs designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.

²⁵ SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the EU.

²⁶ Sensitive features include: wet heath; dry heath; Alpine and subalpine heaths; siliceous scree; and siliceous rocky slopes.

²⁷ Sensitive features include: perennial vegetation of stony banks; machairs; Alpine and subalpine heaths; and petalwort.

²⁸ Sensitive features include: machairs and petalwort.

²⁹ Sensitive features include: wet heath; dry heath; Alpine and subalpine heaths; juniper scrub; siliceous scree; and siliceous rocky slopes.

³⁰ Sensitive features include: freshwater pearl mussel and Atlantic salmon.

³¹ Sensitive features include: bottle-nosed dolphin.

³² Sensitive features include: blanket bogs; and rhynchosporion vegetation

³³ Sensitive features include: coastal lagoons; perennial vegetation of stony banks; embryonic shifting dunes; marram dunes; fixed dunes; and machairs.

³⁴ Sensitive features include: dystrophic lakes; wet heath; blanket bogs; rhynchosporion vegetation; alkaline fens; geyer's whorl snail; and marsh saxifrage.

³⁵ Sensitive features include: Atlantic salt meadows; and Mediterranean salt meadows.

³⁶ Sensitive features include: raised bog; degraded raised bog; rhynchosporion vegetation; alkaline fens; old oak woodlands; alluvial forests; white-clawed crayfish; sea lamprey; brook lamprey; Atlantic salmon; and otter.

³⁷ Sensitive features include: old oak woodlands.

³⁸ Sensitive features include: Dry Heath and Old Oak Woodlands.

³⁹ Sensitive features include: coastal lagoons; annual vegetation of drift lines; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; embryonic shifting dunes; marram dunes; decalcified dune heath; dunes with creeping willow; machairs; oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals; oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters; dystrophic lakes; floating river vegetation; wet heath; dry heath; Alpine and subalpine heaths; juniper scrub; blanket bogs; transition mires; rhynchosporion vegetation; petrifying springs; alkaline fens; siliceous scree; calcareous rocky slopes; siliceous rocky slopes; geyer's whorl snail; narrow-mouthed whorl snail; freshwater pearl mussel; Atlantic salmon; otter; petalwort; and slender naiad.

⁴⁰ Sensitive features include: sandwich tern.

⁴¹ Sensitive features include: puffin and storm petrel.

⁴² Sensitive features include: fulmar; shag; common gull; kittiwake and guillemot and razorbill and chough.

⁴³ Sensitive features include: dunlin.

⁴⁴ Sensitive features include: red-throated diver; great northern diver; slavian grebe; light-bellied brent goose; common scoter; red-breasted merganser; ringed plover; sanderling; dunlin; bar-tailed godwit; curlew; sandwich tern; dunlin; and wetland and waterbirds.

⁴⁵ Sensitive features include: oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains; natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; Northern Atlantic wet heaths; Alpine and boreal heaths; calcareous grasslands; blanket bogs; transition mires and quaking bogs; salmon; otter; marsh saxifrage; and slender green feather-moss.

including: Connemara Bog Complex SAC⁴⁶; Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC⁴⁷, Galway Bay Complex SAC⁴⁸; Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC⁴⁹; Inishkea Islands SPA⁵⁰; Lough Corrib SPA⁵¹; Lough Carra SPA⁵²; Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA⁵³; Carrowmore Lake SPA⁵⁴; Lough Mask SPA⁵⁵; Inner Galway Bay SPA⁵⁶; and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA⁵⁷.

For more detail on European Sites please refer to the AA document that accompanies the Plan and this SEA Environmental Report.

4.5.4 Natural Heritage Areas and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas

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

⁴⁶ Sensitive features include: coastal lagoons; reefs; oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals; oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters; dystrophic lakes; floating river vegetation; wet heath; dry heath; molinia meadows; blanket bogs; transition mires; rhynchosporion vegetation; alkaline fens; old oak woodlands; marsh fritillary; Atlantic salmon; otter; and slender naiad.

⁴⁷ Sensitive features include: oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals; oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters; Alpine and subalpine heaths; blanket bogs; rhynchosporion vegetation; siliceous scree; calcareous rocky slopes; siliceous rocky slopes; old oak woodlands; freshwater pearl mussel; Atlantic salmon; otter; and slender naiad.

⁴⁸ Sensitive features include: tidal mudflats and sandflats; coastal lagoons; large shallow inlets and bays; reefs; perennial vegetation of stony banks; vegetated sea cliffs; salicornia mud; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; turloughs; juniper scrub; orchid-rich calcareous grassland; cladium fens; alkaline fens; limestone pavement; otter; and common seal.

⁴⁹ Sensitive features include: tidal mudflats and sandflats; large shallow inlets and bays; reefs; salicornia mud; marram dunes; fixed dunes; decalcified dune heath; machairs; natural eutrophic lakes; alkaline fens; otter; and petalwort.

⁵⁰ Sensitive features include: shag; barnacle goose; ringed plover; sanderling; purple sandpiper; turnstone; common gull; herring gull; Arctic tern; little tern; and dunlin.

⁵¹ Sensitive features include: gadwall; shoveler; pochard; tufted duck; common scoter; hen harrier; coot; golden plover; black-headed gull; common gull; common tern;

There are number of NHAs and pNHAs designated within or adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates including those listed in the Appendix III and mapped on Figure 4.4.

4.5.5 Land Cover Mapping

CORINE⁵⁸ land cover mapping for the area to which the Plan relates is shown on Figure 4.6. The most dominant land cover types in the area to which the Plan relates are peat bogs and pastures.

Categories from CORINE mapping that may indicate areas likely to contain Annex I habitats, in the area to which the Plan relates, include:

- Peat bogs;
- Natural grassland;
- Water bodies;
- Coastal lagoons;
- Mixed forests;
- Coniferous forest;
- Broad-leaved forest;
- Moors and heaths;
- Intertidal flats;
- Beaches dunes sand;
- Inland marshes;
- Estuaries;
- Sparsely vegetated areas;
- Salt marshes;

Arctic tern; Greenland white-fronted goose; and wetland and waterbirds.

⁵² Sensitive features include: common gull.

⁵³ Sensitive features include: tufted duck; common scoter; common gull; Greenland white-fronted goose; wetland and waterbirds.

⁵⁴ Sensitive features include: sandwich tern.

⁵⁵ Sensitive features include: tufted duck; black-headed gull; common gull; lesser black-backed gull; common tern; Greenland white-fronted goose; wetland and waterbirds.

⁵⁶ Sensitive features include: black-throated diver; great northern diver; cormorant; grey heron; light-bellied brent goose; wigeon; teal; red-breasted; merganser; ringed plover; golden plover; lapwing; dunlin; bar-tailed godwit; curlew; redshank; turnstone; black-headed gull; common gull; sandwich tern; common tern; wetland and waterbirds.

⁵⁷ Sensitive features include: ringed plover; golden plover; grey plover; sanderling; dunlin; bar-tailed godwit; curlew; redshank; wetland and waterbirds.

⁵⁸ The CORINE (Coordinated Information on the Environment) land cover data series was devised as a means of compiling geo-spatial environmental information in a standardised and comparable manner. CORINE has become a key data source for informing environmental and planning policy on a national and European level. The main land cover type in Ireland is agricultural land including forestry, which accounts for two-thirds of the national landmass. Most of this is permanent grassland pastures. Peatlands and wetlands are the second most widespread land cover type, covering almost one-fifth of the country. While forested areas cover about one-tenth of the country. Despite rapid development in the past two decades, Ireland's landscape is predominantly rural and agricultural.

- Bare rock;
- Transitional woodland and scrub; and
- Land principally occupied by agriculture with areas of natural vegetation.

4.5.6 Register of Protected Areas

In response to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive a number of water bodies or parts of water bodies that must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife have been listed on Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs). RPAs designations in the area to which the Plan relates include those listed below and mapped on Figure 4.7 and Figure 4.8:

- WFD Nutrient Sensitive Areas⁵⁹ (as shown on Figure 4.8);
- WFD Surface Water in Nutrient Sensitive Areas⁶⁰ (as shown on Figure 4.8);
- WFD Groundwater in Nutrient Sensitive Areas⁶¹ (as shown on Figure 4.8);
- WFD Drinking Water Surface Water Bodies⁶² - including Keel East; Bellagarvaun; Derryhillagh; Moyour; and Mask (as shown on Figure 4.7). Groundwater beneath the entire area to which the Plan relates is also included;
- WFD Salmonid River Regs (S.I. 293 only) - the River Castlebar and the River Deel are designated as Salmonid Rivers under S.I. No. 293, and associated WFD Surface Water and Groundwater in Salmonid Regs, as shown on Figure 4.7;
- WFD Bathing Waters and associated WFD Surface Waters in Bathing Locations (as shown on Figure 4.7) - including a number of bathing locations such as: Carrowniskey, Louisburgh; Clare Island, Louisburgh; Carrowmore Beach, Louisburgh; Old Head Beach, Louisburgh; Bertra Beach, Murrisk; Mulranny Beach; Doega Beach, Achill Island; Keel Beach, Achill Island; and Golden Strand, Achill Island; and
- WFD Shellfish Areas (as shown on Figure 4.8) - including Killary Harbour; Achill Sound North; Achill Sound South; and Clew Bay (East of Old Head) and associated WFD Surface and Groundwater in Shellfish Areas.

4.5.7 Other Designations

Other designations mapped on Figure 4.5 include National Park, Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites and Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments.

National Parks are specially designated protected areas of unspoilt beauty and there are six located in Ireland. The primary purpose of the National Parks is the conservation of biodiversity and landscape; however, they also provide for recreational space for locals and visitors. The Ballycroy National Park is partially located within the area to which the Plan relates (shown on Figure 4.5).

A Nature Reserve is an area of importance to wildlife, which is protected under Ministerial order. There are currently 78 Statutory Nature Reserves. Most are owned by the State but some are owned by organisations or private landowners. There are two Nature Reserves partially within or adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates (shown on Figure 4.5): Oldhead Wood Nature Reserve; and Owenboy Nature Reserve.

Ramsar Sites are designated and protected under the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Water Fowl Habitat, which was established at Ramsar in 1971 and ratified by Ireland in 1984. Ireland presently has 45 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance, with surface areas of 66,994 hectares. The objective of a Ramsar site is the conservation of wetlands for wildfowl. While Ireland ratified the Ramsar Convention in 1984 there is no legal backing for Ramsar sites unless they are also Nature Reserves or SPAs and as such are protected by the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000 or the Birds or Habitats Directives. There are three Ramsar sites partially located within or adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates (as shown on Figure 4.5): Owenduff Catchment (Site number: 336); Owenboy (Site number: 371); and Blacksod Bay and Broadhaven (Site number: 844).

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

⁵⁹ Nutrient sensitive areas are those waterbodies listed in accordance with the Urban Waste Water Treatment (UWWT) Directive 91/271/EEC on Urban Waste Water Treatment and transposing Regulations. The waterbody containing the sensitive area is used to represent the nutrient sensitive area.

⁶⁰ Areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) and transposing Regulations.

⁶¹ Groundwater bodies that intersect with areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) and transposing Regulations.

⁶² Various water bodies are used for drinking water abstraction in accordance with European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 278/2007).

pearl mussel in Ireland (*Margaritifera margaritifera* and *Margaritifera durrovensis*) and both are protected under Annex II and Annex V of the EU Habitats Directive. In the area to which the Plan relates, the following river catchments have freshwater pearl mussel designations associated with them: Carrownisky–Bunleemshough; Bunowen; Bundorragha; Owenwee; Erriff; Newport; Corrib-Finny; Moy-Deel; and Moy-Tobergal. These areas (shown on Figure 4.5) are identified as:

- Catchments of SAC populations listed in S.I. 296 of 2009; and
- Catchments of other extant populations.

4.5.8 Existing Problems

Ireland's Article 17 report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (DCHG, 2019) identifies various Irish, EU-protected habitats and species to be of unfavourable status and many to be still declining, although it also identifies that a range of positive actions are underway. Categories for pressures and threats on Ireland's habitats and species identified by the report comprise:

- Agriculture;
- Forestry;
- Extraction of resources (minerals, peat, non-renewable energy resources);
- Energy production processes and related infrastructure development;
- Development and operation of transport systems;
- Development, construction and use of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas;
- Extraction and cultivation of biological living resources (other than agriculture and forestry);
- Military action, public safety measures, and other human intrusions;
- Alien and problematic species;
- Mixed source pollution;
- Human-induced changes in water regimes;
- Natural processes (excluding catastrophes and processes induced by human activity or climate change);
- Geological events, natural catastrophes;
- Climate change; and
- Unknown pressures, no pressures and pressures from outside the Member State.

The Plan includes robust measures to contribute towards the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna and associated ecosystem services.

Previous changes in land uses arising from human development have resulted in a loss of

biodiversity and flora and fauna however, legislative objectives governing biodiversity and fauna were not identified as being conflicted with.

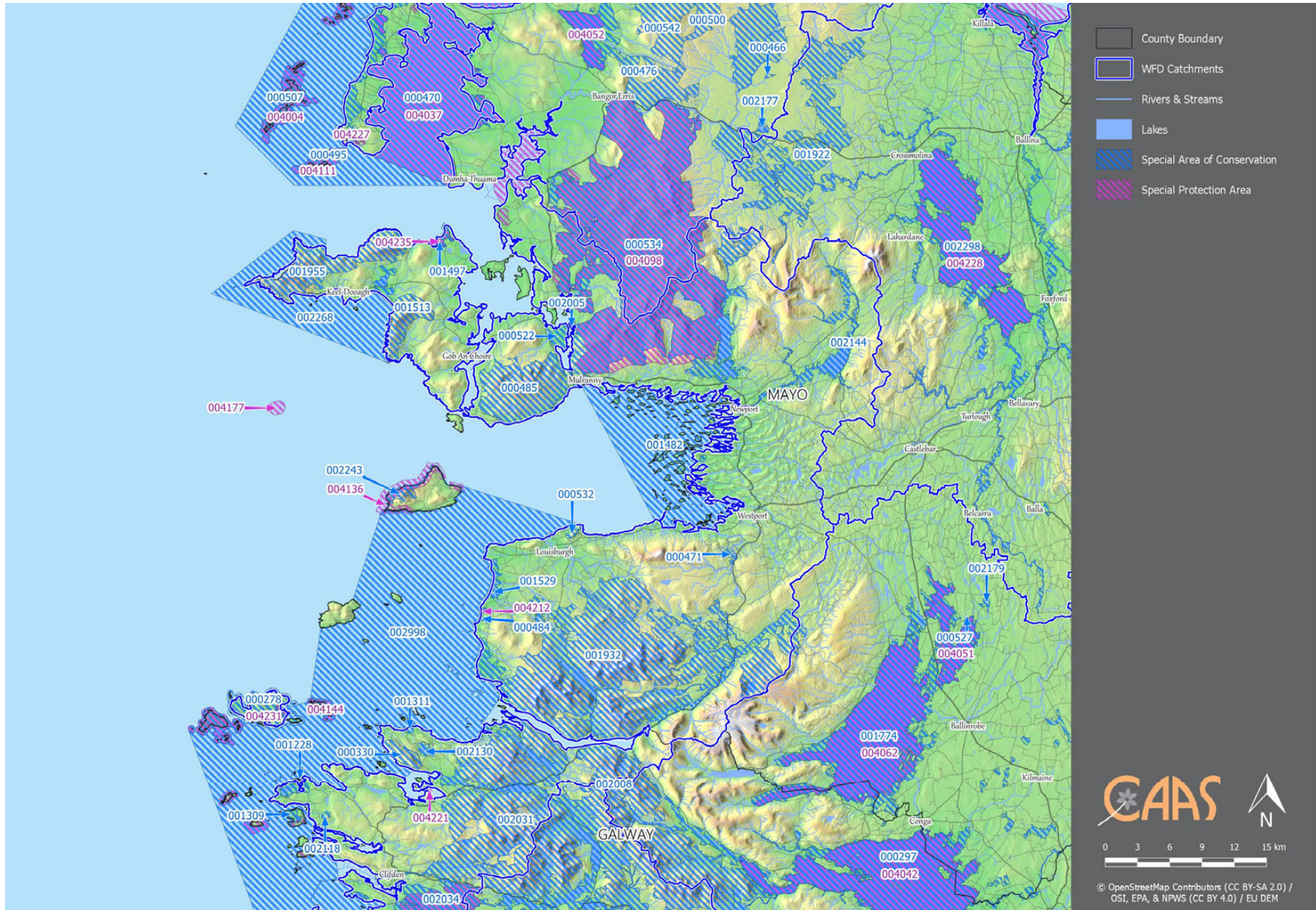


Figure 4.2 European Sites within and adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates

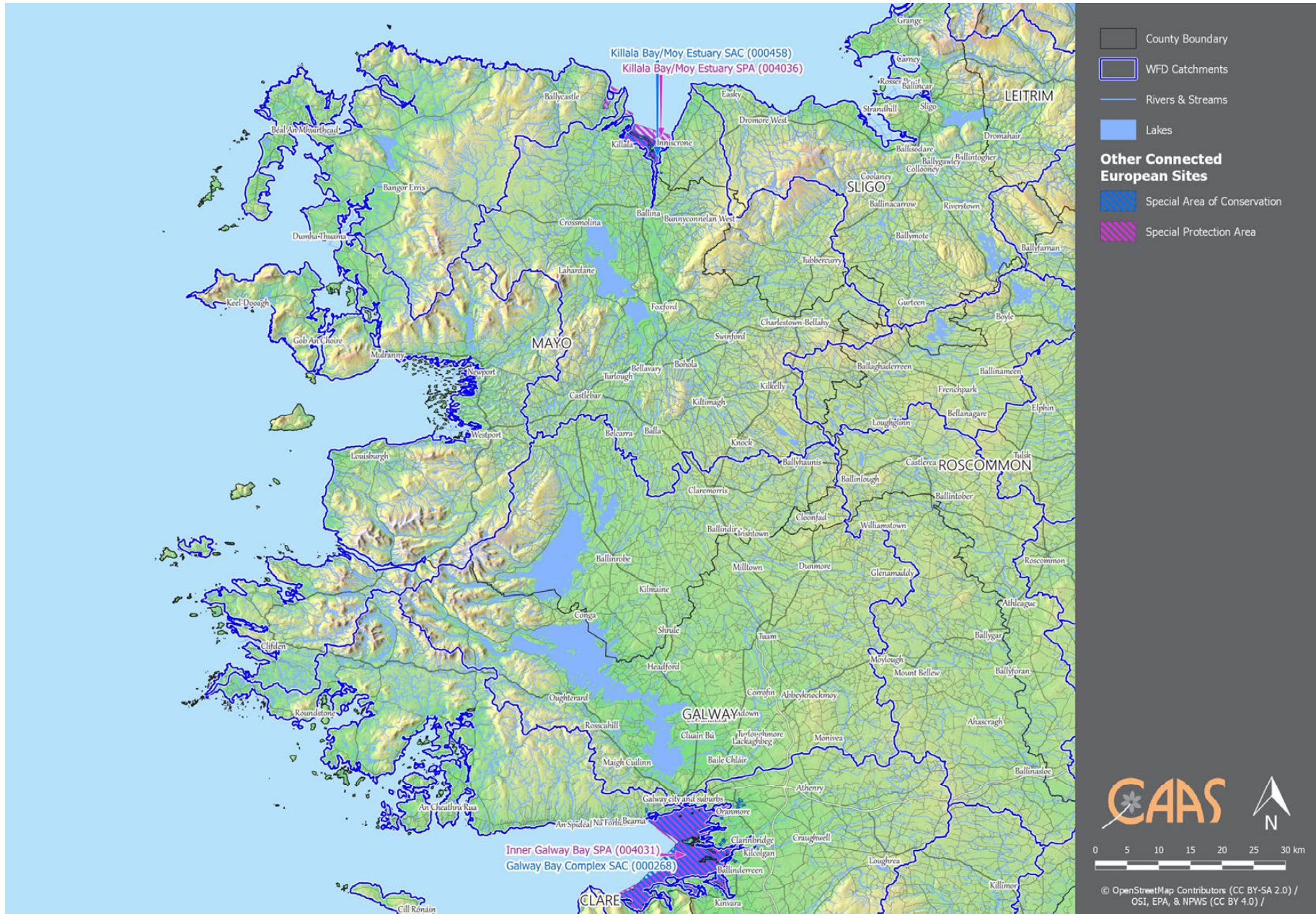


Figure 4.3 Other connected European sites

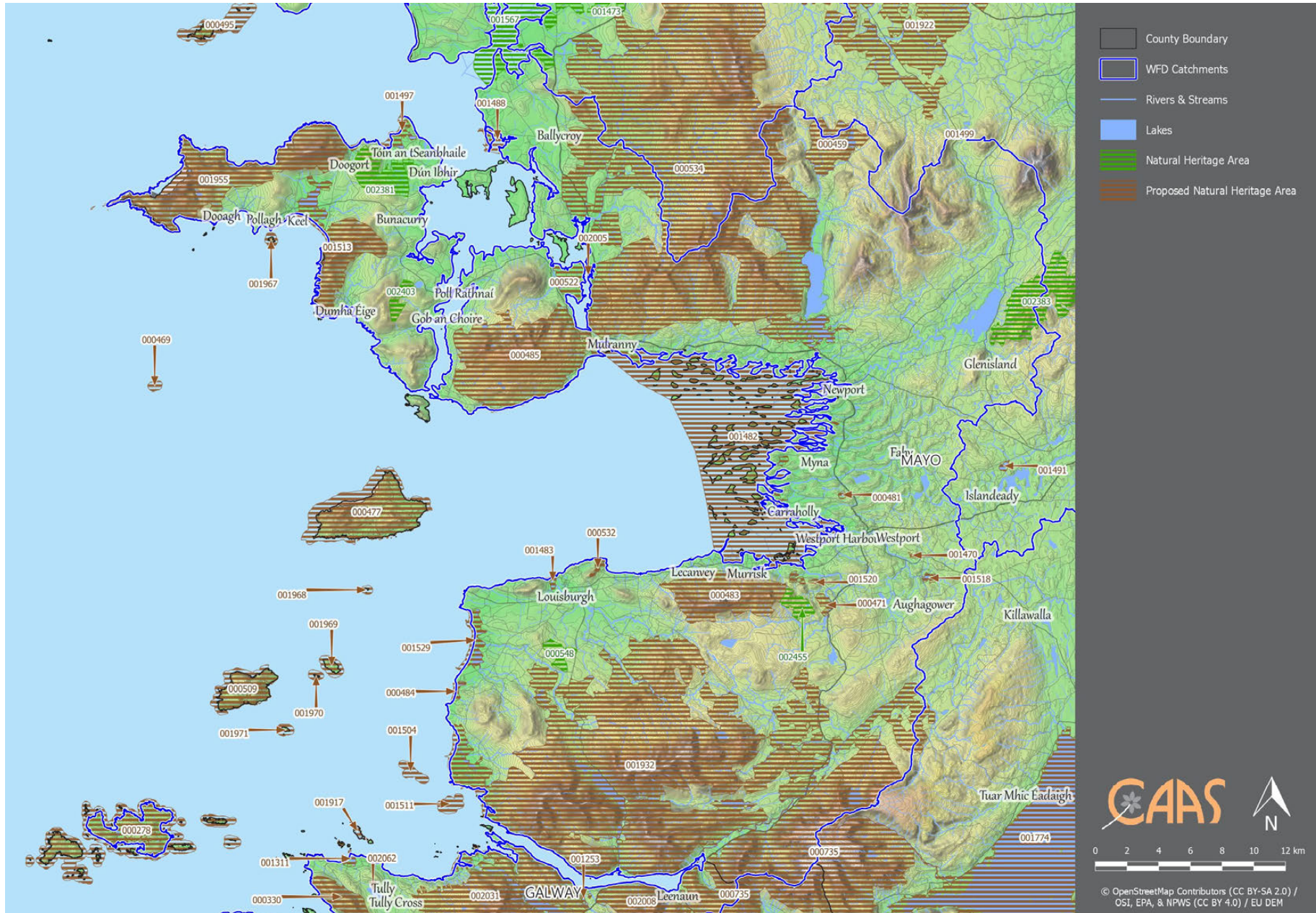


Figure 4.4 NHAs and pNHAs within and adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates

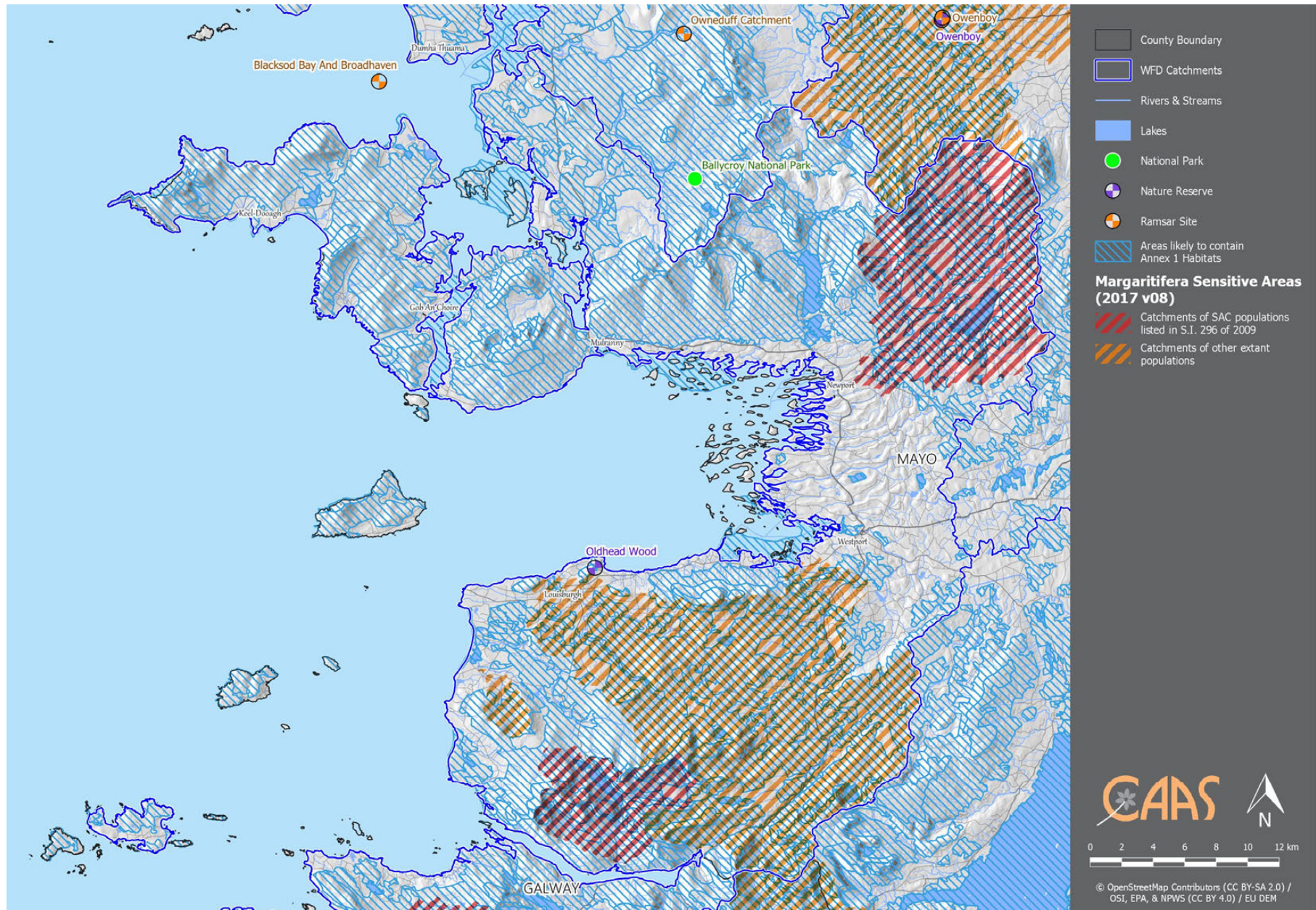


Figure 4.5 Other ecological designations within and adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates

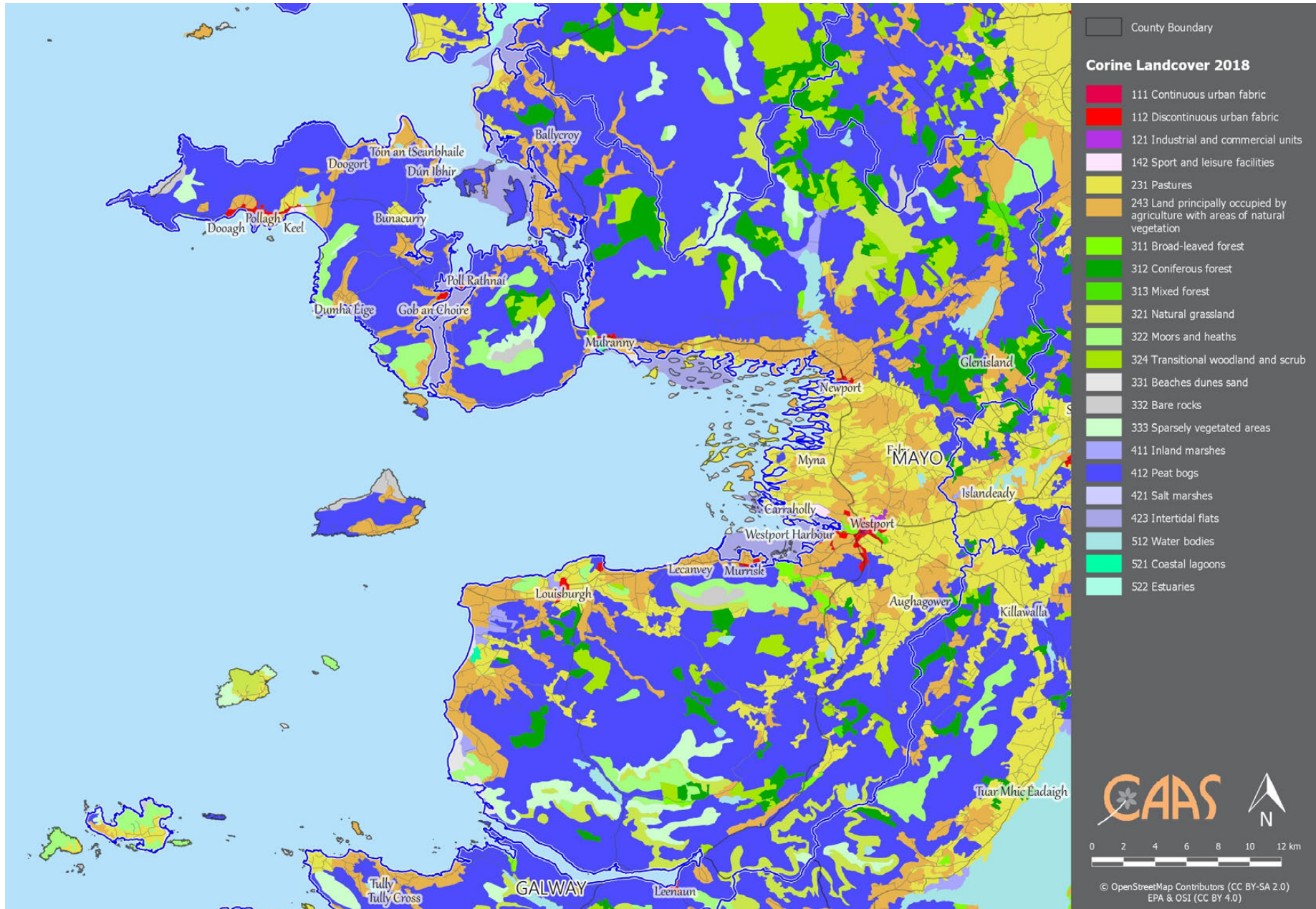


Figure 4.6 CORINE Land Cover Mapping 2018

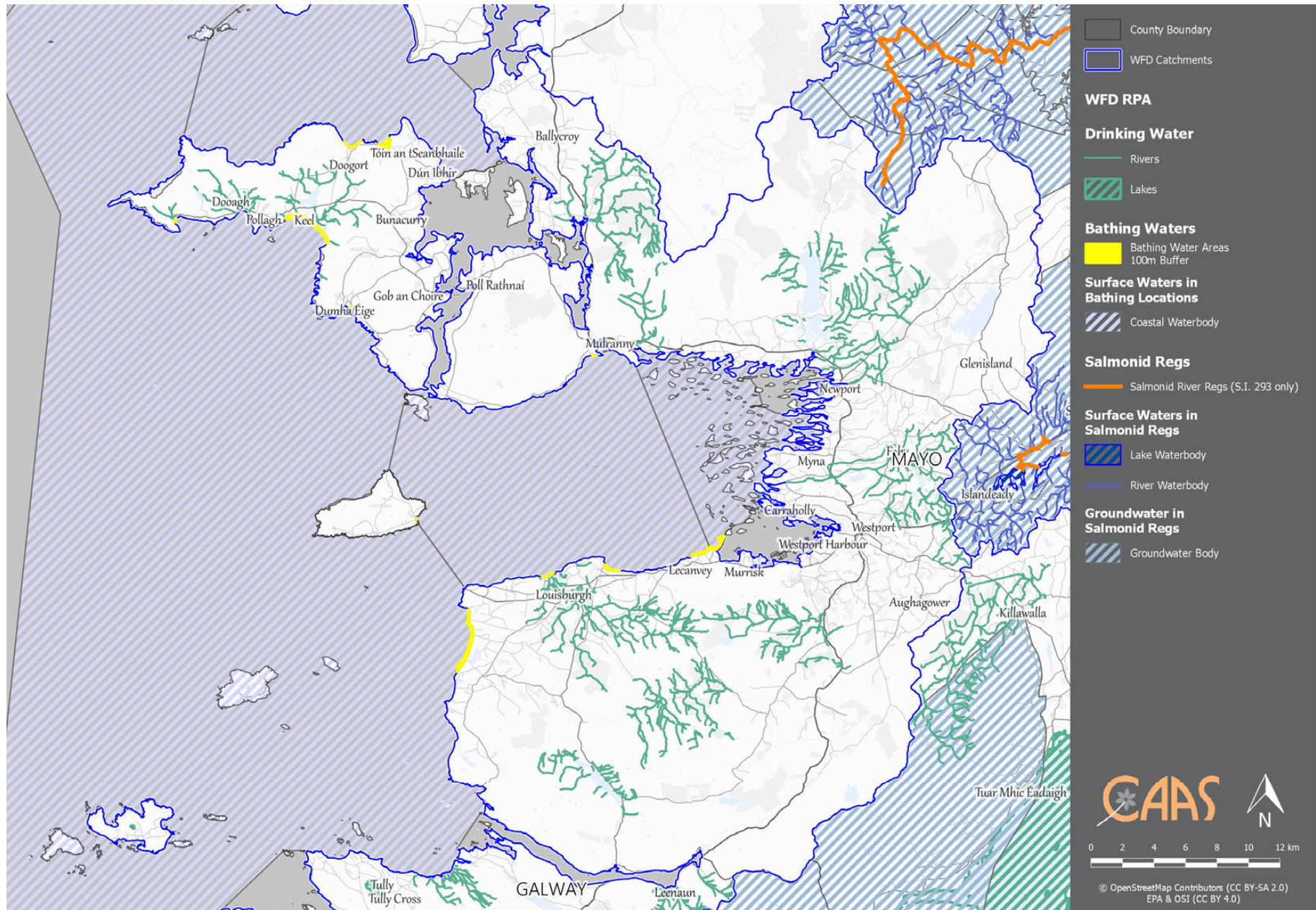


Figure 4.7 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Drinking Water, Bathing Waters and Salmonid Regs

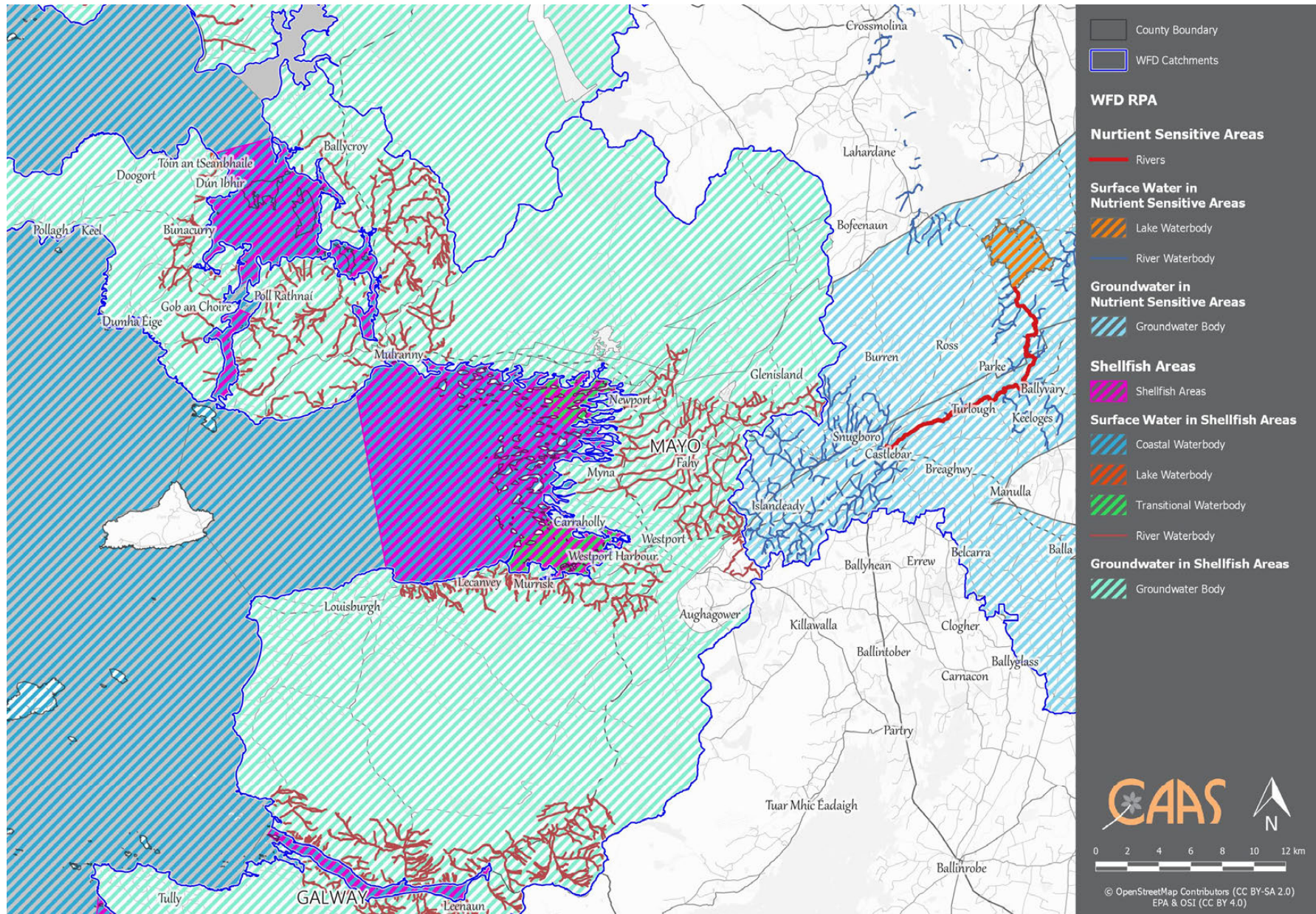


Figure 4.8 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Nutrient Sensitive Areas and Shellfish Areas

4.6 Population and Human Health

4.6.1 Population

Using the 2016 Census data, the population of the to which the Plan relates was estimated to be c. 18,000 persons⁶³. The population of Westport, the biggest settlement in the area to which the Plan relates, was identified as being 6,198 persons.

Population has the potential to interact with various environmental components. Potential interactions include:

- Interactions with landslides (see Section 4.7.4);
- Recreational and development pressure on habitats and landscapes (see Section 4.5);
- Contribution towards increase in demand for wastewater treatment at the municipal level (see Section 4.10);
- Contribution towards increase in demand for water supply and associated potential impact of water abstraction (see Section 4.10);
- Potential interactions in flood-sensitive area; and
- Potential effects on water quality (see Section 4.8).

4.6.2 Human Health

Human health has the potential to be impacted upon by environmental vectors (i.e. environmental components such as air, water or soil through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings). Hazards or nuisances to human health can arise as a result of exposure to these vectors arising from incompatible adjacent land uses for example. These factors have been considered with regard to the description of: the baseline of each environmental component; and the identification and evaluation of the likely

⁶³ Total population was estimated using the interactive Census 2016 mapping tool for Small Area Population Statistics (SAPMAP) including the following CSO Small Areas: Kilmeena; Aghagower North; Westport Rural; Kilmaclasser; Derryloughan; Newport East; Newport West; Aillemore; Kilgeever; Emlagh; Drummin; Kilsallagh; Slievemahanagh; Slievemore; Dumha Áige; An Corráin;

significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

4.6.3 Existing Problems

The greatest health risk from radiation in Ireland is caused by radon. The presence of radon gas, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that originates from the decay of uranium in rocks and soils, occurs across the country. It accounts for more than half of the total radiation dose received by the Irish population. As a known carcinogen, in the same category as tobacco smoke and asbestos it is a cause of lung cancer. Exposure to radon for long periods or at high concentrations can lead to lung cancer.

The number of homes within the area to which the Plan relates with radon levels above the reference level is within the normal range experienced in other locations across the country⁶⁴.

Also refer to the other sections of this report referred to above with respect interactions with other environmental components.

4.7 Soil

4.7.1 Introduction

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

Acaill; Louisburgh; Croaghpatrick; Knappagh; Derryloughan; Ballycroy South; Srahmore; Owennadornaun/Bundorragha; Erriff; Clare Island; Westport Urban; and Clogher.

⁶⁴ Mapping available at <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap>

such as parent material, climate, vegetation and human action.

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

The GSI have a suite of data sources available that would be useful in planning and assessing individual projects with regard to the environmental topic(s) of soil and/or material assets. These cover topic including:

- Bedrock mapping;
- Quaternary and Physiographic mapping;
- National Aquifer and Recharge mapping;
- Geoheritage; and
- Geotourism.

4.7.2 Soil Types

Ombrotrophic (rain-fed) peat soils and luvisols⁶⁵ are the two most dominant soil types across the area to which the Plan relates (see Figure 4.9). Other soils identified across the area to which the Plan relates include:

- Podzols⁶⁶ occurring in the south, east and north of the area to which the Plan relates;
- Alluvial soils⁶⁷ occurring in the flood plains of the rivers and streams flowing into the Bay;
- Brown earths⁶⁸ and rendzinas⁶⁹ adjacent to the south-east of the area to which the Plan relates;
- Surface and groundwater gleys⁷⁰ occurring to the south and east of the area to which the Plan relates;
- Peat-based brown podzols⁷¹ occurring to the south-east of the area to which the Plan relates; and

⁶⁵ Luvisol soils are generally fertile, widely used for agriculture and associated with significant accumulation of clay.

⁶⁶ Acidic soils generally found in forested areas.

⁶⁷ These are associated with alluvial (clay, silt or sand) river deposits.

⁶⁸ Brown earths are well drained mineral soils, associated with high levels of natural fertility.

⁶⁹ Rendzina soils are very shallow soils over bedrock, liable to drought.

⁷⁰ Surface and groundwater gleys are wetland soils with slowly permeable horizons resulting in seasonal waterlogging.

- Areas of tidal marsh⁷² occurring along the coastline.

Active blanket bogs and active raised bogs are considered to be priority habitats, listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Areas of peat-based soils and blanket peat are abundant across the area to which the Plan relates. Peat soils are often indicative of areas that are the most sensitive to development due to ecological sensitivities and impeded drainage issues. Many of these peat areas are also a subject to ecological designations (see Section 4.5).

Outcropping rock is found mainly in the coastal and upland areas to the north and also throughout the islands scattered across the Clew Bay area.

4.7.3 Geological Designations

There are a number of potential County Geological Sites (as shown on Figure 4.10) across the area to which the Plan relates⁷³. The highest concentration of these sites occurs along the coastline, occupied by an archipelago of postglacial drumlins and along the peat cliffs overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

County Geological Sites, when audited, do not receive statutory protection like Natural Heritage Areas but receive an effective protection from their inclusion in the planning system.

The Joyce Country and Western Lakes Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark project (which partially covers/is adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates) is currently underway. The aim of the project is to develop a geopark in the area surrounding Joyce Country on the Galway-Mayo border, and Loughs Mask, Carra and Corrib, with the intention of applying for full UNESCO Global Geopark status by 2022⁷⁴. Geoparks are places of internationally important geology which are managed with a

⁷¹ Brown podzol soils are characterised by dark brown humus-mineral soil covered with a thin mat of partly decayed leaves.

⁷² Found along rivers, coasts and estuaries which floods and drains by the tidal movement of the adjacent estuary, sea or ocean.

⁷³ The counties not yet audited are defined as "Geological Heritage Sites Unaudited" where buffers have been applied to potential sites of interest. County Mayo Geological Sites Audit is currently under preparation (www.gis.ie).

⁷⁴ There are currently three UNESCO Global Geoparks on the island of Ireland: Copper Coast in County Waterford; Burren and Cliffs of Moher in County Clare; and Marble Arch Caves in County Fermanagh and County Cavan.

holistic concept of protection, education and economic development. UNESCO Geopark status carries no additional legal status or planning restrictions to those already in place by local, national or EU legislation.

4.7.4 Landslides

The term "landslide" describes a wide variety of processes that result in the downward and outward movement of materials such as rock, debris, earth, mud and peat under the force of gravity. Issues such as existing ground conditions, slope stability and storage of excavated material have the potential to influence susceptibility to landslides/bog bursts. The potential impacts of landslides include loss of human life/injury, flooding, pollution of watercourses and impacts upon aquatic biodiversity.

The area to which the Plan relates has several locations with a history of landslide events⁷⁵ as shown on Figure 4.11. There is a concentration of frequent landslide events recorded in the upland areas in the south and north of the area to which the Plan relates. Many of these events are associated with the peatland areas.

The GSI have identified various upland and coastal areas across the area to which the Plan relates that are of high and moderately high levels of landslide susceptibility, as shown on Figure 4.11.

4.7.5 Existing Problems

There have been a number of landslide events across the area and there are various areas identified by the GSI as being of elevated levels of landslide susceptibility (see Section 4.7.4).

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

⁷⁵ Over 2,500 landslide events are recorded in the National Landslides Database available from GSI (www.gsi.ie). This dataset also includes Landslide Susceptibility Mapping to

assist in the identification of areas that are likely to experience land sliding. Date records are not available for all landslide events.

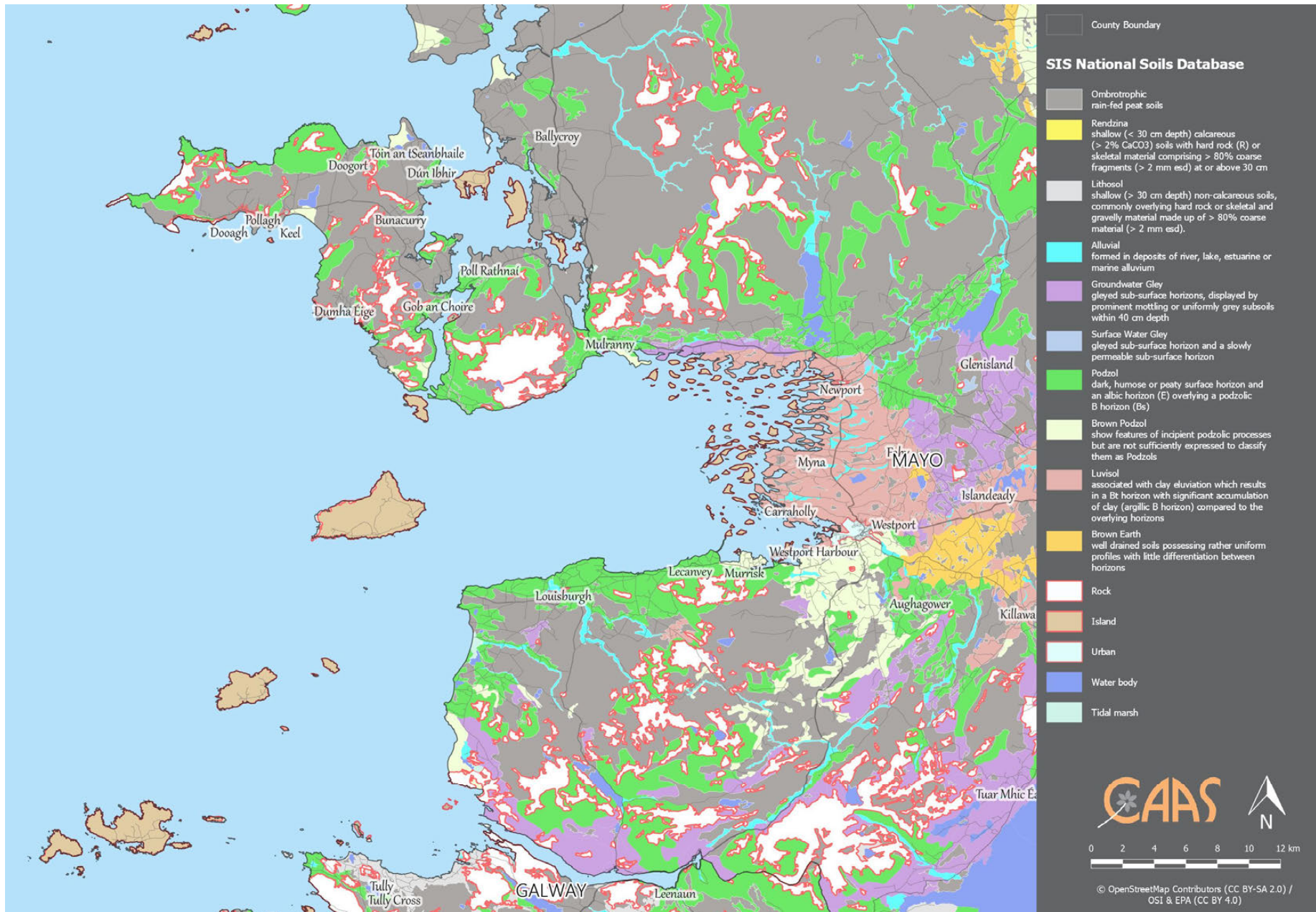


Figure 4.9 Soils

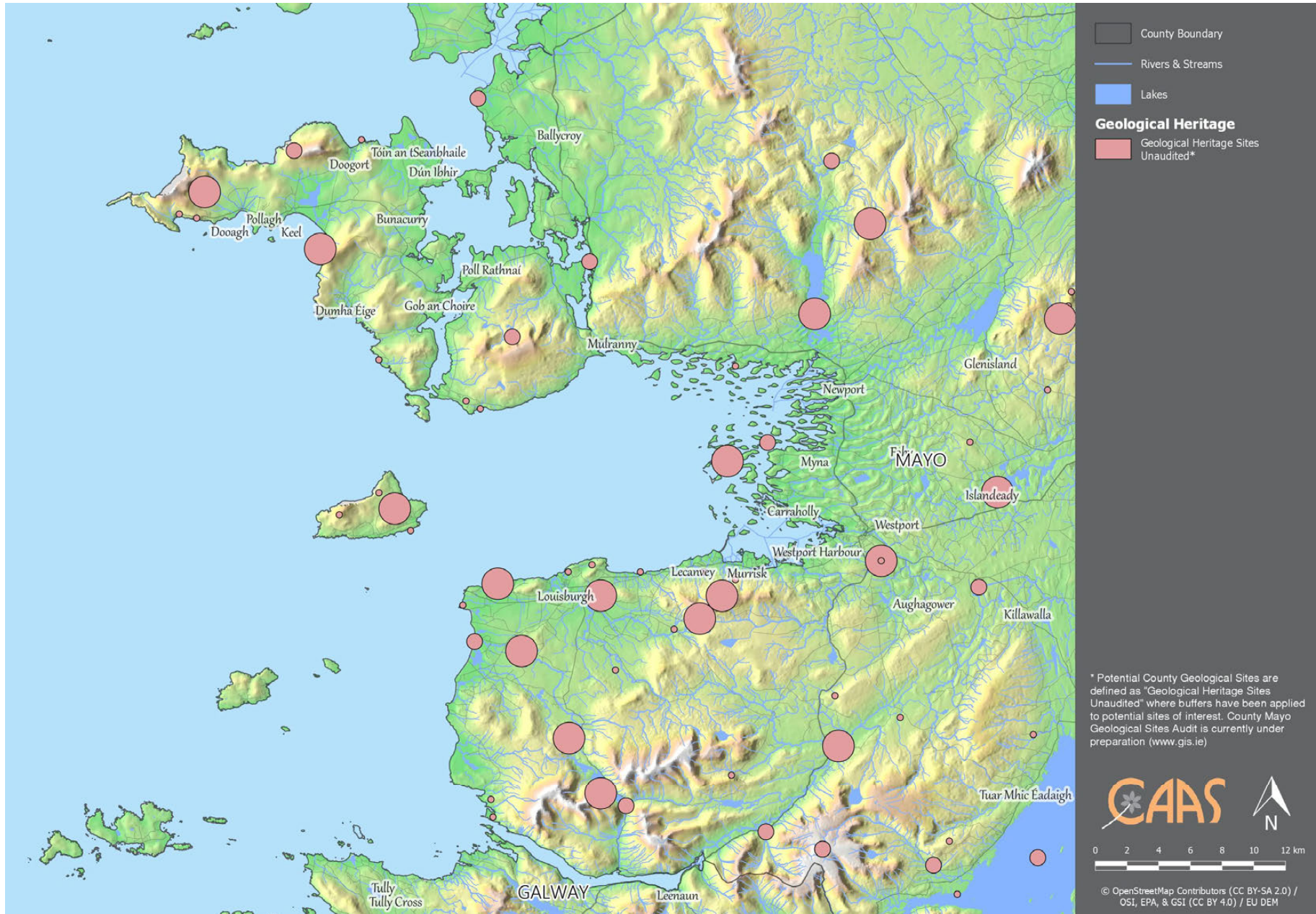


Figure 4.10 Geological Heritage

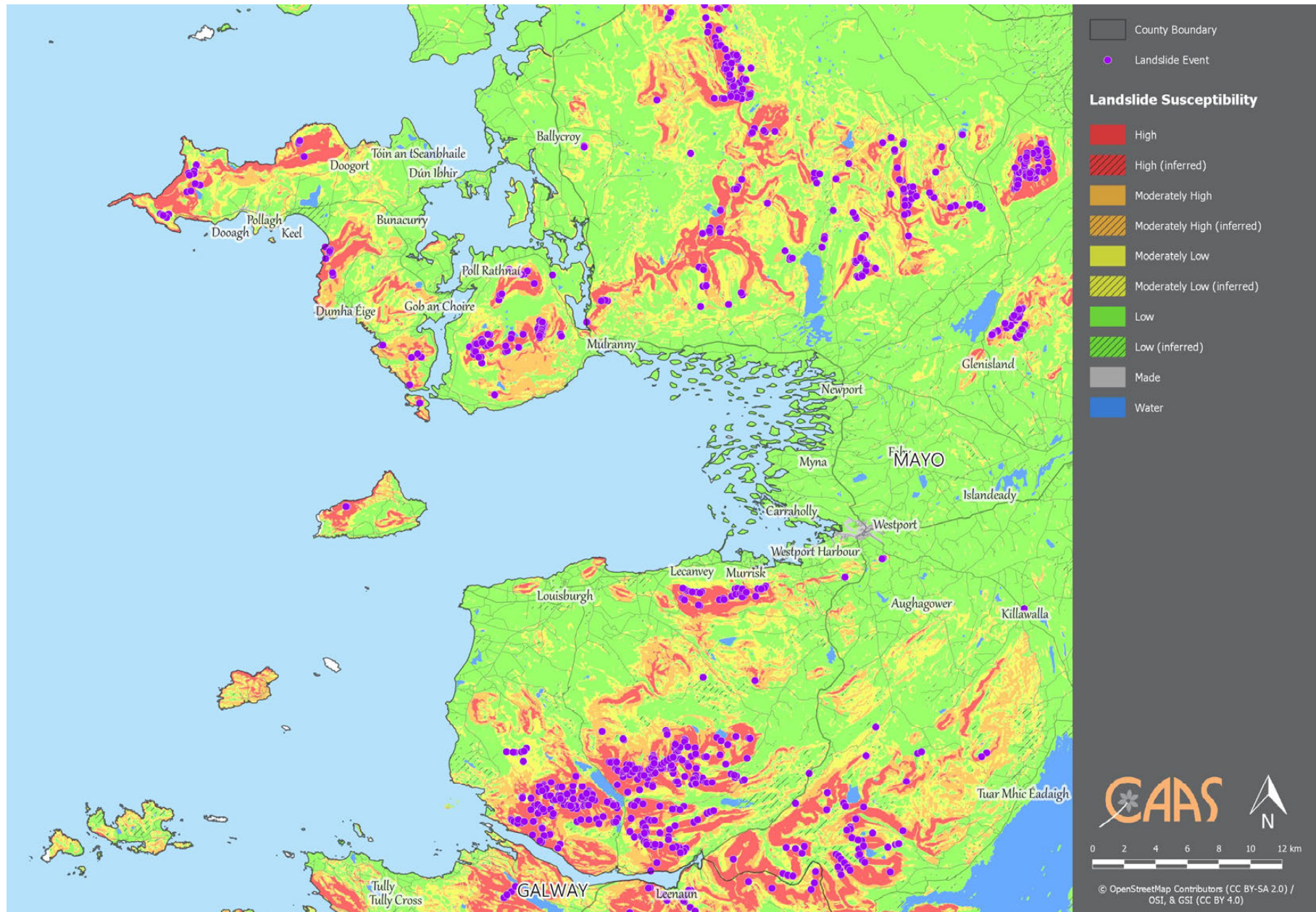


Figure 4.11 Landslide Susceptibility and Previous Landslide Events

4.8 Water

4.8.1 The Water Framework Directive

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

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

The EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Documents No. 20 and 36 provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the WFD.

For the purpose of assessment, reporting and management, water is divided into groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine waters

⁷⁶ This catchment includes the area drained by the River Erriff and all streams entering tidal water between Slyne Head, County Galway and Corraun Point, Co. Mayo. The catchment includes many mountainous areas, all of which are underlain by assorted metamorphic rocks and the drumlinised lowland area east of Clew Bay is underlain by pure karstified limestones.

⁷⁷ This catchment includes the area drained by all streams entering tidal water in Blacksod and Broadhaven Bays and between Corraun Point and Benwee Head, Co. Mayo. The catchment contains many upland areas including the north Mayo coast and the northern part of the Nephin Beg range. The catchment is underlain mostly by metamorphic rocks with sandstones. This catchment includes part of mainland County Mayo, the Belmullet Peninsula and Achill Island. Achill is drained by a number of small streams draining the slopes of the four mountains that dominate the Island, Croaghan, Slievemore, Minaun and Knockmore. The largest

and coastal waters that are in turn divided into specific, clearly defined water bodies.

4.8.2 Zone of Influence

The Zone of Influence of the Plan beyond the area to which the Plan relates, with respect to impacts upon waters can be estimated to be all bodies of groundwater and all surface waters downstream areas of catchments which drain the area to which the Plan relates. Surface waters include rivers, streams, lakes, coastal waters, transitional waters and bathing waters.

4.8.3 Surface Water Drainage

A catchment is an area of land contributing to a waterbody, with all the water ultimately running off to a single outlet. The WFD requires water quality management to be based on natural river catchments i.e. by reference to the natural, environmental unit rather than by reference to administrative or legal boundaries, which often fragment river catchments.

The main rivers in the area to which the Plan relates are the: Milltown River; Feohanagh River; Garfinny River; Owenanscaul River; and Owenalondrig River.

The surface water from the area to which the Plan relates drains mainly into the Erriff-Clew Bay Catchment⁷⁶ and partially to the Blacksod-Broadhaven Catchment⁷⁷, Moy and Killala Bay Catchment⁷⁸ and Corrib Catchment⁷⁹.

4.8.4 Surface Water Status

The WFD defines 'overall surface water status' as the general expression of the status of a body of surface water, determined by the

river system on the island comprises the Dookinelly, Keel Rivers and Keel Lough drains the central basin of the Island.

⁷⁸ This catchment includes the area drained by the River Moy and all streams entering tidal water in Killala Bay between Benwee Head and Lenadoon Point, Co. Sligo. The lowland parts of the catchment are underlain by various types of limestones while the upland areas from the Ox Mountains and Croaghmoyle are underlain by a band of igneous and metamorphic rocks.

⁷⁹ This catchment includes the area drained by the River Corrib and all streams entering tidal water between Renmore Point and Nimmo's Pier, Galway. This catchment is characterised by a wide, flat, limestone plain occupying the eastern two-thirds of the catchment which terminates in the large lakes of Corrib and Mask that abut against the igneous granites of Galway and the metamorphic uplands of southwest Mayo. The entire area of this catchment east of the large lakes is karstified and groundwater and surface water are highly interconnected in this region.

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

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

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

The WFD surface water status (2013-2018) for rivers, lakes, coastal and transitional waters, within and surrounding the area to which the Plan relates is shown on Figure 4.12.

There are a number of *unassigned*⁸⁰ rivers, lakes, coastal and transitional waterbodies across the area to which the Plan relates.

The WFD status of most of the surface waters in the area to which the Plan relates is classified as *good* and *high*, however, sections⁸¹ of rivers and streams including Owengarve, Glenisland, Castlebar, Moyour and Altaconey are identified as being of *poor* due to unsatisfactory ecological/biological and/or physio-chemical status.

In addition to this, many water bodies are identified as being at risk of not achieving their water quality objectives due to the damage being caused by significant pressures.⁸² Significant pressures, those pressures which need to be addressed in order to improve water quality, have been identified for waterbodies that are 'At Risk' of not meeting their water quality objectives under the WFD. Significant pressures for surface water bodies within or adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates are identified on Table 4.1. There are various types of pressures identified, such as:

- **Agricultural pressures** - can include issues related to farming including loss of excess nutrients and sediment loss to surface waters from diffuse sources such as spreading of fertilisers and manures. Excess phosphorous and sediment are typically issues for rivers and lakes, and too much nitrogen is the main issue for estuaries and coastal waters.
- **Urban run-off pressures** - can include leaking sewers and run-off from paved and unpaved areas and misconnections where private foul connections are connected to storm sewers instead of the foul sewer network.
- **Urban wastewater pressures** - can include direct discharge of nutrients from urban wastewater treatment plants and discharge from combined storm overflows or storm water overflows. Discharges of elevated concentrations of phosphorus, ammonium and nitrogen impact on the ecology of surface waters.
- **Hydromorphological and anthropogenic pressures** are identified together in many instances. Hydromorphological pressures can include: modifications to the physical habitat conditions or the natural functioning of a waterbody which can impact on ecology, caused by dredging and straightening of rivers (chanellisation), land drainage or hard infrastructure such as dams, weirs, culverts or other obstructions. Anthropogenic pressures can include: water abstractions; invasive species; agriculture; use of fertilizers, manures and pesticides; animal husbandry activities; inefficient irrigation practices; deforestation of woods; aquaculture; pollution due to industrial effluents and domestic sewage; mining; and recreational activities.
- **Industrial pressures** - can include discharges and emissions from industrial and commercial facilities.
- **Extractive industry related pressures** – can include different activities that lead to the extraction of raw materials from the earth, such as oil, metals, mineral and aggregates. Impacts from extractive sites include sediment/siltation pollution and alteration to the physical environment.
- **Invasive species pressures** - can include those relating to non-native species introduced outside their natural range that threaten ecosystems, habitats and native species with environmental or socio-economic harm. Currently 37 species have been identified across the EU as a high priority for management, and nine of these occur in Ireland. The potential impacts of IAS include the alteration of eco-systems (by causing bank erosion, for example), inhibition of access to water bodies, hindrance of land development and, in some cases, potential human health impacts.
- **Atmospheric pressures** - can include atmospheric deposition of nutrients. Atmospheric deposition of nutrients is the process whereby nutrients from natural or anthropogenic sources move from the atmosphere to the earth's surface.
- **Forestry pressures** - can include poorly managed and inappropriately sited forest operations, negatively impact on water quality and aquatic habitats and species. The most common water quality problems arising from forestry relate to the release of sediment and nutrients and the impacts from acidification. Forestry may also give rise to changes in stream flow regimes caused by associated land drainage.

⁸⁰ There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. Overall status is currently not assigned and the term "unassigned status" applies in respect of these waterbodies.

⁸¹ As per EPA classification system (gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps).

⁸² EPA (2019): Report on Water Quality in Ireland 2013-2018

Table 4.1 WFD River, Lake, Coastal and Transitional Waterbodies Status⁸³

Waterbody Name (EPA Identification Code) ⁸⁴	Waterbody Type	WFD Surface Waterbody Status (2013 -2018) ⁸⁵
Bar Deela_010	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. No pressures identified.
Castlebar_010	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from domestic wastewater and urban run-off sources.
Claureen (Mayo)_010	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural, hydromorphological and extractive industry sources.
Culfin_010	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological sources.
Glenisland_010	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from forestry sources.
Owengarve (Mayo)_010	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from forestry and hydromorphological sources.
Aille (Mayo)_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from anthropogenic sources.
Bellagarvaun_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural and forestry sources.
Bunowen (Louisburgh)_030	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Carrowbeg (Westport)_030	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from extractive industry, urban wastewater and urban run-off sources.
Carrownisky_020	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Cartron_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Claureen (Mayo)_020	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological and forestry sources.
Dawros_040	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Deel (Crossmolina)_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Deel (Crossmolina)_020	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Doega_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Glenamong_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural and forestry sources.
Glensaul_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural sources.
Newport (Mayo)_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from extractive industrial, hydromorphological and forestry sources.
Owenbrin_020	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from forestry and hydromorphological sources.
Owengarve (Mayo)_020	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Shanvolahan_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from extractive industrial and forestry sources.
Owennabrockagh_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Ballin MO	Lake	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Castlebar	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural, domestic wastewater and invasive species sources.
Knappaghbeg	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural sources.
Tully	Lake	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Killary Harbour	Coastal	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from anthropogenic sources
Aille (Mayo)_030	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural and forestry sources.
Aille (Mayo)_040	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Altnabrocky_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Bunanioo_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Bundorragha_020	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from anthropogenic and hydromorphological sources.
Bunnahowna_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Bunowen (Louisburgh)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Bunowen (Louisburgh)_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Carrowbeg (Westport)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Clydagh (Castlebar)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Cong Canal_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Cross (Mayo)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Crumpaun_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Crumpaun_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Culfin_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Deel (Crossmolina)_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Deel (Crossmolina)_040	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derrycraff_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Erriff_040	River	Good. No pressures identified.

⁸³ Source: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> and <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water>.

⁸⁴ The number at the end of each river water body name indicates where the water body is located along the main river channel. For example, the water body at the source is coded '_010', the next water body downstream is coded '_020' and the final water body before the river becomes transitional is '_180'.

⁸⁵ There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a number of waterbodies within the Plan area with overall status currently not assigned to them and the term "unassigned status" applies in respect of these waterbodies. These are not included on the Table 4.1.

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Finny_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Fooley_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Goulaun_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Joyce's_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Lough Nacorralea Stream_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Moyour_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Muing_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Owenbrin_010	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from forestry sources.
Owenduff (Blacksod)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Owenduff (Blacksod)_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Owenduff (Blacksod)_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Owenduff (Erriff)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Owennadornaun_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Owenwee (Mayo)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Owenwee (Mayo)_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Skerdagh_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Srah Stream_010	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural sources.
Srahduggan Stream_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Srahmore_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Srahnalong_010	River	Good.
Tarsaghaunmore_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Acorrymore	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Aille	Lake	Good.
Beltra	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Doo MO	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Feeagh	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Keel MO	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Mask	Lake	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural, domestic wastewater and invasive species sources.
Moher	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Erriff Estuary	Transitional	Good. No pressures identified.
Clew Bay	Coastal	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from anthropogenic sources.
Altaconey_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Bundorragha_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Carrownisky_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Erriff_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Erriff_020	River	High. No pressures identified.
Erriff_030	River	High. No pressures identified.
Glenlaur_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Glenumera_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Newport (Mayo)_020	River	High. No pressures identified.
Newport (Mayo)_030	River	High. No pressures identified.
Owenmore (Mayo)_020	River	High. No pressures identified.
Owenmore (Mayo)_030	River	High. No pressures identified.
Glencullin	Lake	High. No pressures identified.
Furnace Lough	Transitional	High. No pressures identified.
Newport Bay	Transitional	High. No pressures identified.
Tullaghan Bay	Transitional	High. No pressures identified.
Westport Bay	Transitional	High. No pressures identified.
Inner Clew Bay	Coastal	High. No pressures identified.

4.8.5 Groundwater

Groundwater is stored in the void spaces in underground layers of rock, or aquifers. These aquifers are permeable, allowing both the infiltration of water from the soils above them and the yielding of water to surface and coastal waters. Groundwater is the part of the subsurface water that is in the saturated zone - the zone below the water table, the uppermost level of saturation in an aquifer at which the pressure is atmospheric, in which all pores and fissures are full of water.

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

The WFD groundwater status (2013-2018) of all groundwater underlying the area to which the Plan relates (shown on Figure 4.13) is identified as being of *good* status, meeting the objectives of the WFD, apart from an area of *poor* groundwater status located to the east of Newport.

4.8.6 Aquifer Vulnerability and Productivity

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) rates groundwaters according to both their productivity and vulnerability to pollution.

Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter into groundwater. The vulnerability of aquifers underlying the area to which the Plan relates are mapped on Figure 4.14 and generally classified as being of:

- *High, moderate and low vulnerability*, in most of the area to which the Plan relates; and
- *Extreme vulnerability and extreme (rock at or near surface or karst)* mainly in the upland and coastal areas in the south and north of the area to which the Plan relates.

⁸⁶ Nutrient sensitive areas are those waterbodies listed in accordance with the Urban Waste Water Treatment (UWWT) Directive 91/271/EEC on Urban Waste Water Treatment and transposing Regulations. The waterbody containing the sensitive area is used to represent the nutrient sensitive area.

The GSI also rates aquifers based on the hydrogeological characteristics and on the value of the groundwater resource. This is referred to as aquifer productivity and is mapped on Figure 4.15. Productivity is generally classified as being:

- *Poor aquifer bedrock which is generally moderately unproductive except for local zones*, across most of the area to which the Plan relates;
- *Locally important aquifer bedrock, which is moderately productive only in local zones*, mainly in the north and north-east of the area to which the Plan relates;
- *Locally important aquifer bedrock which is generally moderately productive*, mainly in the north-east and south-east of the area to which the Plan relates;
- *Locally important aquifer karstified* in the coastal areas;
- *Regionally important aquifer karstified (conduit)*, in the centre of County Mayo; and
- *Regionally important aquifer karstified and locally important gravel aquifer* adjacent to the north-east of the area to which the Plan relates.

4.8.7 WFD Registers of Protected Areas

The WFD requires that Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs) are compiled for a number of water bodies or part of water bodies which must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife.

The WFD requires that these RPAs contain: areas from which waters are taken for public or private water supply schemes; designated shellfish production areas; bathing waters; areas which are affected by high levels of substances most commonly found in fertilizers, animal and human wastes - these areas are considered nutrient sensitive; areas designated for the protection of habitats or species e.g. Salmonid areas; Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); and, Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Entries to the RPAs within and adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates include:

- WFD Nutrient Sensitive Areas⁸⁶ (as shown on Figure 4.8);
- WFD Surface Water in Nutrient Sensitive Areas⁸⁷ (as shown on Figure 4.8);
- WFD Groundwater in Nutrient Sensitive Areas⁸⁸ (as shown on Figure 4.8);

⁸⁷ Areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) and and transposing Regulations.

⁸⁸ Groundwater bodies that intersect with areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) and and transposing Regulations.

- WFD Drinking Water Surface Water Bodies⁸⁹ - including Keel East; Bellagarvaun; Derryhillagh; Moyour; and Mask (as shown on Figure 4.7). Groundwater beneath the entire area to which the Plan relates is also included;
- WFD Salmonid River Regs (S.I. 293 only) - the River Castlebar and the River Deel are designated as Salmonid Rivers under S.I. No. 293, and associated WFD Surface Water and Groundwater in Salmonid Regs, as shown on Figure 4.7;
- WFD Bathing Waters and associated WFD Surface Waters in Bathing Locations (as shown on Figure 4.7) - including a number of bathing locations such as: Carrowniskey, Louisburgh; Clare Island, Louisburgh; Carrowmore Beach, Louisburgh; Old Head Beach, Louisburgh; Bertra Beach, Murrisk; Mulranny Beach; Doega Beach, Achill Island; Keel Beach, Achill Island; and Golden Strand, Achill Island; and
- WFD Shellfish Areas (as shown on Figure 4.8) - including Killary Harbour; Achill Sound North; Achill Sound South; and Clew Bay (East of Old Head) and associated WFD Surface and Groundwater in Shellfish Areas.

4.8.8 Bathing Waters

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

Bathing waters are now classed into four quality categories: *excellent*, *good*, *sufficient*, or *poor* with a minimum target of *sufficient* required to be achieved for all bathing waters.

The most recent available data from the EPA⁹⁰ shows that all bathing waters within the area to which the Plan relates reported on are of *good*⁹¹ and *excellent*⁹² water quality.

The Blue Flag award is given to beaches and marinas that have excellent water quality and maintain other standards including effective and appropriate management to ensure the protection of the natural environment and safety standards. A number of bathing locations across the area to which the Plan relates were

⁸⁹ Various water bodies are used for drinking water abstraction in accordance with European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 278/2007).

⁹⁰ EPA Report on *Bathing Water Quality in Ireland 2019*

⁹¹ Carrowniskey, Louisburgh; Golden Strand Achill Island; and Old Head Beach, Louisburgh.

⁹² Bertra Beach, Murrisk; Carrowmore Beach, Louisburgh; Clare Island, Louisburgh; Doega Beach, Achill Island;

awarded with the Blue Flag in 2020: Carrowmore; Bertra; Clare Island (The Harbour); Mulranny; Doega; Keel; Keem; and Dugort.

4.8.9 Flooding

Certain areas across the area to which the Plan relates are at risk from coastal, groundwater, pluvial⁹³ and fluvial⁹⁴ flooding. Historical flooding is documented at a number of locations, including: Louisburgh; Newport; Westport; Mallaranny; and Dooagh.

Predictive flood risk mapping is available from the Office of Public Works (OPW) for rivers and coastal areas across the area to which the Plan relates.

A number of settlements in County Mayo were identified by the OPW in 2012 as requiring detailed assessment of flood risk (Areas for Further Assessment), including settlements in the area to which the Plan relates: Louisburgh; Newport; Westport; and Westport Quay.

Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) as required by the 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (OPW and DEHLG, 2009) is relevant to project planning and development and associated environmental assessment and administrative consent of projects.

4.8.10 Existing Problems

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

There is historic and predictive evidence of elevated levels of flood risk from fluvial and coastal sources at various locations across the area to which the Plan relates.

Dugort Beach, Achill Island; Keel Beach, Achill Island; Keem Beach, Achill Island; and Mulranny Beach.

⁹³ Resulting from high intensity rainfall events where run-off volume exceeds capacity of surface water network.

⁹⁴ Watercourse capacity is exceeded or the channel is blocked and excess water spills from the channel onto adjacent floodplains.

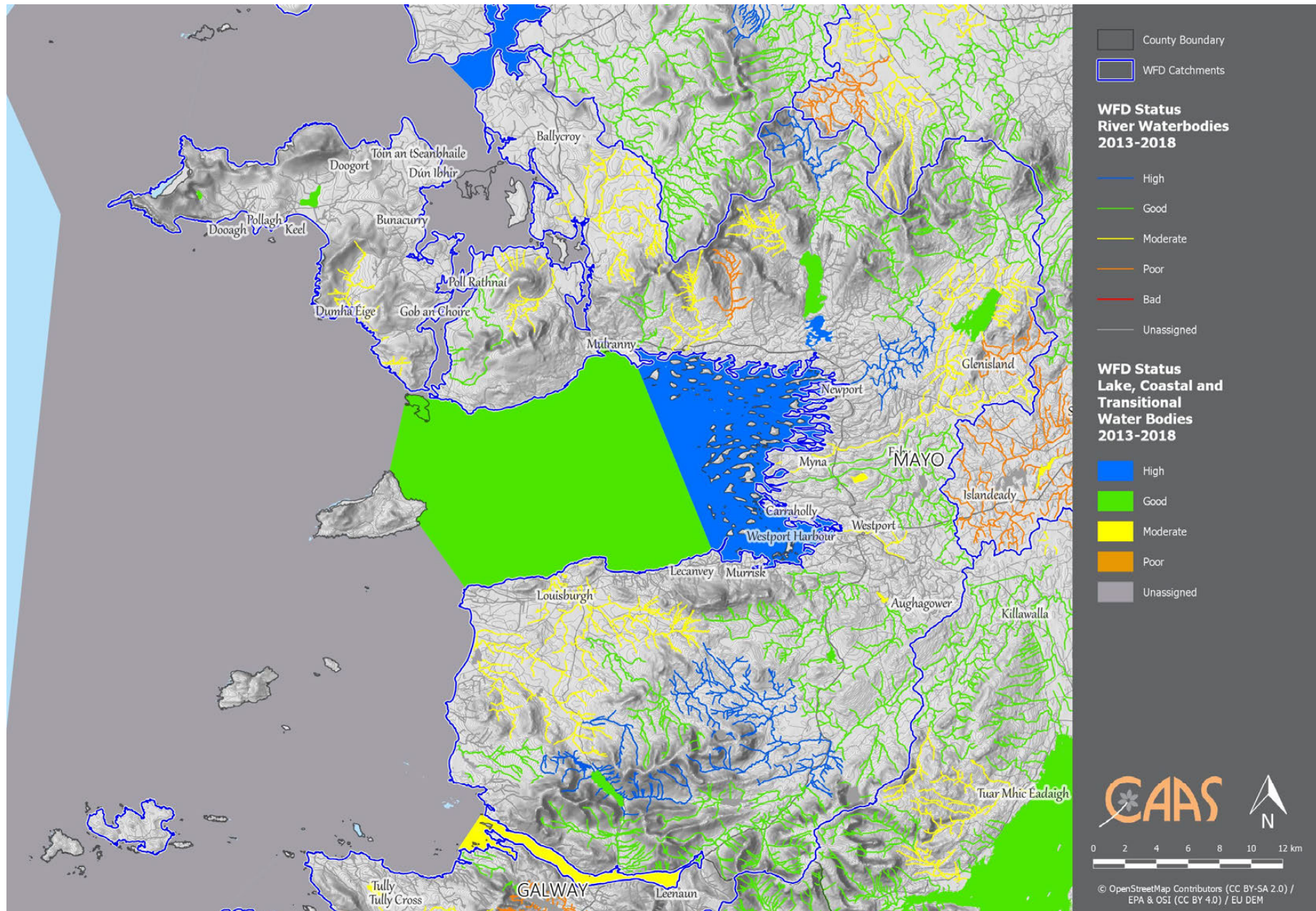


Figure 4.12 Surface Water Status (2013-2018)

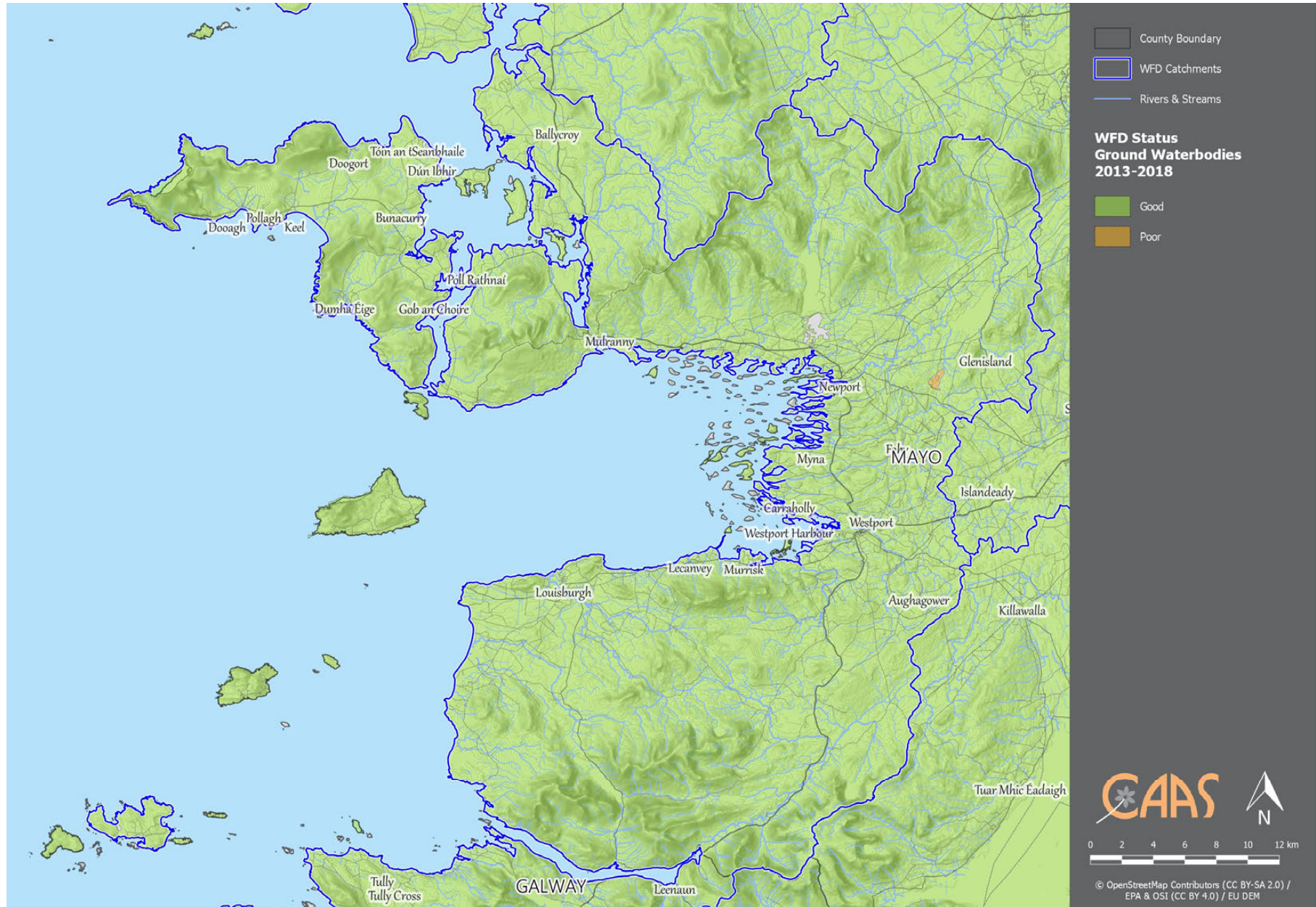


Figure 4.13 WFD Groundwater Status (2013-2018)

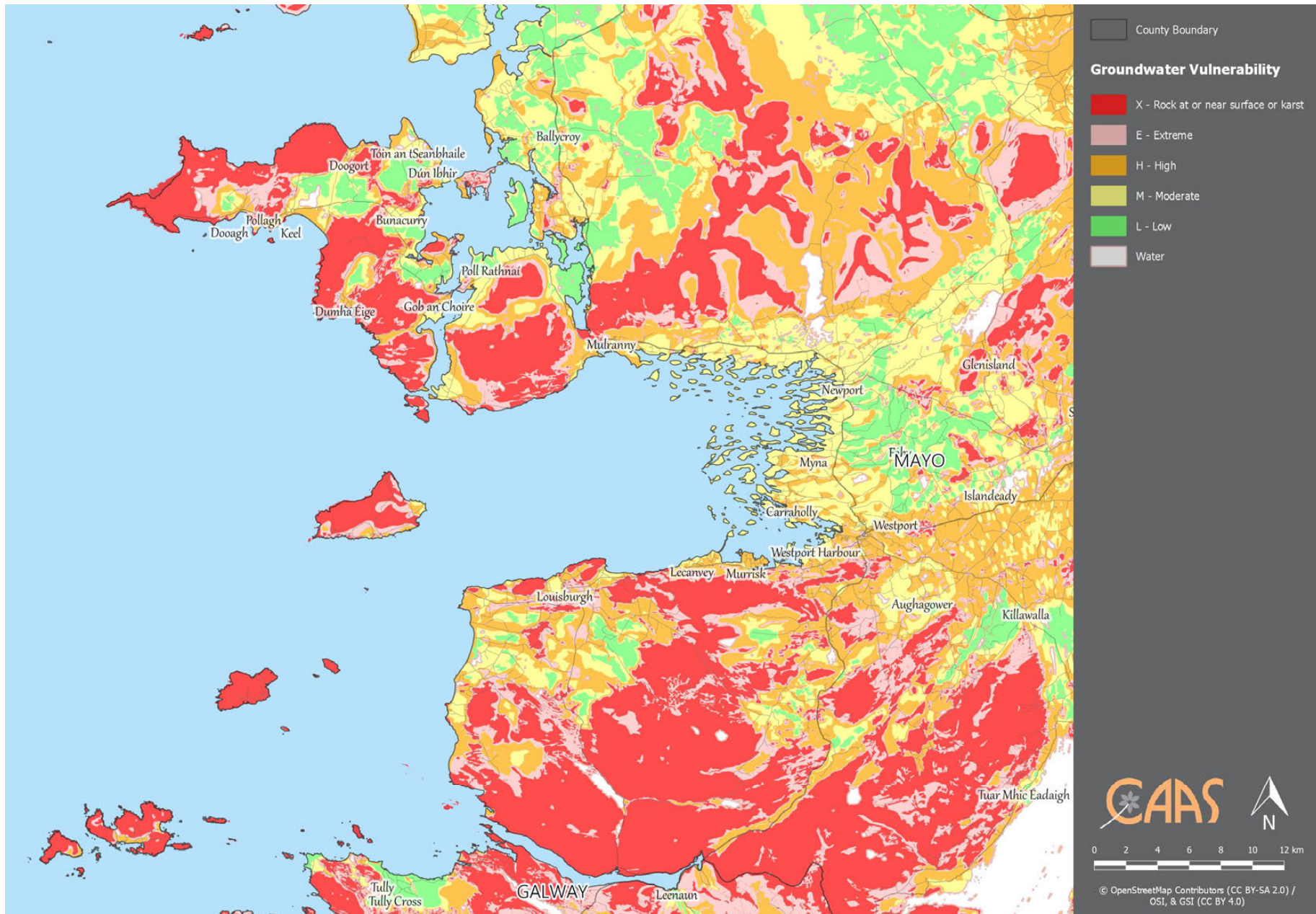


Figure 4.14 Groundwater Vulnerability

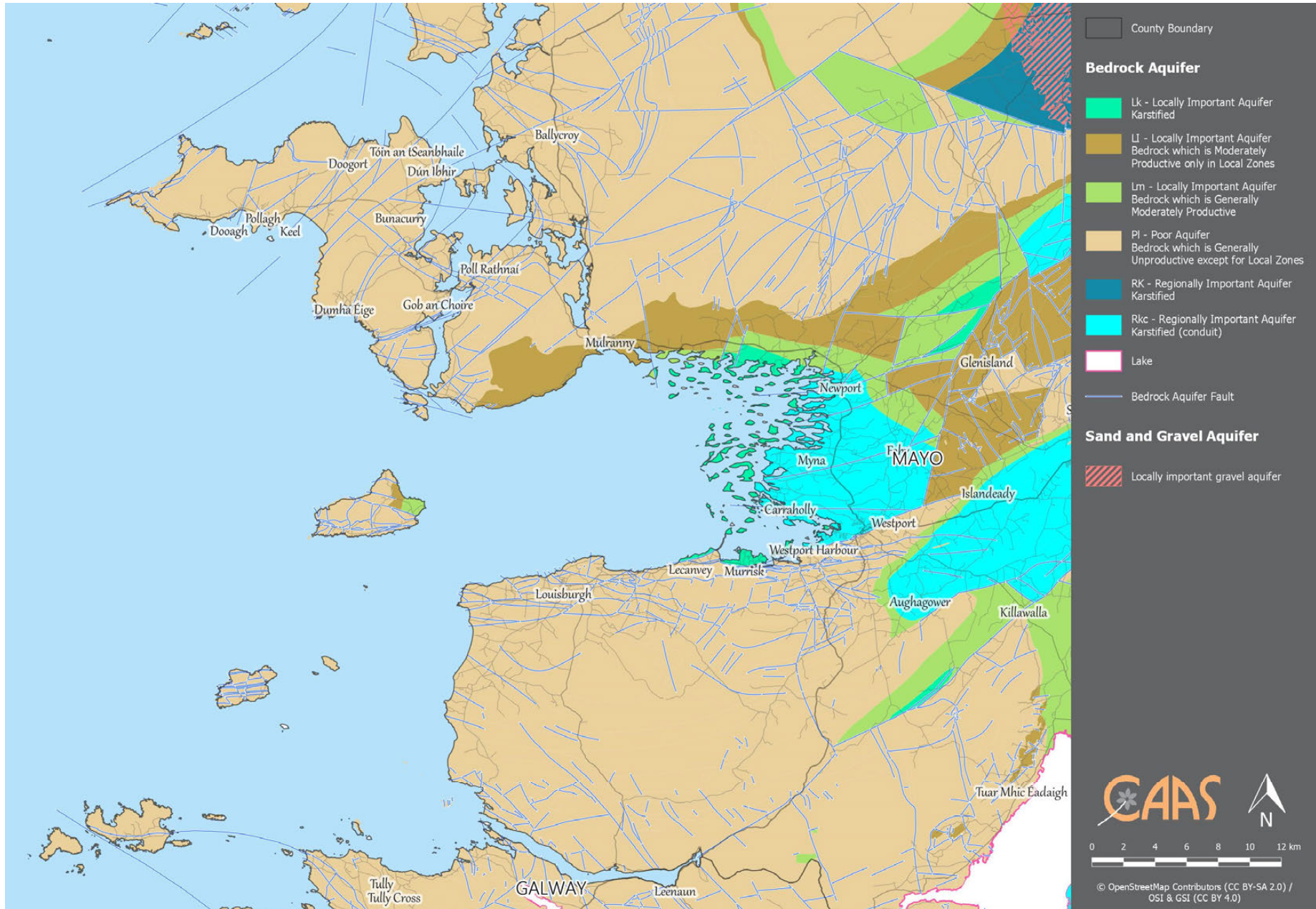


Figure 4.15 Groundwater Productivity

4.9 Air and Climatic Factors

4.9.1 Climatic Factors

Various provisions relating to climatic factors have been integrated into the Plan, compliance with which will need to be demonstrated by those seeking or maintaining funding from Fáilte Ireland. Such measures include those relating to (for more detail refer to Section 9):

- Walking and cycling; and
- Contribution towards European and national objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation, taking into account a wide range of detailed measures including those relating to resilience.

Interactions with climatic factors are also present with other environmental components including water/flooding (see Section 4.8).

Total emissions of greenhouse gases by humans come from various sectors including transport, agriculture, energy industries, manufacturing combustion, industrial processes, residential developments, commercial services developments, waste management processes and Fluorinated gases equipment (such as refrigeration and fire protection systems).

Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2017 (EPA, 2018) details estimates of greenhouse gas emissions for the period 1990-2017. For 2017, total national greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to be 60.75 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂eq). This is 0.9% lower (0.53 Mt CO₂eq) than emissions in 2016.

The EPA's 2019 publication *Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2018-2040* provides an assessment of Ireland's progress towards achieving its emission reduction targets set down under the EU Effort Sharing Decision (Decision No 406/2009/EC) for the years 2013-2020 and a longer-term assessment based on current projections. Ireland's 2020 target is to achieve a 20% reduction of non-Emission Trading Scheme (non-ETS) sector emissions (i.e. agriculture, transport, the built environment, waste and non-energy intensive industry) on 2005 levels with annual limits set for each year over the period 2013-2020. Key Insights identified as

part of the report's package of documents are that:

- There is a long-term projected decrease in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of inclusion of new climate mitigation policies and measures that formed part of the 2018-2027 National Development Plan, which was published in 2018 (and superseded in 2021). This is evident in the With Additional Measures scenario which assumes full implementation of the programmes, policies and measures included in the National Development Plan.
- Fossil fuels such as coal, peat and gas continue to be key contributors to emissions from the power generation sector. However, a significant reduction in emissions over the longer term is projected as a result of the expansion of renewables (e.g. wind), assumed to reach 41-54% by 2030, with a move away from coal and peat.
- A growth in emissions from the transport sector continues to be projected which is largely attributed to fuel consumption from diesel cars and diesel freight. A decrease in emissions over the longer term, most notably in the With Additional Measures scenario, is largely attributed to assumed accelerated deployment of 500,000 electric vehicles and the impact of greater biofuel uptake.
- Agriculture emissions are projected to continue to grow steadily over the period which is mainly a result of an increase in animal numbers particularly for the dairy herd.
- The implementation of additional energy efficiency measures included in the National Development Plan will see a significant reduction in emissions in the residential, commercial/public services and manufacturing sectors over the projected period.

The 2019 emission projections do not consider the impact of new policies and measures that are included in the Government Climate Plan. It is anticipated that future emission projections will include the additional impact of the Government Climate Plan.

Ireland's National Policy position is to reduce CO₂ emissions in 2050 by 80% on 1990 levels across the Energy Generation, Built Environment and Transport sectors, with a goal of Climate neutrality in the Agriculture and Land-Use sector. The 2016 emissions for all of these sectors were identified as being rising, making achievement of long-term goals more difficult.

The Climate Change Advisory Council's Annual Review 2019 identifies that the most recent projections demonstrate that, under different assumptions, Ireland will not meet its emissions reduction targets, even with the additional policies and measures included in the National Development Plan. The projections also show that progress on reducing emissions is sensitive

to the future path of fuel prices. A significant and sustained rate of emissions reduction of approximately -2.5% per year is required to meet objectives for 2050. However, it must be noted that additional measures within the recent Climate Action Plan are not included in the analysis to date.

4.9.2 Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

The National Climate Action Plan is an all of Government plan to tackle climate change and bring about a step change in Ireland's climate ambition over the coming years. The plan sets out an ambitious course of action over the coming years to address the diverse and wide-ranging impacts climate disruption is having on Ireland's environment, society, economic and natural resources. The Climate Action Plan sets out clear 2030 targets for each sector with the ultimate objective of achieving a transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient, and environmentally sustainable society and economy by 2050. The Action Plan deals with both mitigation and adaptation.

Climate mitigation describes action to reduce the likelihood of climate change occurring or reduce the impact if it does occur. This can include reducing the causes of climate change (e.g. emissions of greenhouse gases) as well as reducing future risks associated with climate change.

The use of alternative fuels, including electricity, forms a significant part of government policy to reduce emissions, including from transport. Greater use of alternative fuels, including renewable energy, has the potential to further contribute towards energy security.

Climate adaptation is a change in natural or human systems in response to the impacts of climate change. These changes moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities and can be in response to actual or expected impacts.

The National Adaptation Framework (2018), sets out the national strategy to reduce the vulnerability of the country to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of positive impacts. The National Adaptation Framework outlines a whole of government and society approach to climate adaptation. Under the Framework, a number of Government Departments will be required to prepare

sectoral adaptation plans in relation to a priority area that they are responsible for.

The Mayo County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 seeks to contribute towards adaptation with a Vision a Climate Ready Mayo being "A county that understands how climate change will affect the region, our businesses and communities, and actively working together to reduce our exposure to climate risks and to capture new opportunities".

4.9.3 Ambient Air Quality

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

The principles to this European approach are set out in the Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) (which replaces the earlier Air Quality Framework Directive 1996 and the first, second and third *Daughter Directives*; the fourth *Daughter Directive* will be included in CAFE at a later stage).

In order to comply with the directives mentioned above, the EPA measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants. For the purposes of monitoring in Ireland, four zones are defined in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2002 (SI No. 271 of 2002).

The EPA's (2020) *Air Quality in Ireland 2019* identifies that:

- Air quality in Ireland is generally good however there are localised issues;
- There was one exceedance of the EU annual average legal limit values in 2019 at one urban traffic station in Dublin due to pollution from transport;
- Ireland was above World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guideline value levels at 33 monitoring sites – mostly due to the burning of solid fuel in our cities, towns and villages; and
- There was one exceedance of the EU annual average legal limit values in 2019 at one urban traffic station in Dublin due to pollution from transport.

Problem pollutants identified by the EPA include particulate matter from burning of solid fuel and nitrogen dioxide from transport emissions in urban areas. Indications that Ireland will exceed EU limit values for nitrogen dioxide in the near future.

With regards to solutions, the report identifies that:

- To tackle the problem of particulate matter we should move away from burning solid fuel (coal, wood, turf) towards cleaner ways of heating our homes like gas or electrified heating and implement a national Smoky Coal ban and determine the feasibility of a wider smoky fuel ban for towns and cities; and
- To reduce the impact of NO₂ we must follow through on the legal requirement for an air quality action plan to be developed for Dublin to protect health and implement the transport options in the Government's Climate Action Plan, promoting clean public transport and increasing the use of electric vehicles, and as individuals, consider our transport choices for each journey we take.

In order to comply with European Directives relating to air quality, the EPA manages the National Ambient Air Quality Network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants at locations across the country. The current⁹⁵ air quality in the Rural West Air Quality Region, including the area to which the Plan relates, is identified by the EPA as being *good*.

4.9.4 Noise

Noise is unwanted sound. The Noise Directive – Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise – is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing EU policy on noise reduction from source. The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:

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

In compliance with the Directive and transposing Environmental Noise Regulations (S.I. No. 140 of 2006), Noise Action Plans have been prepared for each local authority area within the country. The Action Plans include noise mapping and are required to include measures to manage noise issues and effects, including noise reduction if necessary.

4.9.5 Existing Problems

The Climate Change Advisory Council's Annual Review identifies that the most recent projections demonstrate that, under different assumptions, Ireland will not meet its emissions reduction targets, even with the additional policies and measures included in the National Development Plan. The projections also show that progress on reducing emissions is sensitive to the future path of fuel prices. A significant and sustained rate of emissions reduction of approximately -2.5% per year is required to meet our objectives for 2050. It is noted that additional measures within the Climate Action Plan are not included in the above projections.

4.10 Material Assets

4.10.1 Water Services

4.10.1.1 Wastewater

The EPA's 2020 report *'Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2019'* identified that:

- Wastewater treatment at 19 large urban areas did not meet European standards;
- Raw sewage is released into the environment from 35 urban areas;
- Wastewater from 48 areas is the sole threat to waters at risk of pollution;
- Wastewater contributed to poor quality bathing waters at three beaches in 2019;
- Discharges from 13 areas must improve to protect freshwater pearl mussels;
- Seven wastewater collection systems have been found non-compliant with European Union requirements.

Based on the EPA's assessment of monitoring information provided by Irish Water and the enforcement activities carried out by the EPA, this report identifies urban areas with the most important environmental issues that must be addressed.

There is one Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) partially serving the area to which the Plan relates (located at Newport) listed as one

⁹⁵ 17/11/2020 (<http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>)

of two priority areas in County Mayo, where improvements are required to resolve urgent environmental issues.

Settlements and rural areas across the area to which the Plan relates are served by a combined sewer network, including number of Urban Wastewater Treatment Plants (including locations at: Westport; Mallaranny; Achill Island; Doogort; and Louisburgh), sewerage schemes and septic tanks.

The most recent Irish Water compliance reports for the wastewater treatment plants serving the area to which the Plan relates provide information on the environmental performance and wastewater discharge licence compliance of the following WWTP⁹⁶:

- Westport WWTP (licence no. D0055-01) - non-compliant with the Emission Limit Values (ELVs) set in the wastewater discharge licence.
- Achill Island Central WWTP (licence no. D0072-01) - non-compliant with the ELVs set in the wastewater discharge licence due to failed total Oxidised Nitrogen parameters.
- Achill Sound WWTP (licence no. D0511-01) - fully compliant with the ELVs set in the wastewater discharge licence.
- Mallaranny WWTP (licence no. D0218-01) - fully compliant with the ELVs set in the waste water discharge licence.
- Louisburgh WWTP (licence D0220-01) non-compliant with the ELVs set in the wastewater discharge licence due to failed ammonia parameters.
- Doogort WWTP (licence no. D0367-01) - non-compliant with the ELVs set in the wastewater discharge licence due to failed ammonia parameters.

Irish Water, working in partnership with Mayo County Council, is investing one million euro to undertake essential upgrade works to wastewater treatment plants in towns and villages across County Mayo. These improvement works include upgrades to the inlet works, storm water management and sludge treatment and storage facilities. As part of the project, upgrade works are proposed to be completed in settlements including Mulranny, Ballindine, Ballycastle, Gweesalia and Shrule. Capacity improvements will help to support new development in these areas, including tourism related development.⁹⁷

⁹⁶ Irish Water (2019) *Annual Environmental Reports (AERs)*

⁹⁷ <https://www.water.ie/projects-plans/mayo-wastewater-treatment/>

4.10.1.2 Water Supply

Drinking water supply in the area to which the Plan relates is provided by domestic water wells and private/public water supply schemes and individual wells.

Under Section 58 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, the EPA is required to collect and verify monitoring results for all water supplies in Ireland covered by the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2000. The EPA publishes their results in annual reports that are supported by Remedial Action Lists (RALs). The RAL identifies water supplies that are not in compliance with the Regulations mentioned above.

The most recent⁹⁸ EPA Remedial Action List (Q3 of 2020) identifies two drinking water supplies serving the population within or partially within the area to which the Plan relates:

- Newport Public Water Supply (due to elevated levels of pesticides above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations) – the proposed action programme includes Complete catchment-focussed engagement actions involving Irish Water and the relevant stakeholders to achieve compliance with the limits for pesticides by December 2021; and
- Ballycastle Public Water Supply (due to inadequate treatment for cryptosporidium) - the proposed action programme is a replacement of water supply with the Ballina - Lisglennon Public Water Supply by December 2020.

4.10.2 Public Assets and Infrastructure

Settlements across the area to which the Plan relates include Westport, Newport, Mallaranny, Louisburgh, Keel and Dooagh. Westport is the largest settlement in the area to which the Plan relates and is designated as a Place of Strategic Potential by the Northern and Western Regional Spatial Economic Strategy.

The area to which the Plan relates is served by rail, bus and regional and strategic roads. Aer Arann Islands and Knock Airports also serve the area to which the Plan relates. The ports and harbours located across the Clew Bay area have many functions including transport, fishing, marine leisure and tourism.

⁹⁸ The Achill Public Water Supply Scheme, associated group water schemes and parts of the adjacent mainland, were affected by 'Do Not Consume' notice in August 2020 due to detectable higher levels of aluminum in the drinking water. (www.water.ie)

Public assets and infrastructure that have the potential to be impacted upon by the development of tourism related infrastructure, if unmitigated, include: resources such as public open spaces, parks and recreational areas; public buildings and services; and utility infrastructure (electricity, gas, telecommunications, water supply, wastewater infrastructure etc.). These resources are generally located within the immediate outskirts of urban/suburban areas.

Various provisions relating to material assets have been integrated into the Plan, compliance with which will need to be demonstrated by those seeking or maintaining funding from Fáilte Ireland. Such measures include those relating to 'Critical Infrastructure' and the 'Mitigation of Traffic' (for more detail refer to Section 9).

4.10.3 Waste Management

Waste management across the area to which the Plan relates is guided by the Connacht Ulster Waste Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021. The Connacht Ulster Waste Region comprises nine local authority areas including: Cavan County Council; Donegal County Council; Galway City Council; Galway County Council; Leitrim County Council; Mayo County Council; Monaghan County Council; Roscommon County Council; and Sligo County Council. The Plan provides a framework for the prevention and management of waste in a sustainable manner.

4.10.4 Existing Problems

The provisions of the Plan will contribute towards protection of the environment with regard to impacts arising from material assets.

The provisions of infrastructure and supporting services for development, particularly water and wastewater services, is critical.

2018 saw long dry spells, which Met Éireann compared to 1976 when similar drought conditions were experienced across the country. The prolonged hot weather during the summer caused a huge increase in water usage across the country. As demand for water rose to critical levels, Irish Water's supplies were put under severe stress as more water was being used than could be produced.

Irish Water is currently preparing a National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) to address

issues with the supply and demand for drinking water in Ireland over the short, medium and long term. Measures have been integrated into the DEDP that will ensure that those receiving funding from Fáilte Ireland will not direct additional tourists towards specific locations in instances where significant problems with critical infrastructure have been identified (for more detail refer to Section 9).

4.11 Cultural Heritage

4.11.1 Archaeological Heritage

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

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

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

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

The term 'monument' includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. All monuments in existence before 1700 A.D. are automatically considered to be historic monuments within the meaning of the Acts. Monuments of architectural and historical interest also come within the scope of the Acts. Monuments include: any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group

of such buildings, structures or erections; any cave, stone or other natural product, whether or not forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position; any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or, ritual, industrial or habitation site; and any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any such cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site, situated on land or in the territorial waters of the State', but excludes 'any building or part of any building, that is habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes' (National Monuments Acts 1930-2004).

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

The archaeology of the area to which the Plan relates ranges from standing stones, megalithic tombs, fulacht fiadh and prehistoric rock art to more recent remains including medieval castles relics, priories, industrial maritime ports, and marginal lands once ravaged by famine. There are also a number of National Monuments in State Care, including: Clare Island Abbey; Carrickkildavnet Castle; Murrisk Abbey; and Burrishoole Abbey. These monuments are mapped on Figure 4.16.

Clusters of archaeological heritage are concentrated within and surrounding towns and villages (such as Westport, Murrisk, Louisburgh and Clare Island) and in lowland rural areas. Upland areas contain smaller concentrations of protected monuments. Archaeological sites of the particular importance include one of the finest examples of Neolithic rock art (Boheh Stone) and Megalithic tomb (Srahwee Wedge Tomb) in Ireland.

The Underwater Archaeology Unit was established within the National Monuments Service to manage and protect Ireland's underwater cultural heritage, including the quantification of the underwater resource and assessing development impacts in order to manage and protect this aspect of Ireland's

heritage. The Shipwreck Inventory is principally a desktop survey with information gathered from a broad range of cartographic, archaeological and historical sources, both documentary and pictorial. An inventory of wrecks covering the coastal waters off County Dublin was published in 2008. Wrecks over 100 years old and archaeological objects found underwater are protected under the National Monuments (Amendment) Acts 1987 and 1994. Significant wrecks less than 100 years old can be designated by Underwater Heritage Order on account of their historical, archaeological or artistic importance. Such Orders can also be used to designate areas of seabed or land covered by water to more clearly define and protect wreck sites and archaeological objects. Under the legislation all diving on known protected wreck sites or with the intention of searching for underwater cultural heritage is subject to licensing requirements. There are a number of historically recorded shipwrecking events located in vicinity off the coast and the bay of the area to which the Plan relates.

Coastal waters, tidal estuaries and rivers within and surrounding the area to which the Plan relates, may contain many features and finds associated with maritime/riverine heritage such as shipwrecks, piers, quay walls, fords, stepping stones and associated archaeological objects and features.

4.11.2 Architectural Heritage

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

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a State initiative and was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister of Culture,

Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the local authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures. The NIAH includes historic gardens and designed landscapes. Figure 4.16 shows entries to NIAH across the area to which the Plan relates.

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

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

- The interior of the structure;
- The land lying within the curtilage⁹⁹ of the structure;
- Any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors; and,
- All fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to in subparagraph (i) or (iii).

Similar to the general spatial spread of archaeological heritage, clusters of architectural heritage are indicated within settlements, such as Westport, Newport and Louisburgh. Protected Structures within the area to which the Plan relates include Delphi Lodge, Delphi, Newport House, Ardagh Lodge, Trafalgar Lodge and Clare Island Lighthouse.

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

be carried out to the exterior of a structure in the ACA that might alter the character of the structure or the ACA.

There are many ACAs designated across the area to which the Plan relates, including those located in Westport:

- Altamont Street;
- Bridge Street;
- Castlebar Street;
- Church Lane;
- Distillery Road;
- Fairgreen;
- High Street;
- Hillside;
- James Street;
- John's Row;
- Mill Street;
- Newport Street;
- North Mall;
- Peter Street;
- Prospect Avenue;
- Quay Street;
- Shop Street;
- South Mall; and
- Tubberhill.

4.11.3 Existing Problems

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

⁹⁹ Curtilage is normally taken to be the parcel of ground immediately associated with the Protected Structure, or in use for the purposes of the structure. Protection extends to the buildings and land lying within the curtilage. While the curtilage sometimes coincides with the present property boundary, it can originally have included lands, features or

even buildings now in separate ownership, e.g. the lodge of a former country house, or the garden features located in land subsequently sold off. Such lands are described as being attendant grounds, and the protection extends to them just as if they were still within the curtilage of the Protected Structure.

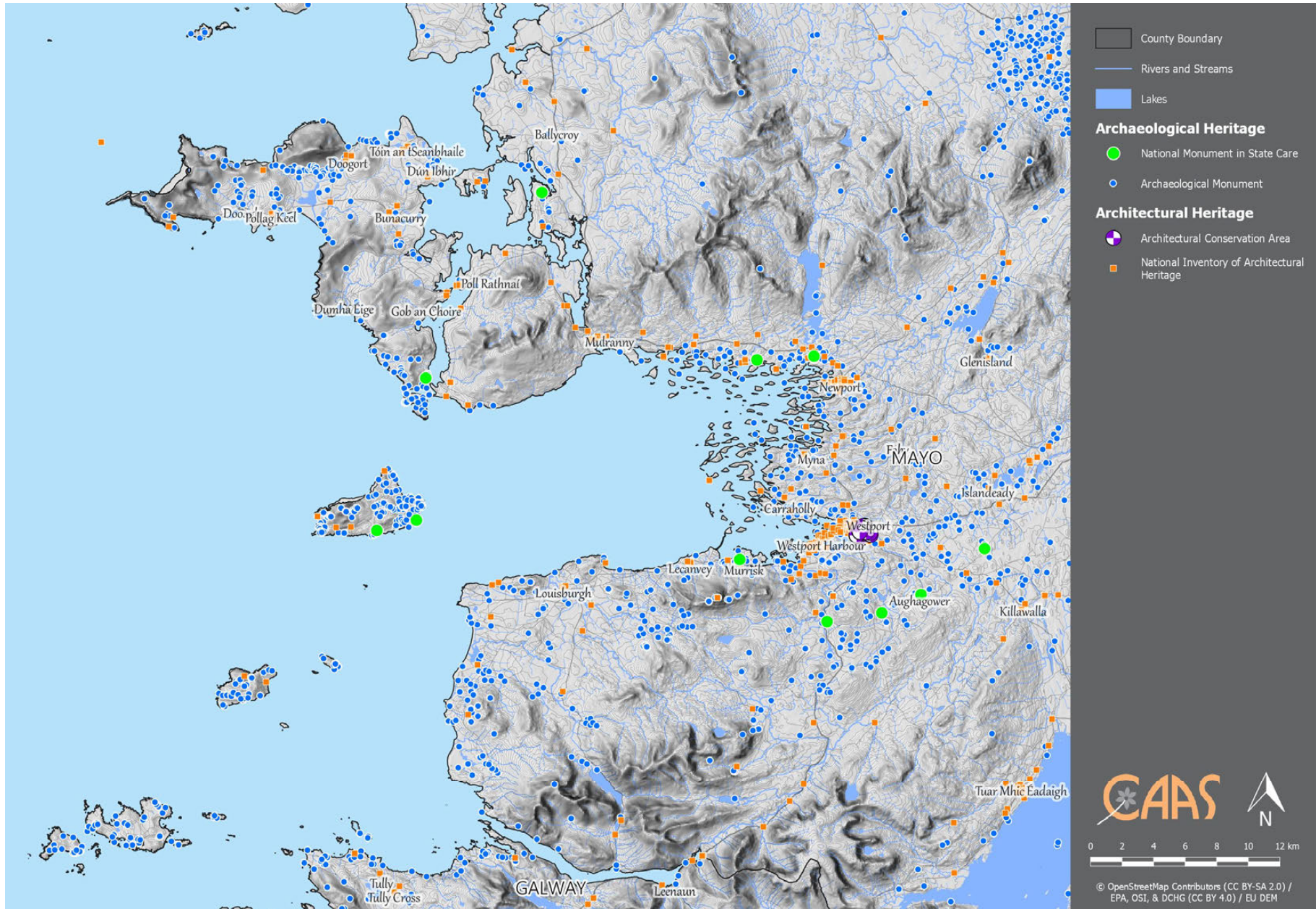


Figure 4.16 Archaeological and Architectural Heritage

4.12 Landscape

4.12.1 Topography

The Clew Bay area comprises an attractive and varied landscape and seascape with rivers, lakes, boglands, pastures and mountains, stretching into the Atlantic Ocean on Ireland's west coast. The Bay is dominated by glacially formed drumlins that have been partially submerged, creating many offshore islands. Clew Bay is situated between the upland areas of Croagh Patrick to the south and the Nephin Beg Range to the north. Some of Ireland's highest rocky sea cliffs are found adjacent to the Bay, on Achill Island and Clare Island. The cliffs on Achill Head (650 m high) drop vertically into the sea forming steep sublittoral reefs.

4.12.2 Landscape Character Appraisal

The area to which the Plan relates is identified as being situated within the Landscape Character Units as listed below¹⁰⁰:

- Area A: Achill, Clare, Inishturk and related Coastal Complex;
- Area B: North-West Coastal Moorland;
- Area C: North-West Coastal Bog;
- Area E: North Mayo Mountain Moorland;
- Area J: Clew Bay Glacial Drumlins;
- Area N: South-West Mountain Moorlands;
- Area O: Croagh Patrick Association; and
- Area P: South-West Coastal Basin.

Character units with similar visual landscape elements were grouped according to four categories of 'Principle Policy Areas' in County Mayo' (also shown on Figure 4.17):

- Policy Area 1: Montaine Coastal;
- Policy Area 2: Lowland Coastal;
- Policy Area 3: Uplands, moors, heath or bogs; and
- Policy Area 4: Drumlins and lowlands.

Areas designated as 'vulnerable' within Landscape Character Units include the coastline, the banks of rivers, the shorelines of all lakes, the skylines of upland areas and headlands and promontories. These areas are protected by the current Mayo County Development Plan.

¹⁰⁰ *Landscape Appraisal*, Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020 (as varied)

County Galway is adjacent to the south of the area to which the Plan relates and the current Galway County Development Plan includes landscape protection and management policies. Landscape Character Areas identified in this part of County Galway include Killary Harbour and Joyce's Country, both of which are identified as being of outstanding value and both of which contain areas of elevated landscape sensitivity.

4.12.3 Scenic Routes Protected Views and Highly Scenic Vistas

The area to which the Plan relates contains many sites, areas and vantage points from which views over areas of great natural beauty, local landmarks, historic landscapes, may be obtained.

The landscape designations provided for by the Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020 (as varied) and Local Area Plans in force in the area to which the Plan relates¹⁰¹ must be considered when assessing planning applications. These designations (mapped on Figure 4.17) include: Scenic Routes; Viewing Points; Scenic Views; and Highly Scenic Views.

4.12.4 Existing Environmental Problems

The legislative objectives governing landscape and visual appearance were not identified as being conflicted with.

¹⁰¹ Including Westport Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2019 and Castlebar and Environs Development Plan 2008-2014.

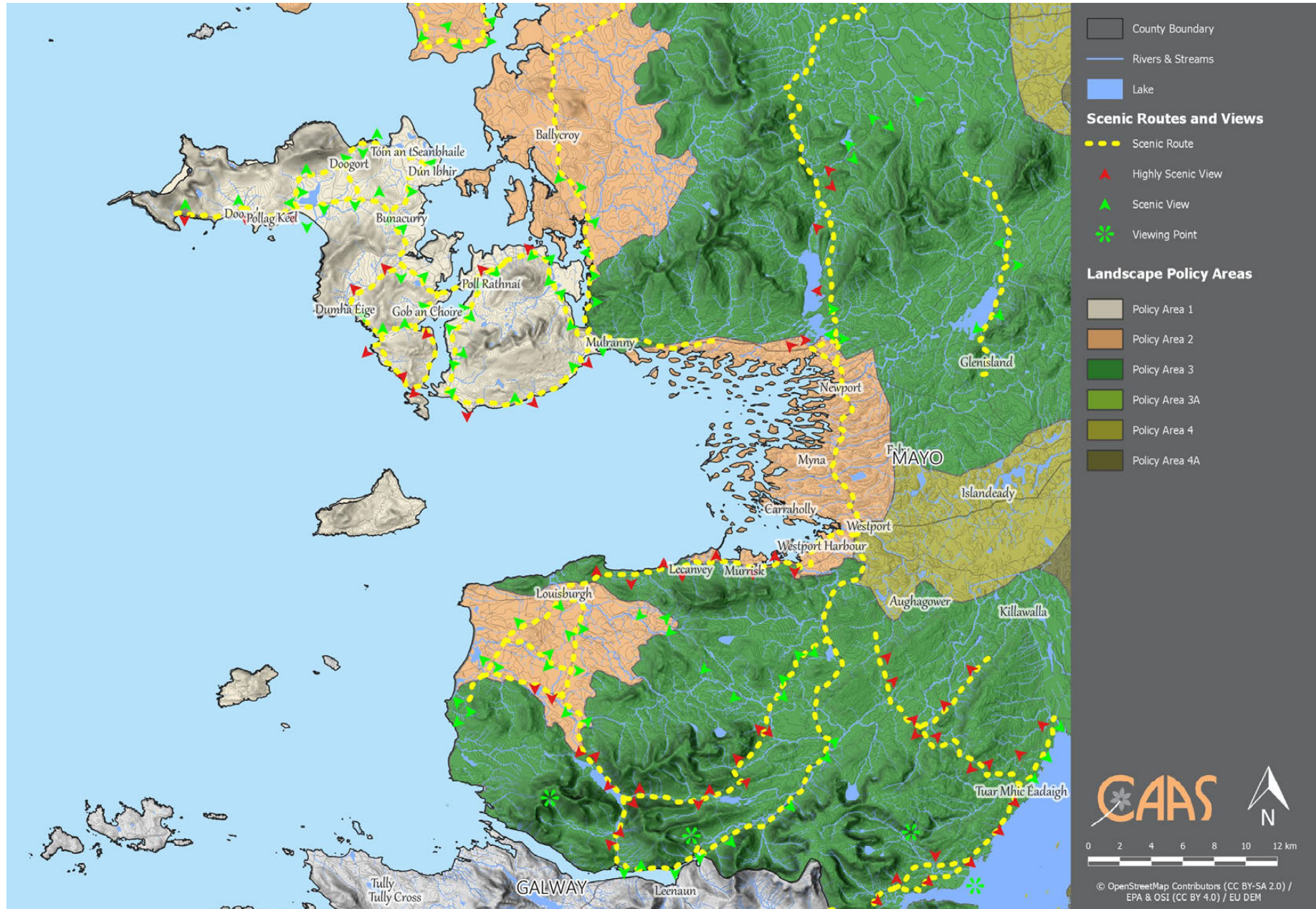


Figure 4.17 Landscape Designations

Section 5 Strategic Environmental Objectives

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

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

The SEOs are linked to indicators that can facilitate monitoring the environmental effects of the Plan as well identifying targets that the Plan can help work towards.

All SEOs, indicators and targets are provided on Table 5.1 overleaf.

Further detail on legislation, plans and programmes are provided under Section 2 (and associated Appendix II "Relationship with Legislation and Other Plans and Programmes") and Section 4.

Table 5.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives, Indicators and Targets

Environmental Component	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	B1: To contribute towards compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species ¹⁰²	B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive	B1: Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under National and International legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Plan ¹⁰³
	B2: To contribute towards compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function act as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species	B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity without remediation resulting from Plan	B2: No significant ecological networks or parts thereof which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation resulting from the Plan
	B3: To contribute towards avoidance of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites ¹⁰⁴ and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the principal Act	B3i: Number of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from the Plan B3ii: Number of significant impacts on the protection of listed species	B3i: Avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from the Plan B3ii: No significant impacts on the protection of listed species resulting from the Plan
Population and Human Health	PHH1: To contribute towards the protection of populations and human health from exposure to incompatible landuses	PHH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors resulting from the Plan, as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency	PHH1: No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result the Plan
Soil	S1: To minimise land take and loss to extent of soil resource	S1: Artificial surfaces land cover extent	S1: Contribute towards the target of the National Planning Framework's SEA (2018) to "Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4%."
Water	W1: To contribute towards the maintenance and improvement, where possible, of the quality and status of surface waters	W1i: Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009) W1ii: Mandatory and Guide values as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008)	W1i: No deterioration in the status of any surface water or adverse effect upon the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' as a result of the Plan W1ii: No deterioration in the value of bathing waters or adverse effect upon the ability of any bathing water to achieve Mandatory values and, where possible, Guide values as a result of the Plan

¹⁰² 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

¹⁰³ 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 programme to proceed; and (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

¹⁰⁴ The definition of a 'wildlife site' provided by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, includes Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed NHAs.

Environmental Component	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
	W2: To contribute towards maintaining and improving, where possible, the chemical and quantitative status of groundwaters	W2: Interactions with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC resulting from development adhering to the Plan	W2: Not to affect the ability of groundwaters to comply with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC, subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD
	W3: To contribute towards compliance with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines	W3: Compliance of relevant lower tier assessments and decision making with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines	W3: For lower tier assessments and decision making to comply with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines
Air and Climatic Factors	AC1: To contribute towards climate adaptation and mitigation	AC1: Demonstration of compliance with provisions relating to climate adaptation and mitigation have been integrated into the Plan.	C1: To maximise the amount of measures relating to climate adaptation and mitigation being implemented
Material Assets	M1: For development to be served with adequate and appropriate critical infrastructure with sufficient capacity (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) that does not present a danger to human health	M1: Number of instances whereby additional tourists are directed by beneficiaries of funding towards areas in the Plan area where adequate and appropriate critical infrastructure with sufficient capacity is unavailable	M1: No instances whereby additional tourists are directed by beneficiaries of funding towards areas in the Plan area where adequate and appropriate critical infrastructure with sufficient capacity that does not present a danger to human health are unavailable
	M2: To contribute towards the protection of public assets and infrastructure, including that relating to recreation and leisure, transport, utilities and marine areas and fisheries	M2: Number of significant adverse effects on the use of or access to public assets and infrastructure	M2: No significant adverse effects on the use of or access to public assets and infrastructure
	M3: To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse	M3: Preparation and implementation of construction and environmental management plans	M3: For construction and environmental management plans to be prepared and implemented for relevant projects
Cultural Heritage	CH1: To contribute towards the protection of archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context	CH1: Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places protected from significant adverse effects arising from the Plan	CH1: No unauthorised adverse effects on archaeological heritage resulting from implementation of the Plan
	CH2: To contribute towards the protection of architectural heritage including entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context	CH2: Percentage of entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from the Plan	CH2: No unauthorised adverse effects on architectural heritage resulting from implementation of the Plan
Landscape	L1: To avoid conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in Development Plans and other statutory land-use plans	L1: Number of unmitigated conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in Development Plans and other statutory land-use plans	L1: No unmitigated conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in Development Plans and other statutory land-use plans

Section 6 Description of Alternatives

6.1 Introduction

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

6.2 Current Situation (Alternative 1: Business as Usual)

As identified in the Plan, there are various strengths associated with the current tourism development situation include:

- Nationally significant hiking and cycling trails network
- Pristine natural environment and scenic beauty, including diversity of islands
- Distinctive shape
- Croagh Patrick spiritual asset
- Wild Nephin Ballycroy National Park and Dark Skies recognition
- Rich cultural scape strong themes
- Pearl of settlements diversity of towns and villages
- Recognition for local food, arts and craft, writers, adventure and well being
- Westport direct rail to Dublin

However, there are a number of weaknesses associated with this situation, including:

- Public infrastructure transportation services, toilets, parking
- Insufficient non peak season experiences
- Lack of funding for development particularly in key historical sites
- Seasonality
- Trail erosion on Croagh Patrick
- Insufficient investment in marine tourism
- Accommodation varied needs
- Sustainability of island life
- Marketing and promotion of Clew Bay as a destination
- Lack of a coordinated regional approach to tourism development

This current situation presents **Alternative 1 (Business as Usual)** to be considered by the SEA. Overtime, numbers of visitors would continue to increase under this scenario – consistent with the development of tourism over many decades. The most popular locations in the Clew Bay area would see the largest increases in visitors, which would occur during the peak season.

6.3 Prepare a Plan (Alternatives 2A and 2B: Prepare a Plan)

The weaknesses presented by the current situation (see Section 6.2) establish a potential need for a plan that seeks to better manage tourism in the Clew Bay area; facilitating, promoting, supporting and coordinating 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. Such a plan would not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent (such frameworks fall under the remit of other public authorities). Any projects would continue to be required to comply, as relevant, with the various provisions of documents that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

Features of such a Plan (in combination with the wider and extensive policy and wider and extensive policy and planning framework planning framework) would include:

- Motivating visitors to stay overnight and spend more;
- Extending the length of the season;
- Improving the overall economy of communities through strengthening individual businesses, creating new entrepreneurial opportunities sustaining and increasing job creation and increasing the attractiveness of the area for other forms of economic growth; and
- Promoting collaboration and partnership, supporting engagement of businesses, and building lasting links between national and regional partners, local agencies and associations, and local tourism experiences.

Under Alternative 2 there are two separate alternatives:

Alternative 2A: A Plan with Additional Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management

Fáilte Ireland provides funding sustainable tourism projects including land use and infrastructural development and land use activities. In order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, **Alternative 2A** would require Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders to demonstrate compliance 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 Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) would have to demonstrate compliance, as relevant, with various provisions of legislation, policies, plans and programmes that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Plan is not part and does not contribute towards.

Further environmental requirements would be integrated into the Plan under Alternative 2A, relating to infrastructure capacity, visitor management and green infrastructure and ecosystem services.

Alternative 2B: A Plan without Additional Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management

Alternative 2B would not include the requirements for environmental protection and management described under Alternative 2A. Projects would continue to be required to comply, as relevant, with the various provisions of documents that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

Section 7 Evaluation of Alternatives

7.1 Introduction

This section provides a comparative evaluation of the environmental effects of implementing the alternatives that are detailed under Section 6. This determination sought to understand whether each alternative was likely to improve, conflict with or have a neutral interaction with environmental components.

7.2 Methodology

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

The alternatives are evaluated using compatibility criteria (see Table 7.2 below) in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the SEOs. The SEOs and the alternatives are arrayed against each other to identify which interactions - if any - would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies a likely conflict with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the conflict column - e.g. B1 which stands for the SEO likely to be affected - in this instance 'To contribute towards compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species'¹⁰⁵.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects¹⁰⁶.

The degree to which effects can be fully determined at this level of decision-making is limited, as the Plan will be implemented alongside planning and project development and associated environmental assessments and administrative consent of projects. Nonetheless, a comparative evaluation of the various alternatives can be provided.

¹⁰⁵ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

¹⁰⁶ These effects include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

Table 7.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives¹⁰⁷

Environmental Component	Code	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	B1	To contribute towards compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species ¹⁰⁸
	B2	To contribute towards compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function act as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
	B3	To contribute towards avoidance of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites ¹⁰⁹ and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the principal Act
Population and Human Health	PHH1	To contribute towards the protection of populations and human health from exposure to incompatible landuses
Soil	S1	To minimise land take and loss to extent of soil resource
Water	W1	To contribute towards the maintenance and improvement, where possible, of the quality and status of surface waters
	W2	To contribute towards maintaining and improving, where possible, the chemical and quantitative status of groundwaters
	W3	To contribute towards compliance with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines
Air and Climatic Factors	AC1	To contribute towards climate adaptation and mitigation
Material Assets	M1	For development to be served with adequate and appropriate critical infrastructure with sufficient capacity (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) that does not present a danger to human health
	M2	To contribute towards the protection of public assets and infrastructure, including that relating to recreation and leisure, transport, utilities and marine areas and fisheries
	M3	To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse
Cultural Heritage	CH1	To contribute towards the protection of archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context
	CH2	To contribute towards the protection of architectural heritage including entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context
Landscape	L1	To avoid conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in Development Plans and other statutory land-use plans

Table 7.2 Criteria for appraising the effect of Alternatives on SEOs

Likely to Improve status of SEOs			Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated by complying with other measures included within the Plan		Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be fully mitigated
to the Greatest degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree	

¹⁰⁷ See Section 5 for a description of Strategic Environmental Objectives.

¹⁰⁸ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

¹⁰⁹ The definition of a 'wildlife site' provided by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, includes Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed NHAs.

7.3 Cumulative Effects

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

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

- Potential *intra-Plan* cumulative effects - these arise from the interactions between different types of potential environmental effects resulting from a plan, programme, etc. Where there are elevated levels of environmental sensitivities (such as those identified under Section 4), future development could result in environmental conflicts and lead to a deterioration in environmental integrity. The interrelationships between environmental components that help determine these potential effects are identified on Table 8.4 in Section 8 e.g. interrelationships between: human health and water quality; human health and air quality; human health and flood risk; and ecology and water quality.
- Potential *inter-Plan* cumulative effects - these arise when the effects of the implementation of one plan occur in combination with those of other plans, programmes, developments, etc.

In considering the relationship with legislation and other plans and programmes it is important to note that the Plan will form part of a wider and extensive policy and planning framework that covers sectors including tourism, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications and land use planning (see Section 2, 4 and 5 and Appendix II) for a range of sectors at a range of levels (e.g. National, Regional, County and Local). Legislation, plans and programmes from these other sectors also take into account demands from both residents and tourists when considering infrastructure and service needs. These plans, in turn, are also subject to their own SEA and AA requirements and include their own requirements relating to environmental protection and management. In this way, the environment is protected in a holistic manner so that the interactions of other uses and their associated plans and programmes are taken into account. Where they exist, the SEA recognises the existence of other environmental assessments with a view to avoid duplication of assessment, in compliance with the SEA Directive.

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 RSE for the Northern and Western Region (Clew Bay is located within the Northern and Western Region) sets out objectives relating to 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. The RSE provides a framework for the review of existing, assessed Development Plans and Local Area Plans, which already include various provisions relating to land use, tourism and infrastructure. Such reviews are also subject to environmental assessments.

Implementation of the Plan shall be consistent with and conform with the NPF, RSE 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. These provisions are in addition to those that have been integrated into the Plan that will contribute towards sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management (see Section 9).

Effects¹¹⁰ that may arise as a result of implementing the Plan, in combination with the existing statutory planning/decision-making and consent-granting framework, have been mitigated to the extent that the only residual adverse effects likely to occur as a result of implementation of the Plan are those that are identified under Table 8.3.

Cumulative effects that have been considered include those resulting from the Plan in-combination with the following:

- Land use policy, plans and programmes (e.g. the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, Development Plans and Local Area Plans);
- Water services, waste management, transport and energy infrastructure plans (e.g. Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan and associated Capital Investment Plan, Regional Waste Management Plans, Transportation Policies and Strategies, Grid25 and associated Implementation Programme) and the Local Economic and Community Plans; and
- Environmental protection and management plans (e.g. River Basin Management Plans, National Climate Action Plan, National Adaptation Framework, and Flood Risk Management Plans).

Potential cumulative effects include the following arising from the alternatives in combination with the plans etc. detailed above (note that potential adverse cumulative effects will be mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan - see Section 9):

- Contribution towards sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management – various provisions for which are provided for in the aforementioned plans (**Alternatives 1, 2A and 2B**).
- Need for and use of services, infrastructure and other development (to service development, including tourism), including those related to water services, transport, access or accommodation, that are planned for and consented through the statutory framework – and associated potential adverse environmental effects on various environmental components including biodiversity and flora and fauna, the status of waters, human health, soil, emissions, cultural heritage and landscape (**Alternatives 1, 2A and 2B**).
- Contribution towards climate adaptation and mitigation through measures such as those relating to walking and cycling, charging infrastructure, flood risk management and resilience (**Alternatives 1, 2A and 2B**).
- Contribution towards travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air as a result of increases in tourist numbers (**Alternatives 1, 2A and 2B**).
- Helps to minimise likelihood of exceeding capacity in material assets as a result of not directing additional tourists towards specific locations in instances where significant problems with critical infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) have been identified (**Alternative 2A**). This would positively impact upon the protection and management of environmental components such as human health, water, soil, air and climatic factors.
- Contribution towards the protection and management of biodiversity and flora and fauna (in designated sites, including European Sites and Wildlife Sites, and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats) through visitor management strategies, as relevant and appropriate (**Alternative 2A**).
- In combination with plans and programmes from all sectors potential adverse effects on all environmental components arising from all development in greenfield and brownfield areas (e.g. infrastructural, residential, accommodation, economic, forestry, agricultural etc.). The type of these effects are consistent with those described on Table 7.3. These plans and programmes from other sectors undergo SEA and comply with environmental legislation while projects are subject to EIA and AA, as relevant (**Alternatives 1, 2A and 2B**).

¹¹⁰ Effects include in-combination effects – those arising from services and infrastructure (to service development, including tourism) that are planned for and consented through the statutory framework including the NPF, RSES and lower-tier land use plans. Examples may include developments/operation of developments relating to water services, transport, access or accommodation. Mitigation includes that which has been integrated into the Plan – please refer to Section 9 of this report.

7.4 Detailed Consideration of Alternatives

Table 7.3 below describes effects common to all Alternatives (1, 2A and 2B).

Table 7.3 Effects Common to All Alternatives

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects from all Alternatives, in combination with the existing statutory planning/decision-making and consent-granting framework ¹¹¹	
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potential Significant Adverse Effect, if unmitigated
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection and management of biodiversity and flora and fauna (in designated sites, including European Sites and Wildlife Sites, and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats) Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and its ecosystem services. Contribution towards protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna as a result of contributing towards the protection of environmental vectors, air, water and soil. 	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of tourism related development/activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.
Population and human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of human health. Contribution towards the protection amenity usage and access. Contribution towards the sustainable growth of tourism and associated sustenance and growth of communities within the Clew Bay area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water are not mitigated. Potential interactions if additional tourists are directed towards specific locations in instances where significant problems with critical infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) have been identified.
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards minimising land-take and loss of extent of soil resource. Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination. Contributes towards protection of designated sites of geological heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverse impacts upon the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource. Adverse effects on designated geological heritage sites. Potential for increase in coastal /river bank erosion.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water resources (including the status of surface and groundwaters), bathing water quality and water-based designations. Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk.
Air and climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards climate adaptation and mitigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflict, in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors including transport and land use planning, between increases in visitors (which is likely to result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions to air, including from aviation, with associated interactions with climatic factors) and local, national and European objectives to reduce carbon emissions. Potential conflicts between transport movements, including car movements, and air quality.

¹¹¹ Effects include in-combination effects – those arising from services, infrastructure and other development (to service development, including tourism) that are planned for and consented through the statutory framework including the NPF, RSES and lower-tier land use plans. Examples may include developments/operation of developments relating to water services, transport, access or accommodation. Effects would be to varying degrees – refer to Table 7.4 for comparative evaluation.

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects from all Alternatives, in combination with the existing statutory planning/decision-making and consent-granting framework	
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potential Significant Adverse Effect, if unmitigated
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection and allows for continued use of public assets and infrastructure. Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of visitors have the potential to increase traffic levels. The need to provide adequate and appropriate water services (it is the function of Irish Water to provide for such needs). Increases in waste levels and residual wastes from visitors and construction of developments. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the long-term protection of archaeological and architectural heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on designated and unknown archaeological heritage. Potential effects on architectural heritage.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of landscape designations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts, especially in marine, estuary, island and ridge areas where, and conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape. Changes in the appearance of the landscape.

Alternative 1: Business as Usual

Sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection under Alternative 1 is provided through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. These measures would contribute towards positive effects on the protection and management of all environmental components (see Table 7.3).

Tourism related development would continue to be planned for and consented through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. Potential adverse effects (see Table 7.3) would continue to be mitigated through that process.

In the absence of a Plan, overtime, there would continue to be an increase in tourist numbers – consistent with the development of tourism over many decades. The most popular locations in the Clew Bay area would see the largest increases in visitors, which would occur during the peak season. This would give rise to greater concentration of tourists during peak seasons and in the most popular locations thereby increasing potential environmental effects on all components and peak load additions on various infrastructure in particular locations/at particular times.

Contributions towards an increase in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, including from aviation, would not occur as a result of a Plan that seeks to lengthen dwell time and grow visitor numbers however increases in tourist numbers would occur. Similarly, the positive mitigatory effects as a result of provisions of a Plan, such as those relating to sustainable mobility, traffic management and compliance with climate adaptation and management plans/strategies would not be provided for.

There would be one layer of mitigation under Alternative 1, through the existing statutory planning and consent framework.

Alternative 2A: A Plan with Additional Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management

In addition to the measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, environmental management (and associated effects - see Table 7.3), which are provided under all alternatives, and measures relating to seasonality and regionality, provided for by this alternative and Alternative 2B, this alternative would provide additional requirements for environmental protection and management, including those taken from the Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme and those relating to infrastructure capacity, visitor management and green infrastructure and ecosystem services. In order to be realised, projects included in the Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) would have to demonstrate compliance, as relevant, with various provisions of legislation, policies, plans and programmes that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Plan is not part and does not contribute towards.

Tourism related development would continue to be planned for and consented through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. Potential adverse effects (see Table 7.3) would continue to be mitigated through that process.

Although a Plan would help to improve the seasonal and geographic spread of visitors, a Plan's objective would be to increase the number of visitors to the Clew Bay area. Although this would be likely to happen without a Plan, a Plan would have the potential to increase numbers of tourists – and associated potential adverse effects – to a greater degree than would be the case if there was no Plan. This would be likely to contribute towards an increase in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, including from aviation. These increases will be mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable mobility and compliance with the Climate Action Plan and the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions).

A Plan would also help to promote new experiences – including those relating to land use activities and developments. These would also have the potential to increase adverse effects. Notwithstanding this, there would be three layers of mitigation, through:

- The existing statutory planning and consent framework;
- Visitor management strategies; and
- Additional environmental requirements for environmental protection and management, under this alternative.

Alternative 2B: A Plan without Additional Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management

In addition to the measures relating to sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection (and associated effects - see Table 7.3), which are provided under all alternatives, this Alternative (2B) would provide measures to improve seasonality and regionality. Seasonality and regionality provide a greater spread of tourists throughout the year and across the Clew Bay area thereby reducing potential environmental effects and peak load additions on various infrastructure in particular locations/at particular times.

Tourism related development would continue to be planned for and consented through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. Potential adverse effects (see Table 7.3) would continue to be mitigated through that process.

Although a Plan would help to improve the seasonal and geographic spread of visitors, a Plan's objective would be to increase the number of visitors to the Clew Bay area. Although this would be likely to happen without a Plan, a Plan would have the potential to increase numbers of tourists – and associated potential adverse effects – to a greater degree than would be the case if there was no Plan.

This would be likely to contribute towards an increase in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, including from aviation. These increases would be mitigated by the wider planning framework.

A Plan would also help to promote new experiences – including those relating to land use activities and developments. These would also have the potential to increase adverse effects. Notwithstanding this, there would be one layer of mitigation, through the existing statutory planning and consent framework.

7.5 Selected Alternative for the Plan

Taking into account the environmental effects detailed above and the challenges and opportunities present for tourism across the Clew Bay area, Fáilte Ireland have proceeded with Alternative 2A "A Plan with Additional Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management". A comparative assessment of all three alternatives against SEOs is provided on Table 7.4 overleaf.

Table 7.4 Comparative Evaluation of Alternatives against SEOs

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs			Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated by complying with other measures included within the Plan		Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be fully mitigated
	to the Greatest degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree	
Alternative 1: Business as Usual			<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 Sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection is provided through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. These measures would contribute towards positive effects on the protection and management of all environmental components (see Table 7.3).</p>		<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 Tourism related development would continue to be planned for and consented through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. Potential adverse effects (see Table 7.3) would continue to be mitigated through that process.</p> <p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 In the absence of a Plan, there would likely to be a continuing increase in tourist numbers – consistent with the development of tourism over many decades. The most popular locations in the Clew Bay area would be likely to see the largest increases in visitors, which would be likely to occur during the peak season. This would be likely to give rise to greater concentration of tourists during peak seasons and in the most popular locations thereby increasing potential environmental effects on all components and peak load additions on various infrastructure in particular locations/at particular times.</p>	
Alternative 2A: A Plan with Additional Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management	<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 In addition to the measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, environmental management (and associated effects - see Table 7.3) and measures relating to seasonality, regionality and visitor management strategies, provided for by this alternative and Alternative 2B, this Alternative (2A) would provide additional requirements for environmental protection and management.</p>			<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 Tourism related development would continue to be planned for and consented through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. Potential adverse effects (see Table 7.3) would continue to be mitigated through that process.</p> <p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1 Although a Plan would help to improve the seasonal and geographic spread of visitors, a Plan's objective would be to increase the number of visitors in the Clew Bay area. Although this would be likely to happen without a Plan, a Plan would have the potential to increase numbers of tourists – and associated potential adverse effects – to a greater degree. A Plan would also help to promote new experiences – including those relating to land use activities and developments. These would also have the potential to increase adverse effects.</p> <p>Notwithstanding these issues, there would be three layers of mitigation, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing statutory planning and consent framework; • Visitor management strategies; and • Additional environmental requirements for environmental protection and management, under this alternative. 		

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs			Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated by complying with other measures included within the Plan		Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be fully mitigated
	to the Greatest degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree	
Alternative 2B: A Plan without Additional Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management		<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</p> <p>In addition to the measures relating to sustainable development, environmental management and environmental protection (and associated effects - see Table 7.3), this alternative would provide measures relating to seasonality and regionality – such measures would also be provided for by Alternative 2A.</p>			<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</p> <p>Tourism related development would continue to be planned for and consented through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. Potential adverse effects (see Table 7.3) would continue to be mitigated through that process.</p> <p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</p> <p>Although a Plan would help to improve the seasonal and geographic spread of visitors, a Plan's objective would be to increase the number of visitors to the Clew Bay area. Although this would be likely to happen without a Plan, a Plan would have the potential to increase numbers of tourists – and associated potential adverse effects – to a greater degree.</p> <p>A Plan would also help to promote new experiences – including those relating to land use activities and developments. These would also have the potential to increase adverse effects.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, there would be two layers of mitigation, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing statutory planning and consent framework; and • Visitor management strategies. 	

Section 8 Evaluation of Plan Provisions

8.1 Introduction

The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (see Section 4) and the Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Section 5 and Table 8.1) are used in the assessment of the Plan.

The provisions are evaluated using compatibility criteria (see Table 8.2) in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the SEOs. The SEOs and the Plan provisions are arrayed against each other to identify which interactions - if any - would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies a likely conflict with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the conflict column - e.g. B1 which stands for the SEO likely to be affected - in this instance 'To contribute towards compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species'¹¹².

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects¹¹³:

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

The degree to which effects can be fully determined at this level of decision-making is limited, as the Plan will be implemented alongside planning and project development and associated environmental assessments and administrative consent of projects. More detailed environmental measures may emanate from such assessments, further facilitating the mitigation of adverse effects.

¹¹² 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

¹¹³ These effects include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

Table 8.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Component	Code	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	B1	To contribute towards compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species ¹¹⁴
	B2	To contribute towards compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function act as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
	B3	To contribute towards avoidance of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites ¹¹⁵ and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the principal Act
Population and Human Health	PHH1	To contribute towards the protection of populations and human health from exposure to incompatible landuses
Soil	S1	To minimise land take and loss to extent of soil resource
Water	W1	To contribute towards the maintenance and improvement, where possible, of the quality and status of surface waters
	W2	To contribute towards maintaining and improving, where possible, the chemical and quantitative status of groundwaters
	W3	To contribute towards compliance with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines
Air and Climatic Factors	AC1	To contribute towards climate adaptation and mitigation
Material Assets	M1	For development to be served with adequate and appropriate critical infrastructure with sufficient capacity (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) that does not present a danger to human health
	M2	To contribute towards the protection of public assets and infrastructure, including that relating to recreation and leisure, transport, utilities and marine areas and fisheries
	M3	To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse
Cultural Heritage	CH1	To contribute towards the protection of archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context
	CH2	To contribute towards the protection of architectural heritage including entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context
Landscape	L1	To avoid conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in Development Plans and other statutory land-use plans

Table 8.2 Criteria for appraising the effect of Plan provisions on SEOs

Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
---	---	--	--

¹¹⁴ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

¹¹⁵ The definition of a 'wildlife site' provided by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, includes Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed NHAs.

8.2 Overall Findings

The overall findings of the SEA are that:

- **The Plan contributes towards Compliance with Environmental Legislation and Guidelines**

Fáilte Ireland are integrating all recommendations arising from the SEA and AA processes into the Plan (see Section 9 of this report), facilitating compliance of the Plan with various European and National legislation and Guidelines relating to the sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management.

Implementation of the Plan will contribute towards efforts to achieve a number of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals¹¹⁶ of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which were adopted by world leaders in 2015 at a United Nations Summit and came into force in 2016.

- **The Plan provides for Environmental Protection and Management**

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 compliance¹¹⁷ 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 Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various provisions of legislation, policies, plans and programmes that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Plan is not part and does not contribute towards. Such legislation, policies, plans and programmes include:

- 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, such as the Mayo County Development Plan, 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

¹¹⁶ Including: Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

¹¹⁷ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

- The Climate Action Plan and the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions).

Further requirements have been integrated into the Plan under the headings of “Infrastructure Capacity”, “Visitor Management” and “Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services” – see Section 9 of this Environmental Report.

- **The Plan is likely to contribute towards, in combination with other governmental policies, plans etc., an increase in greenhouse gas emissions – although such increases will be mitigated**

The Plan seeks to lengthen dwell time and grow visitor numbers to Clew Bay and would, in combination with other governmental policies, plans etc., be likely to contribute towards an increase in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, including from aviation. These increases will be mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable mobility and compliance with the Climate Action Plan and the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions).

Furthermore, as identified in the Climate Action Plan:

“Since 2012, greenhouse gas emissions associated with flights operating in the European Economic Area (EEA), including domestic flights as well as those to and from third countries, are covered by the EU ETS¹¹⁸. Airlines are required to monitor, report and verify their emissions, and to surrender allowances against those emissions. Airlines receive tradable allowances covering a certain level of emissions from their flights per year and must purchase allowances to cover any shortfall between their allocated sum of free emissions allowances and their actual emissions, as reported annually.

To support the planned development of a global Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the EU agreed in 2014 to limit the scope of aviation in the EU ETS to flights within the EEA. CORSIA will come into effect in 2021 and aims to stabilise global aviation emissions at 2020 levels by requiring airlines to offset any emissions growth after 2020 by purchasing eligible emission units generated by projects that reduce emissions in other sectors. As Ireland is a member of ICAO, Irish aircraft operators will have to offset any emissions growth after 2020 by purchasing eligible emission units, i.e. pay full carbon price.”

- **The Plan is Consistent with the existing Statutory Decision-Making and Consent-Granting Framework**

Implementing the Plan will involve Fáilte Ireland helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders (including local authorities, other government agencies, tourism operators, stakeholders 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.

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 (RSESs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSES for the Northern and Western Region (that includes the area to which the Plan relates) sets out objectives relating to tourism development, that have been subject to environmental assessment, including

¹¹⁸ Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

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

- **Potentially Significant Adverse Effects to be mitigated**

Potentially significant adverse environmental effects arising from the Plan, in combination with the existing statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, are detailed on Table 8.3. These effects will be mitigated by the various provisions that have been integrated into the Plan including those that have arisen through the SEA and AA processes (see Section 9).

Table 8.3 details the various types of environmental effects likely to arise with respect to the Plan (as developed from the selected alternatives – see Section 7) as a direct result of activities under the Plan and in combination with the existing statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. By complying with appropriate mitigation measures - including those that have been integrated into the Plan - potentially significant adverse environmental effects which could arise as a result of implementing the Plan would be likely to be avoided, reduced or offset.

Table 8.3 Overall Findings – Environmental Effects arising from Plan Provisions

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the existing statutory planning/decision-making and consent-granting framework ¹¹⁹			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potential Significant Adverse Effect, if unmitigated	Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection and management of biodiversity and flora and fauna (in designated sites, including European Sites and Wildlife Sites, and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats) including through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor management strategies; and DEDP requirements for environmental protection and management. Contributes towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and its ecosystem services. Contribution towards protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna as a result of contributing towards the protection of environmental vectors, air, water and soil. 	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of tourism related development/activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces arising from projects consented through the statutory planning/consent-granting framework. Losses or damage to ecology (these would be: in compliance with relevant legislation; and mitigated as projects would demonstrate compliance with various environmental protection and management measures) 	B1 B2 B3
Population and human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of human health including through DEDP requirements for environmental protection and management. Contribution towards the protection of human health as a result of not directing additional tourists towards specific locations in instances where significant problems with critical infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) have been identified. Contribution towards the protection amenity usage and access. Contribution towards the sustainable growth of tourism and associated sustenance and growth of communities within the Clew Bay area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water are not mitigated. Potential interactions if additional tourists are directed towards specific locations in instances where significant problems with critical infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) have been identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors. This has been mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management. 	PHH1

¹¹⁹ Effects include in-combination effects – those arising from services, infrastructure and other development (to service development, including tourism) that are planned for and consented through the statutory framework including the NPF, RSES and lower-tier land use plans. Examples may include developments/operation of developments relating to water services, transport, access or accommodation. Mitigation includes that which has been integrated into the Plan – please refer to Section 9 of this report.

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the existing statutory planning/decision-making and consent-granting framework ¹¹⁹			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potential Significant Adverse Effect, if unmitigated	Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various provisions (e.g. relating to maintaining the wildness of areas that have not yet been developed) help to minimise land-take and loss of extent of soil resource. • Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination. • Contributes towards protection of designated sites of geological heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse impacts upon the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource. • Adverse effects on designated geological heritage sites. • Potential for increase in coastal /river bank erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces and from sea level rise/coastal erosion. 	S1
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards the protection of water resources (including the status of surface and groundwaters), bathing water quality and water-based designations including through integrating requirements for environmental protection and management into the Plan. • Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. • Increase in flood risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased loadings as a result of development to comply with River Basin Management Plan. • Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by: measures that have been integrated into the Plan; and the statutory planning/consent-granting framework. 	W1 W2 W3
Air and climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards climate adaptation and mitigation through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking and cycling; and • Contribution towards European and national objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation, taking into account a wide range of detailed measures including those relating to resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflict, in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors including transport and land use planning, between increases in visitors (which is likely to result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions to air, including from aviation, with associated interactions with climatic factors) and local, national and European objectives to reduce carbon emissions. • Potential conflicts between transport movements, including car movements, and air quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, including from aviation. This has been mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable mobility and compliance with the Climate Action Plan and the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions). • Risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to climate and interactions with issues including flooding and material assets. 	AC1
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes towards protection and allows for continued use of public assets and infrastructure. • Contains clear objectives around seasonality and regionality which look not only to spread the benefits of tourism but also the potential impacts/ load associated with tourism. • Helps to minimise likelihood of exceeding capacity in material assets as a result of not directing additional tourists towards specific locations in instances where significant problems with critical infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) have been identified. • Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of visitors have the potential to increase traffic levels. • The need to provide adequate and appropriate water services (it is the function of Irish Water to provide for such needs). • Increases in waste levels and residual wastes from visitors and construction of developments. • Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher level waste management policies. • Increased loading on critical infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) where no significant problems have been identified with this infrastructure. • Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however such risks will be mitigated by: measures that have been integrated into the Plan; and the statutory planning/consent-granting framework. • Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework. 	M1 M2 M3

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the existing statutory planning/decision-making and consent-granting framework ¹¹⁹			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potential Significant Adverse Effect, if unmitigated	Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the long-term protection of archaeological and architectural heritage by encouraging greater levels of awareness and appreciation through, use, interpretation and access, in line with the requirements relating to the protection of cultural heritage including: entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context; and entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on designated and unknown archaeological heritage. Potential effects on architectural heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential alteration to the context and setting of architectural heritage however, these will occur in compliance with legislation. Potential alteration to the context and setting of archaeological heritage however, this will occur in compliance with legislation. Potential loss of unknown archaeology however, this loss will be mitigated by measures integrated into the Plan. 	CH1 CH2
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of landscape designations as a result of: facilitating compliance with relevant plans; and maintaining the wildness of areas that have not yet been developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts, especially in marine, estuary, island and ridge areas where, and conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape. Changes in the appearance of the landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residual visual effects (these would comply with landscape designation provisions). 	L1

8.3 Appropriate Assessment

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

The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA have taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA. Various content has been integrated into the Plan through the SEA and AA processes (see Section 9).

8.4 Interrelationship between Environmental Components

The SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to include information on the likely significant effects on the environment, on issues such as biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

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

Table 8.4 Potential for Interrelationships between Environmental Components

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

8.5 More Detailed Assessment of Plan Provisions

Central to the DEDP is the Action Plan that Action Plan lists all the actions that are required to address the development of the potential HERO Experience themes and the associated priorities. The Plan is organised by HERO Theme, and outlines a range of initiatives that are designed to bring each theme to the fore.

Initiatives that are likely to have a particular transformational impact are identified as **Catalyst Projects**. In addition, the Action Plan identifies ‘enablers of success’ a broad spectrum of destination development factors relating to governance, access, supporting infrastructure, capacity building, storytelling and sense of place.

8.5.1 Vision, Aims and Objectives

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>The Vision of the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan is to extend the season, increase overnight visitation and visitor spend, and attract visitors to Clew Bay while seeking to promote, sustain and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the region.</p> <p>The Key Objectives of the Plan are to develop compelling experiences for this stretch of the Wild Atlantic Way that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position Clew Bay as a ‘must do’ destination and motivate visitors to stay overnight and spend more; Disperse visitors and spend more evenly about the destination; Help attract interest and awareness from new markets, broadening the region’s market-mix; Extend the length of the season beyond the core summer months by providing a compelling and meaningful experiential offering in the shoulder and off-season; Increase the region’s stock of indoor and all-weather attractions; Improve the overall economy of communities through strengthening individual businesses, creating new entrepreneurial opportunities, sustaining and increasing job creation, and increasing the attractiveness of the area for other forms of economic growth; Support community values and aspirations, and strengthen community appreciation of local culture and intangible heritage; Promote collaboration and partnership, support engagement of businesses, and build lasting links between national and regional partners, local agencies and associations, and local tourism experiences; Protect the natural heritage and special environmental character of the region. Protect and celebrate the region’s cultural heritage. 	<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</p>		
<p>SEA Commentary:</p> <p><i>The assessment of the Plan’s Vision and Key Objectives against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs B1, B2, B3, PHH1, S1, W1, W2, W3, AC1, M1, M2, M3, CH1, CH2 and L1) is consistent with the:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.4; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p><i>Implementing the DEDP 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 DEDP does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The DEDP is situated alongside a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use development, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management. These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and form the decision-making and consent-granting framework.</i></p> <p><i>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. These measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this SEA Environmental Report. By integrating all SEA recommendations into the Plan, Fáilte Ireland is helping to ensure that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p><i>Sustainability and the environment have been integrated into the Vision and Key Objectives, for example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vision "...to promote, sustain and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the region." Key Objectives relating to regionality, seasonality and environmental protection and management. 				

8.5.2 Action Plan: Westport Estate and Under Big Skies

<p>The Plan should be referred to for more detail than is produced below, including timeframes, leads and partners for each of the action.</p>	<p>Likely to Improve status of SEOs</p>	<p>Potential Conflict with status of SEOs-likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Probable Conflict with status of SEOs-unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No Likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>Restoration and reinterpretation of Westport house and formal gardens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home to the Browne family for nearly 300 years, they poured their hearts and souls into maintaining the estate and house for future generations to enjoy. Wild and wonderful tales await, as visitors will be immersed in grand tours, daring deeds, dungeons and even the abolishment of slavery. Descend into the basement, the engine room of the house and experience servant life – a new story to be told at Westport House. Visitors will emerge into the beauty of the formal Victorian house gardens restored to their former glory overlooking the lake and woodland. <p>Deliver the Wild Realms Garden Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Reynolds, reformed landscape designer, is creating 3 brand new contemporary garden spaces that will pair beautifully with Westport Estate’s traditional heritage and will resonate with visitors from around the world. The Wild Realms, a wildly different and uniquely Irish landscape experience, tells the story of the <i>Tree of Life</i> in three distinct wild lands. Here, visitors are reminded that humans are merely guardians of this earth. There has never been anything like this in Ireland. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The tree’s roots lie in Ladies Walk, The trunk in the Walled Garden The crown on Garvillaun Island. <p>1.1 cont. In each space, we gain a new understanding of the intelligence of nature and how she decides what grows by drawing on the old ways. It includes a miniature pilgrimage, a wind harp and Ireland’s longest tree-top walk. Daytime and night-time story telling sessions will be held around a firepit. Other niche events will include evening performances by travelling theatre groups.</p> <p>Deliver the Immersive Grace O’Malley experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The newly imagined Westport Estate experience will begin at the new Coach House Visitor Centre with the story of the original Wild Atlantic woman, Grace O’Malley, the legendary Mayo Pirate Queen. Back in the 16th century, Grace challenged all who stood in her way, at a time when women were treated very differently. The new experience will be the first to explore her truth in such a high impact, experiential, immersive and innovative way – and in the home of her descendants, the Browne family. This exciting new experiential offering will form an integral part of the wider Grace O’Malley Trail proposal which is explored separately in this plan.. <p>Fully support the ongoing evolution and development of Wild Nephin National Park as a unique and wild landscape in its own right and as Mayo Dark Sky Park. With the National Park’s 15,000 hectares of uninhabited and unspoilt wilderness of Atlantic Blanket Bog, forestry and mountainous terrain of the Nephin Beg range and its status as a Gold Tier Dark Sky Park, this is an iconic asset that needs to be sensitively developed and managed as a HERO experience on the Wild Atlantic Way. The significance of this asset is well recognised, and a number of initiatives are in the process of being implemented. This Destination and Experience Development Plan supports the implementation of these projects as a priority, together with a range of initiatives and experiences that will complement and strengthen the National Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue the development of a Planetarium and Observatory to capitalise on the park’s dark sky accreditation in line with a recent funding commitment through the Rural Regeneration Development Fund, to enhance the status of the Dark Sky Park and extend the experience of the Park to a wider audience. This initiative has the added advantage of offering a new all-weather year-round experience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the feasibility and design studies for the proposed facilities. Assess the potential to expand or reconfigure the use of space in Ballycroy Visitor Centre in conjunction with the development of the planetarium and undertake a full evaluation of spatial needs for interpretation, hospitality services and gallery requirements. Continue to develop guided walks, activities and experiences that highlight the unique qualities of Wild Nephin National Park and support existing programmes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement the <i>Ballycroy National Park Interpretation Framework</i> (2017) which has a strong emphasis on the blanket bogs, the dark sky, experiencing the Wild Nephin wilderness, discovering the diversity of flora and fauna, understanding the human story, and appreciating the wider linkages with geological and climatic change over time. 	<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</p>		

<p>2.1 cont.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate developing a trail to link the Visitor Centre to the main body of the National Park and move forward with the initiative. Work towards developing an iconic nature-themed festival that further celebrates the significance and unique qualities of Wild Nephin National Park. Position Newport as the 'gateway town' for Wild Nephin National Park and the Mayo Dark Sky Park and enhance the 'intangible' presence of the National Park within the town. 				
<p>2.2</p>	<p>Leverage the achievements of the Mayo Dark Sky Park to strengthen the profile of both Wild Nephin National Park and the wider area, and work with the wider community to extend awareness of the significance of the dark skies as a tourism asset. While the park has a recognised boundary, there is considerable potential to use the theme of dark skies across Clew Bay to strengthen the core work in the park and the positioning of Clew Bay as a destination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Newport in its endeavours to become a Dark Sky Friendly Town and encourage other communities to pursue similar actions relating to lighting in public places. Promote Newport and its Dark Sky Friendly Town lighting of the viaduct and the church as an example of best practice within the Dark Sky 'community' and as the gateway community to the Mayo International Dark Sky Park. Continue to work with partners to advocate for appropriate lighting on roads outside settlements. 				
<p>2.2 cont.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build on the growing success of the Mayo Dark Sky Festival. Identify the potential to extend the festival through developing additional complementary experiences in the adjacent communities – such as themed music sessions in local pubs, or themed art exhibits in select studios and galleries. Develop photography workshops that assist visitors in capturing the essence of the national park and the dark skies within the park, and in surrounding areas of Clew Bay across different seasons. Establish a roving Dark Sky programme across Clew Bay based on either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mobile travelling planetarium (eg. an inflatable dome with a digital projector that recreates the sky during different seasons and times of day from the perspective of any point on Earth) – examples of users include the Ontario Planetarium, the University of St. Andrews Mobile Planetarium; and/or The use of a mobile observatory. (Note: in 2018 Nissan launched a concept vehicle which functions as a mobile astronomy lab, featuring a world-leading, observatory-class telescope on a bespoke off-road trailer.) Identify key viewing points that can be readily accessed. <p>Work with NPWS and/or adjacent landowners to explore the opportunity to develop and appropriately site new accommodation options that would enable visitors to more fully appreciate the dark sky. Examples: Purepods.com in New Zealand – a high-end glass pod glamping experience that allows complete immersion with the universe; Observatory B&B in Osoyoos, British Columbia – a B&B business combined with a passion for night skies (http://www.jacknewton.com/).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build on emerging partnerships with other dark sky initiatives such as the Mid Ulster Council's Dark Sky Project in Davagh Forest, Omagh to expand the market and cooperate on initiatives, including the current work on a Content Management System (CMS) to support the development of virtual reality and augmented reality as ways of enhancing the visitor experience. Encourage Inishturk and Clare Island to pursue designation as International Dark Sky Sanctuaries through the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) programme. Explore opportunities to appoint a Dark Sky coordinator. 				
<p>2.3</p>	<p>Develop/expand expert guiding resources and related expertise. The visitor experience of Clew Bay can be significantly enriched through guided services that assist the visitor in appreciating the landscape/geomorphology, the diversity of ecosystems and the night skies across the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to prioritise the role of interpretive and guiding staff in Wild Nephin National Park. Establish a Clew Bay ambassador programme that is designed to build new understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of Clew Bay, and to develop skills in storytelling and guiding. This programme could incorporate elements of the Dark Sky ambassador programme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider working with an accreditation body to develop a programme that has the potential to offer accreditation to participants who complete all the necessary units. Ensure that any programme developed has 'refresher' units and new modules to maintain interest in the training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: The Ring of Gullion in Newry, Mourne and Down District offered an ambassador programme endorsed by Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCN NI). This partnership enabled the development of bespoke training courses that met the needs of the Ring of Gullion as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The programme was designed to build locals' knowledge, skills in leading a group, and confidence in storytelling. Example: Reading the Local Landscape is a successful local heritage training course that runs through a partnership between Clare County Council and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. The programme includes an introduction to geology, biodiversity and natural heritage, archaeology and architecture, and its aim is to enable course participants to develop heritage projects based in their local area. Work with Leave No Trace Ireland to develop bespoke biodiversity programmes within the local communities as part of the ambassador programme. Engage the organisation's expertise to assist ambassadors in promoting the importance of responsible environmental behaviours in the 				

SEA Commentary:

The assessment of the Plan's "Under Big Skies" Actions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs B1, B2, B3, PHH1, S1, W1, W2, W3, AC1, M1, M2, M3, CH1, CH2 and L1) is consistent with the:

- Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.4; and
- Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.

Implementing the DEDP 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 DEDP does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The DEDP is situated alongside a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use development, tourism,

infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management. These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and form the decision-making and consent-granting framework.

These actions will contribute towards positive environmental effects (see Table 8.3) through:

- Sustainable development, environmental protection, environmental management (e.g. Action 2.3 “sustainable solutions to managing the heathland habitats” and Action 2.8 “Protect its environmental integrity”);
- Regionality (e.g. Action 2.8 “across the region”, Action 2.8 “regional initiatives” and Action 2.3 “across the region”);
- Seasonality (e.g. Action 2.2 “across different seasons”); and
- Visitor management (e.g. Action 2.3 “promoting the importance of responsible environmental behaviours”).

The actions will also contribute towards the promotion of new experiences – including those relating to land use activities and developments – and would be likely to contribute towards an increase in the number and dwell time of visitors (and associated potential adverse effects – see Table 8.3) to the Clew Bay area. New built developments and increases in the number and dwell time of visitors would continue to be planned for, mitigated and consented through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. The mitigation of potential adverse effects arising (see Table 8.3) would also be contributed towards by additional DEDP measures, including those relating to infrastructure capacity, visitor management and green infrastructure and ecosystem services. Any amendment to the DEDP or integration of DEDP provisions into other Plans, Programmes etc. would have to be subject to Screening for SEA and AA processes and full assessments as relevant.

The development of new and existing greenways, blueways, trails and walking and cycling routes, including those within the Clew Bay area and linking to other areas has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations. The development of these projects, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas, for example along the coast or estuaries or adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Potential adverse effects would be mitigated both by measures referred to in Section 9 of this report. The development of green infrastructure can achieve synergies with regard to the provision of open space amenities, sustainable mobility, the sustainable management of water, the protection and management of biodiversity, the protection of cultural heritage and the protection of protected landscape sensitivities.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. These measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this SEA Environmental Report. By integrating all SEA recommendations into the Plan, Fáilte Ireland is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

8.5.3 Action Plan: Bounteous Bay

The Plan should be referred to for more detail than is produced below, including timeframes, leads and partners for each of the action.	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs-likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs-unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>Strengthen the profile of adventure tourism in Clew Bay. The region has a strong association with outdoor land-based and water-based adventure and events but details can be difficult to find online and the offering can be perceived as fragmented. A more coordinated regional approach to identifying experiences and operators will assist in addressing the issue, together with the development of new regional events that highlight adventure strengths of the entire region. Infrastructural projects, such as the potential development of a marina near Westport Quay (E.3.3) as well as the confirmed development of shared services facilities for watersports operators at Keel Strand and Carrowmore Beach (E.3.1) will further strengthen the asset base for strengthening marine-based water sports.</p> <p>3.1 • Develop an online portal for regional outdoor activity events that consolidates event information with mechanisms to allow the visitor to book accommodation and related experiences online in a more seamless manner. This portal should profile all events but should be much more user friendly and searchable by event type.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</p>		
<p>3.1 cont.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support existing outdoor activity events and identify opportunities for new adventure-based and endurance events. With the growing levels of participation in events of this nature, and Clew Bay’s range of outdoor experiences, the region has the potential to considerably strengthen this type of visitor experience and enhance its overall positioning as an outdoor destination. Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explore the potential to develop a multi-day event that ties the mainland and the islands together in a cross-discipline event – with the potential to include cycling, running, sailing, and/or kayaking. The opportunity for an iconic event will be significant when the Great Western Greenway is fully extended. ○ Develop a multi-peak hiking challenge. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Example: The Lagan Valley Orienteers offer the Mourne Seven Sevens Challenge Walk – a 29km event that challenges participants’ endurance and mountain skills. The objective of the event is to climb all seven peaks in the Mourne Mountains that are over 700m following a self-defined route between fixed checkpoints. The event is positioned as a challenge walk, and not a competitive race. ○ Develop a stand-up paddle boarding (SUP) festival and race event in the Bay. The event can be a combination of technical short courses and a distance course – particularly if it is a two-day event. The shorter course event can take place in the inner bay, with the distance course held in more challenging waters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Example: The Tofino SUP Festival and Race held on the west coast of Vancouver Island, BC, includes a range of race events, including relay races, together with skills development clinics with national champions, sunset paddles, beach clean-ups and barbeque family evening events. • Highlight opportunities for sea swimming and winter swimming around the bay including access to the water from Westport Quay. 				

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p>	<p>Work with the arts and craft sector to build a strong networked structure. While there are a large number of artists and artisans, they are currently fragmented as a region-wide sector, which reduces their capacity to leverage their critical mass.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore regional options and work towards establishing a network with its purpose clearly defined. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: Original Kerry – a network of craft makers based in Co. Kerry. The Original Kerry Project now hosts and organises the Kerry Craft Trail, craft making, pop-up shops, craft fairs and markets, design showcases, and trade shows, in addition to providing support and umbrella marketing to assist the county’s craft making enterprises. The membership-based organisation restricts itself to a definition based on defining craft as utilitarian work made using traditional techniques by hand or in small cottage industries. Applications for membership are sent to external adjudicators to evaluate in terms of design and artistic merit, technical ability and marketability. Other networks exist that focus more on information sharing and networking, and in this respect, would have wider stakeholder participation. • Use the network to begin looking at the potential to offer scheduled studio tours and immersive experiences. The demand for this type of experience while travelling and the development of group experiences to motivate short break travel are growing. These curated experiences offer the benefit of intimate knowledge of a subject area within a craft discipline and are increasingly being paired with food and drink. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This work will involve developing a comprehensive inventory across all disciplines and identifying experiences that are currently market ready. ○ Example: Evolve Cellars in the Okanagan Valley wine region, British Columbia, offers a <i>wine and art in the vineyard</i> experience – a painting class experience combined with wine, an optional lunch and a private winery tour in an exceptional setting. <p>Assess the potential to develop a Clew Bay art and craft trail. This can start small scale and should be designed to encourage travel around the region while highlighting examples of exceptional art and craft.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Creative Inishowen – a group of seven artists and craft workers who live and work on the Inishowen Peninsula. They meet on a regular basis to collaborate on initiatives that will strengthen their visibility, and each participant offers visitors the opportunity to visit their studio and view them in action. The group cross-markets and encourages visitors to experience nearby sites and attractions. Their activities on social media and their print collateral assist in highlighting the theme of creativity on the Peninsula. <p>Establish a multi-purpose creative culture hub in Clew Bay that will create a natural meeting point between artists and visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a feasibility study that fully defines the concept. A centre could offer artists/artisans working space/studios where the production activity can be observed, classes can be offered, and local crafts can be promoted in a retail area. A working kitchen would also provide the option of culinary demonstrations and participatory classes. The centre should include a café and has the potential to become an all-weather and all-season attraction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: The Arts Station – Fernie, British Columbia. The former train station in the ski resort town of just over 5,000 residents is now a vibrant cultural hub, with gallery and theatre space, and art and craft studios – attracting professional artists and novices to work on creating art or learning new skills. In the summer, it provides a backdrop for local food trucks and the outside area transforms into a stage welcoming visiting artists to perform to the visitors that gather for social events. 				
<p>3.4</p>	<p>Develop opportunities to bring the land, sea and sky to life through the written word. Clew Bay has an association with a range of writers and poets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote and develop experiences that are themed around Heinrich Böll, including Böll’s cottage and the Heinrich Böll Weekend. This is of particular interest to the German market. • Support and promote literary events such as the Rolling Sun Festival as a way of celebrating artistic talent – this can provide an alternative approach to highlighting the essence of Clew Bay as a destination and its cultural heritage. 				
<p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p>	<p>Work with Achill Island stakeholders to explore ways of building on existing strengths in teaching and celebrating the Irish language, traditional craft skills, sean nós dancing, traditional musical instruments, visual arts and writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the existing Scoil Acla Summer School programme and its potential to be offered on a more frequent basis. The programme forms a strong foundation, but there is considerable scope to build a strong overseas visitor experience around the existing concept. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explore ways of expanding the concept to offer a more inclusive experience of Achill Island that includes hill walking, cycling, heritage tours, and marine adventure. • Continue to host festivals that highlight strengths in the traditional arts, including the Achill International Harp Festival, and support emerging experiences such as the proposed <i>Ag Casadh na Taoide – Turning the Tide</i> – a sailing voyage between the islands off Clew Bay and Arranmore in Donegal connecting artists and performers and celebrating music, song and dance en route. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider creating an Achill Island International Island Pipe Band Festival that taps into the Irish Cultural Centres and Pipe Bands in USA. Tie in with other island pipe bands from Scotland and potentially Cape Breton (already has a twinning association with Louisburgh). <p>Build Clew Bay’s existing strengths and recognition in food, local flavours and artisan producers. The region has a range of excellent restaurants and bistros, and a strong association between food and the Clew Bay Trail / Great Western Greenway with The Gourmet Greenway initiative. Food has now become a critical factor in building competitiveness, and it is essential to strengthen this attribute further and consolidate existing strengths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend The Gourmet Greenway, to highlight distinctive producers on Achill Island and beyond Westport. A prime example includes Achill Island Sea Salt and its production story that ties in with the umbrella theme of <i>land, sea and sky</i>. • Work with the culinary sector to raise awareness around the importance of telling the underlying story of food and food production in Co. Mayo. • Recognise the significance of mountain lamb in the landscape and increase its visibility in local menus. • Raise the profile of local seafood on local menus, and work with Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Ireland’s Seafood Development Agency and Fáilte Ireland to develop a strong presence on the ‘Taste the Atlantic - a Seafood Journey’ trail. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop new opportunities to buy locally sourced fish on the quayside – direct from the fishing boats or from fish ‘trucks’ on the pier. ○ Enable the establishment of a series of pop-up food trucks celebrating the bounty of the bay at beaches with local seafood. There will be the need for a regulatory environment that permits landing and selling fish to local restaurants and eateries. 				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand on the range of opportunities to showcase local food producers. Consider developing a competitive event that brings Clew Bay’s best chefs, purveyors of fine local food and drink and mixologists together to tempt an audience with decadent bites, distinctive drinks and local culinary flair with the audience casting the vote. Use events of this nature to build local and regional recognition for the flavours of Clew Bay. • Develop the ‘Shore to Table’ Clew Bay Seaweed Festival across the region. • Support the restoration of the Walled Garden at Westport Estate. Plans include telling the story of the gardens and providing related immersive experiences. • Develop the food market in Westport. Ensure that the regulatory context allows for cooking demonstrations and the opportunity to sample locally distilled products. • Assess gaps in the range and location of restaurants and explore opportunities to address these gaps. Newport, for example, would benefit from a harbourside fish restaurant. 				
3.6 cont.	<p>Develop themed food trails that encourages visitors to ‘eat or savour their way around Clew Bay’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider establishing a Clew Bay culinary experiences marketing cooperative that enables the development of culinary themed trails to strengthen the overall positioning of the region as a local food and drink destination. This could be distinct to The Gourmet Greenway, or an extension of it as Gourmet Clew Bay. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish a working committee to oversee the initial development of the concept. ○ Develop criteria and an application process that would provide the basis for building the concept. ○ Work towards establishing an online platform that will allow visitors to select a culinary theme, plan a route and experience distinctive flavours across the region. ○ Example: Taste of Nova Scotia – a unique marketing programme, whose members are committed to offering the most exceptional local culinary experiences that the province has to offer. It now has over 200 members who set and maintain the Taste of Nova Scotia quality standards for food, service and hospitality. It includes producers, processors and a wide range of eating establishments under categories that relate to chef-inspired restaurants, restaurants representing Nova Scotia’s rich culture, heritage and lifestyle, establishments that offer hands on experiences, and extraordinary culinary products on sale. <p>One initiative is based on offering three themed trails associated with a passport concept to encourage full engagement of visitors – the Good Cheer Trail, the Chowder Trail, and the Lobster Trail. The visitor can use the online planning tools to create a customised route of selected experiences, while the passport provides the basis for online engagement and a competitive element to the experience. (https://novascotiaculinarytrails.com/).</p> 				
3.7	<p>Develop hands-on experiences that bring the local heritage of food to the fore.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Learning how to make boxty. ○ Developing a lobster fishing experience on Inishturk, with fresh lobster for dinner. ○ Seaweed foraging. ○ A catch and release or catch and cook experience with local fishing operators linked with accommodation or eateries where the fish can be cooked that evening. • Develop new themed food events. Consider developing a medieval food festival that ties in with the Grace O’Malley theme – <i>the chieftain’s table</i>. 				
3.8	<p>Work towards creating Clew Bay experiences that more readily include Clare Island and Inishturk, and continue to assess potential to expand cruise and boat trips on the Bay.</p> <p>Experiences of this nature would provide a more holistic experience of Clew Bay and would provide visitors with greater ease of access to exploring themes across the entire region. The key constraints are largely infrastructural and these are addressed under Enabler 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorter term, provide visitors with online planning tools to readily build Clew Bay multi-day itineraries. • Examples of potential experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opportunities to live like an islander: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learn to fix a lobster pot. ▪ Become a farm assistant for a day. 				
3.9	<p>Highlight the wellness theme and develop and promote related saleable experiences across the region. The concept of wellness has broadened significantly and now has strong linkages with ‘slow’ nature-based/outdoor adventure, spirituality, nutrition, in addition to more traditional spa offerings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on the theme of mindfulness on Clare Island and identify all examples of healing practices across the region that can be integrated into the concept of a wellness experience. • Highlight opportunities for wild swimming and its benefits, including winter swimming. • Profile the linkages between the landscape, physical activities, sense of solitude, and local foods with the theme of wellness. • Support Westport Estate in elevating the themes of wellness within their guest experience. The restoration of Lady’s Walk and surrounding gardens will not only complement the restoration of the work on the House but will also contribute to a sense of well-being. 				
3.10	<p>Promote Clew Bay’s golf courses at Westport, Mulranny and Achill as part of the bounteous offering of the destination that provides exceptional opportunity to experience <i>land, sea and sky</i> while on the links.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify new opportunities to develop themed golf events that will assist in promoting the underlying themes of the Plan and will facilitate cross-promotion and cross-selling. An event that ties all the courses together will generate overnight stay, and can assist with strengthening the early shoulder season. 				
3.11	<p>Continue to develop the Achill Experience Aquarium and Visitor Centre as a key attraction on the island. The attraction is important as an all-weather facility and interprets the marine biodiversity in a way that complements the emphasis on land-based ecosystems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move forward with phase 3 of the expansion, including improving accessibility to the building. • Continue to identify ways of upgrading the interpretation and expanding the interpretive theme to include the birdlife of Achill Island, traditional island sea-faring stories and enhancements to existing displays, through new displays and innovative use of technology. • Ensure that future plans of this attraction and other proposed initiatives on the island align in a way that strengthens the overall approach to interpreting the island, and avoid duplication. • Give further consideration to relocating the experience to an appropriate site in Keel. 				

3.12	<p>Identify innovative and spontaneous ways to engage visitors further through storytelling. The strength of the two key storytelling themes – <i>our fearless queen</i> and <i>ribs of our land</i>, alongside the many additional themes that can be highlighted relating to prehistoric sites, Saint Patrick, famous personalities down through the centuries, story writers today, and related areas can be presented in a variety of ways that will further animate the destination and profile its wealth of stories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop pop-up story events in coffee shops or alternative venues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: The Hamilton 7: A Monthly Night of Storytelling at the Staircase – Ontario. The Hamilton 7 is a collective founded in 2016 who host a storytelling event once a month at a theatre. The event grew out of an experiment, when the organiser originally asked a number of the city’s best professional storytellers to create an organic process of storytelling. The group of eight works together as writers, creators, performers and dramaturges. • Offer bookable experiences to meet a local expert over coffee – this can be particularly well-suited to older visitors that have less ability to go for a guided walk, but would like the personalised approach that this type of experience offers. • Develop a roving programme of storytelling and animation in local pubs. 				
<p>SEA Commentary:</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan’s “Bounteous Bay” Actions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs B1, B2, B3, PHH1, S1, W1, W2, W3, AC1, M1, M2, M3, CH1, CH2 and L1) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.4; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the DEDP 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 DEDP does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The DEDP is situated alongside a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use development, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management. These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and form the decision-making and consent-granting framework.</p> <p>These actions will contribute towards positive environmental effects (see Table 8.3) including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regionality (e.g. Action 3.1 “region-wide sector” and Action 3.6 “across the region”, Action 3.9 “across the entire region” and Action 3.1 “regional approach”); and • Seasonality (e.g. Action 3.3 “all-season” and Action 3.10 “shoulder season”). <p>The actions will also contribute towards the promotion of new experiences – including those relating to land use activities and developments – and would be likely to contribute towards an increase in the number and dwell time of visitors (and associated potential adverse effects – see Table 8.3) to the Clew Bay area. New built developments and increases in the number and dwell time of visitors would continue to be planned for, mitigated and consented through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. The mitigation of potential adverse effects arising (see Table 8.3) would also be contributed towards by additional DEDP measures, including those relating to infrastructure capacity, visitor management and green infrastructure and ecosystem services. Any amendment to the DEDP or integration of DEDP provisions into other Plans, Programmes etc. would have to be subject to Screening for SEA and AA processes and full assessments as relevant.</p> <p>The development of new and existing greenways, blueways, trails and walking and cycling routes, including those within the Clew Bay area and linking to other areas has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations. The development of these projects, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas, for example along the coast or estuaries or adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Potential adverse effects would be mitigated both by measures referred to in Section 9 of this report. The development of green infrastructure can achieve synergies with regard to the provision of open space amenities, sustainable mobility, the sustainable management of water, the protection and management of biodiversity, the protection of cultural heritage and the protection of protected landscape sensitivities.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. These measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this SEA Environmental Report. By integrating all SEA recommendations into the Plan, Fáilte Ireland is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. 					

8.5.4 Action Plan: Tracks and Trails

The Plan should be referred to for more detail than is produced below, including timeframes, leads and partners for each of the action.	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>6.1 Work with local guides and experts to assess and enhance the interpretive signage around the site of the Achill Mission Colony and complement the excellent guided experience of the Colony Tour. The story of Edward Nangle and his controversial approach to local economic development and education, his life-long efforts to proselytise and how this played out during the Great Famine, together with the counter activities of Archbishop John McHale, are etched into the memory of the island. As author and historian Patricia Byrne notes, the great Irish 19th century conflicts around education, religion, imperialism and land were fought out on this island. Responses to the Great Famine seared and divided a community. The Achill Mission story is at the heart of these events – a microcosm of a bitter history. (The Preacher and the Prelate). While a fascinating period to look back on, this remains a story that can still touch a ‘raw nerve’ and needs to be handled respectfully and sensitively.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</p>		
<p>6.2 Support the proposed restoration of the Achill Monastery site and the relocation of the Achill Heritage Centre - Ionad Oidhreachta Acla – to this site. This initiative is focusing on the restoration of the former Franciscan monastery in Bunnacurry and the development of a heritage centre, which will include a craft shop and a living museum on a 35-acre site. The project is currently at an early stage of raising funds with ground works progressing.</p> <p>Work with the development company to fully define the concept and to develop a comprehensive business and feasibility plan. Use this plan to clearly identify the key heritage themes that will be interpreted.</p>				

6.3	<p>Continue to work with existing HERO products that highlight the theme and explore ways of promoting new business opportunities through packaging, new itineraries or new events. Examples include Glen Keen Farm, Lost Valley, The Colony Tour, Deserted Village Tour and the heritage walking tour of Westport town centre.</p>				
6.4	<p>Build regional expertise and develop experiences that relate to the changes in traditional ways of living, and the nature of decline in rural and maritime industries, particularly on the islands. Clew Bay can clearly present the story of Irish islands and the challenges facing these islands over many centuries. At the same time, they can present the counter-balance that many visitors are looking for. Questions about life on an island today and curiosity about the logistical challenges and rewards that it presents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify clear stories and themes for different islands and the appropriate ways of enabling visitors to get a feel for island life past and present. Use events such as the Achill Yawl Festival to include discussions and storytelling on the social history of the yawl, and how its demise came to represent larger issues with maintaining an indigenous way of life. Build local expertise in understanding Achill's traditional systems of land tenure and management, such as the 'rundale' system, and the emphasis on cooperation and working collectively. The introduction of Nangle's views lay in uneasy contrast to these traditional subsistence ways of life. Continue to work with historians and local experts to assist local guides in using the rich material that exists within the two Clare Island surveys. The restructuring of agrarian society that occurred after the purchase of the island by the Congested Districts Board in 1895 adds additional depth to the island's story. Explore opportunities to extend the concept of 'eco-campus' into researching the range of maritime and agrarian economies that existed on the islands and uplands of Clew Bay. 				
6.5	<p>Develop a diaspora regional event/reunion in the shoulder season and use this event to create an immersive experience in all aspects of the theme – including guided themed tours, historical talks, graveyard visits, and genealogy services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include an event on Inishturk that presents the story of the Tale of the Tongs. 				
6.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link in community events, such as attending and/or participating in GAA sports. Again, the GAA field in Inishturk has an iconic feel to it and should be used in a diaspora event of this nature. Expand the existing annual O'Malley Clan Gathering to have a wider impact in Clew Bay and explore ways of reaching the Mayo diaspora through Quinnipiac University in the United States, Cape Breton and the network of Irish Cultural Centres in the USA, Canada and the UK. <p>Develop the Slievemore Heritage Trail on Achill Island.</p> <p>The visitor experience concept for this 6km looped trail, which starts at Slievemore Old Graveyard and runs through Slievemore Deserted Village, stretches over 6,000 years of island life. It will highlight ancient markings of the passing of life with a number of Neolithic and early Neolithic court tombs and will pass through the Deserted Village – a 'booley' settlement that once had 137 stone cottages supporting a system of transhumance before being decimated by the Great Famine. This project is in preliminary stages of moving forward and work is commencing on pre-development activities, archaeological impact assessment, and archaeological investigations.</p>				
6.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider an interpretive approach similar to the interactive 5km looped walk at the Derrigimlagh Discovery Point in Connemara. The walk includes a number of 'historioscopes' which allow viewers to view key points along the trail to see how they would have looked in the past. This approach or other forms of augmented and virtual reality would assist in re-creating images of the landscape in the past and in helping the visitor to 'read the landscape'. Work with the Achill Archaeological Field School (NUI Galway) to identify ways of deepening the visitor experience through the activities of the Field School. Explore opportunities to engage students in communicating the significance of their archaeological studies to visitors and/or contributing to the building of local knowledge that can be used by local guides. Develop a master plan and conservation policy framework that will assist in preserving and interpreting the integrity of all aspects of this landscape. The Deserted Village is vulnerable to unintentional damage from visitors clambering over the stone relics. Work with the Comhlacht Forbartha Áitiúil Acla and local tour guides to continue strengthening the interpretation of the Great Famine story and the Deserted Village. 				
6.7	<p>Reassess current approaches to presenting the heritage and history of Achill to self-drive audiences through the provision of more information online. There are relatively new initiatives such as the Achill Maritime History Trail concept launched in early 2018 with a series of interpretive boards. While the boards are informative, they are text heavy, and consideration needs to be given to enhancing the process of discovery.</p>				
6.8	<p>Develop a 'dark' themed trail that encompasses Clew Bay, including Clare Island and Inishturk. As cycling opportunities grow such as with the Clew Bay Bike Trail, this should be considered a key market for a regional themed trail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify all trails with a darker theme, including the Coffin Trail on Achill Island – the Dooga to Minaun Loop. Identify related stories on other trails that may not be regarded as a darker-themed trail. Examples include the Great Famine stories on Clare Island and the first and last train tragedies on Achill Island. Assess the potential of establishing a Clew Bay Famine Trail. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring existing providers and new experiences together to tell the story of the famine and its legacy in Clew Bay across various sites from Doolough Valley and The Lost Valley to the Deserted Village, Achill Mission Colony and Achill Monastery sites. 				
6.9	<p>Continue to promote the commemorative annual Famine Walk from Louisburgh to Delphi. The event is held in May and offers the opportunity to develop additional elements around music, talks, and literary events that could play a role in attracting new visitors and extending the length of stay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Package this event with accommodation in Louisburgh to maximise the off-season benefits in the area. Work with local operators such as Glen Keen Farm and Lost Valley to create add-on experiences and activities. 				

SEA Commentary:

The assessment of the Plan's "Tracks and Trails" Actions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs B1, B2, B3, PHH1, S1, W1, W2, W3, AC1, M1, M2, M3, CH1, CH2 and L1) is consistent with the:

- Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.4; and
- Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.

Implementing the DEDP 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 DEDP does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting

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

These actions will contribute towards positive environmental effects (see Table 8.3) including through regionality and seasonality.

The actions will also contribute towards the promotion of new experiences – including those relating to land use activities and developments – and would be likely to contribute towards an increase in the number and dwell time of visitors (and associated potential adverse effects – see Table 8.3) to the Clew Bay area. New built developments and increases in the number and dwell time of visitors would continue to be planned for, mitigated and consented through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. The mitigation of potential adverse effects arising (see Table 8.3) would also be contributed towards by additional DEDP measures, including those relating to infrastructure capacity, visitor management and green infrastructure and ecosystem services. Any amendment to the DEDP or integration of DEDP provisions into other Plans, Programmes etc. would have to be subject to Screening for SEA and AA processes and full assessments as relevant.

The development of new and existing greenways, blueways, trails and walking and cycling routes, including those within the Clew Bay area and linking to other areas has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations. The development of these projects, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas, for example along the coast or estuaries or adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Potential adverse effects would be mitigated both by measures referred to in Section 9 of this report. The development of green infrastructure can achieve synergies with regard to the provision of open space amenities, sustainable mobility, the sustainable management of water, the protection and management of biodiversity, the protection of cultural heritage and the protection of protected landscape sensitivities.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. These measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this SEA Environmental Report. By integrating all SEA recommendations into the Plan, Fáilte Ireland is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

8.5.5 Action Plan: Enablers of Success

<p>The Plan should be referred to for more detail than is produced below, including timeframes, leads and partners for each of the action.</p>	<p>Likely to Improve status of SEOs</p>	<p>Potential Conflict with status of SEOs-likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Probable Conflict with status of SEOs-unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No Likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>ENABLER 1: Governance and Leadership</p> <p>Formation of an Implementation Group with representatives from all the key agencies and tourism sectors to identify the ideal model to resource and implement the actions in this Destination and Experience Development Plan. Getting this group or committee in place will be important to ensure a strategic and coordinated approach to implementation and to address the challenges arising from the diverse range of agencies and organisations currently involved in the delivery of tourism.</p> <p>E.1.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up an inclusive stakeholder implementation group with independent co-chairs. • Develop an implementation plan and prioritise actions around the key levers identified to unlock growth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Clearly identify ownership of actions, timelines and outputs across all stakeholders; o Identify KPI's with delivery dates; o Communicate progress. 	<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 AC1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</p>		

ENABLER 2: Improving Access to and within the Region					
E.2.1	<p>Expand access from Ireland West Airport Knock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Bus Éireann to improve frequency of shuttle connections between Ireland West Airport Knock, and Clew Bay. 				
E.2.2	<p>Develop an integrated transport system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities to develop an integrated transport network to seamlessly disperse visitors to key locations throughout Clew Bay and to assist in reducing car travel. Transportation initiatives should ensure that regional services align with arrival and departure times for shuttle services to Ireland West Airport Knock and schedules associated with Westport train and bus services. It is essential that services offered should be scheduled and priced in a way that will encourage maximum take-up. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore new approaches to working with potential local providers to implement a smarter travel strategy, including Local Link. Consider establishing new services, possibly demand responsive, for the last leg of routes, such as from Achill Sound to Doogah using smaller mini-bus vehicles. Pursue alternative cost-effective solutions, including ride sharing solutions and continue to work with Local Link to enhance connectivity and develop new routes. This should include return services from Westport to Croagh Patrick, Louisburgh, Roonagh, Doolough, and Leenane. Focus in particular on transportation services to Achill Island. The entire island needs to be served, particularly in light of any proposed developments at Keem Bay. Example: Harrington's of Ardgroom have been running a shuttle bus service that connects Cork to Castletownbere and through to Ardgroom on the Beara Peninsula. The service is contracted through Local Link Kerry and includes services from Ardgroom to Kenmare. Seats are reserved in advance of travel. Example: Texelhopper, Texel, Northern Netherlands - in 2014 Texelhopper was introduced on this small island. A fixed route bus service is now supported by an on-demand mini-bus service with defined pick-up points, although vehicles will pick up if the rider is located more than 500m from a designated pick-up point. The minibus routes have to be booked an hour before departure and can be paid for in advance. Initially the system was sub-contracted to the local taxi service. A comprehensive ICT system ensures that the process runs smoothly. In the summer months 50% of riders are visitors. 				
E.2.3	<p>Work towards improving connectivity to the islands through addressing related infrastructural needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the reception building and related services on Roonagh Pier. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance the proposal to move the ticket offices from their cabin locations into the Mayo County Council owned building following its upgrades and undertake improvements to offer shelter and toilet facilities to passengers. Undertake improvement works at the Inishturk embarkation point to provide shelter for passengers waiting for boats. Build on the success of the Clew Bay Bike Trail and the new scheduled sailings between Clare Island and Achill Island and work towards developing a ferry service between Clare Island and Inishturk. This would create opportunities for developing very distinctive overnight themed inter-island itineraries, and would be of considerable appeal to cyclists, particularly once the Clew Bay Trail / Great Western Greenway is fully extended. Review the Feasibility Study for the Achill Island to Erris Peninsula Ferry Service conducted in 2002 as a visitor service that has the potential to create a new touring route. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within this context investigate the potential for slipway or pier extension at the Valley on Achill Island with a view to servicing this ferry connection. 				
E.2.3 cont.					
E.2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue improvement works to the N59, much of which follows the Wild Atlantic Way around Clew Bay. 				
ENABLER 3: Supporting Infrastructure					
E.3.1	<p>Deliver the Keem Bay Signature Discovery Point project on Achill Island informed by robust consultation with key stakeholders and local communities.</p> <p>This will be a potential game changer for Achill Island and will require strengthening the role of Keel as a hub.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise the environmental impact of the future attraction, consider implementing a shuttle bus service from Keel to Keem, with parking facilities in the village. This will reduce issues of congestion on the narrow and picturesque road to the bay, and will minimise the visual impact, while also providing an economic opportunity for local businesses in Keel village. Position Keel as the primary tourist hub of Achill Island servicing activity tourism, particularly watersports via the recently announced development of a shared services facility at Keel beach. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider developing a master plan to ensure a strategic approach to this role. Explore opportunities to encourage / incentivise tourism and enterprise related activity on the site of the old Village Inn pub. Develop the shared services facility on Keel Beach. Provide regular updates to the island residents on the status of the Keem Bay project. <p><i>Implementation of this Enabler will be subject to the preparation of a master plan that ensures the threats to and pressures on the adjacent SACs are fully considered in the context of visitor management.</i></p> <p>Encourage the creation of conditions that will promote investment in developing and/or improving diverse categories of bed stock in the accommodation sector, while also encouraging new levels of innovation in accommodation delivery e.g., glamping, accommodation suitable to view the dark sky, hostel accommodation, and enhancement of quality.</p>				
E.3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist existing businesses with business planning to ensure sustainability and maintain existing bed stock in the Short Term. Assess the existing bed stock and explore options for attracting investment to the island communities for new and bespoke accommodation and the upgrading of existing accommodation. On Achill Island, highlight the need for higher-end accommodation, and work with stakeholders to reduce the cyclical opening and closing of hotel businesses. Consider alternative business models for regenerating empty properties for accommodation use across the region. Explore opportunities to enhance facilities for camping, including serviced camper van sites with electricity points. 				

<p>E.3.3</p> <p>E.3.3 cont.</p>	<p>Work with communities to assess and address infrastructural requirements to facilitate the growth of marine tourism within Clew Bay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working within the context of the National Marine Planning Framework, include a Marine Leisure strategy for the coastline of Mayo in the County Tourism Plan. As part of this process, conduct a comprehensive assessment of the potential to grow marine-based recreation within Clew Bay and adjacent waters. Support Westport Tourism’s submission to the National Planning Framework for the development of a marina near Westport Quay in the lagoon to the south side of Roman Island. This could facilitate direct boat access to Clare Island and Inishturk from Westport Quay and would provide an opportunity for new water-sport operators and boat tours that enable visitors to experience the archipelago of islands in a new and dynamic way. The marina would also significantly improve facilities for sailing. Commence the planning process for the redevelopment of Roonagh Pier to establish it as an all-weather harbour. The pier can experience large Atlantic swells which make it inaccessible to ferries and results in a detour from Clare Ireland or Inishturk to Cloughmore on Achill Island. There is a need for a new pier and a full breakwater for shelter to facilitate dependable year-round travel, visitor safety and the transfer of supplies. This will assist in allowing for tourism growth in the off-peak season. Identify opportunities to leverage the recently completed pontoon and slipway at the Quay in Westport. Assess feasibility of maintenance dredging both in Westport and Newport Harbours to enable further access to the sea. As silt continues to build, the viability of new and existing charter and touring businesses will diminish. Identify the most appropriate locations to install additional visitor mooring buoys as cost effective ways to open up coastal communities such as Clare Island to sailing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct an audit of existing visitor mooring buoys and replace/repair where necessary. Investigate potential improvements required for leisure craft infrastructure at key locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install additional pontoons in Newport and Rosmoney. Establish pontoon infrastructure in Derreens and Dugort on Achill Island and at Lecanvey. Complete the proposed Mulranny pier enhancement works to include the installation of a floating pontoon, an access gangway and surfacing of the car parking area. <p>Facilitate marine based water activities at key locations including the development of shared services facilities at Carrowmore and Keel providing hot showers, changing and toilet facilities, secure storage, induction spaces, equipment washdown and orientation points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of kayak routes between the inner islands through good slip access, online mapping of routes and access points to islands and potential sites for overnight camping. Given the intermittent use of Cloughmore Pier for passengers, and its potential for greater use, implement measures to improve safety for embarkation and disembarkation at this commercial pier. Continue to maintain the Blue Flag status of the beaches. Clew Bay has a number of exceptional beaches and it is important to have an ongoing programme of assessing public realm areas of beaches. Address infrastructural requirements that will improve the appeal and safety of the beach experience during and outside of peak season. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider developing well-designed life-guard huts where appropriate. 				
<p>E.3.4</p>	<p>Work with Mayo County Council to review accessibility and assess inclusion issues to ensure that all visitors have an opportunity to engage fully in experiencing the destination. This has become a recognised priority from a global perspective, a new strategic focus nationally, and needs to be assessed locally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards undertaking a comprehensive assessment of sites, attractions and facilities in relation to the access requirements of older visitors, young families, and visitors with specific access constraints. Address accessibility issues where feasible and ensure that related visitor information is accurate. 				
<p>ENABLER 4: Building Capacity and Collaboration</p>					
<p>E.4.1</p>	<p>Create a business support programme for Clew Bay to include training elements that will facilitate the implementation of this plan. This will include an emphasis on developing new and innovative theme-based visitor experiences in line with this plan and fully adopting the Destination and Experience Development Plan as a basis for commercial development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas of focus in a business support programme are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the stories and themes of the Destination and Experience Development Plan Creating saleable experiences, including the development of experiences that will extend the season Selling online and delivering to the international market Telling ‘your story’ online and offline Contracting at trade fairs Service excellence Local experts programme – see 1.3 regarding the Clew Bay ambassador programme concept Key account management Market diversification 				
<p>E.4.2</p>	<p>Networking – create a networking plan to develop a strong dialogue between tourism businesses. This will be particularly important in promoting the key themes across the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate with businesses and organisations, including local tourism groups on a regular basis regarding opportunities to develop themed initiatives across the region and the overall implementation of this Plan. Keep stakeholders well apprised of successes – what is working and why. Familiarisation visits – organise industry familiarisation trips to build relationship between providers, strengthen awareness of what is on offer, and assist in identifying connections and partnership opportunities between tourism providers. 				
<p>ENABLER 5: Strategic Planning and Sustainability</p>					
<p>E.5.1</p>	<p>Encourage community stakeholders to maintain a strategic planning focus at community level, using the Destination and Experience Development Plan to determine strategic priorities on a regular basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider undertaking further tourism planning discussions on the islands to support the sustainable growth of tourism. The islands have considerable potential, but there remains a relatively high level of fragmentation which is undermining the potential of creating compelling island experiences. 				
<p>E.5.2</p>	<p>Work collaboratively through networking mechanisms to ensure that the tourism industry is strategically involved in playing an active role in the review and planning process for the forthcoming Mayo County Development Plan 2021-2027.</p>				
<p>E.5.3</p>	<p>As noted, sustainability is a core value to the region and needs to be supported and celebrated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that discussions on tourism reflect this value system and identify ways of raising the profile of sustainability within the visitor experience. 				

E.5.4	<p>Promote environmental enhancement. All actions resulting from this plan will aspire to be planned, developed and implemented in an environmentally sustainable manner with environmental protection and promotion being fundamental to the process. This will be realised through the findings and outputs of the environmental assessment process and will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a suite of mitigatory actions to ensure that any negative environmental impacts are reduced or eliminated at Plan implementation stage and where possible positive impacts are integrated and encouraged, and Developing and executing an Environmental Monitoring Programme for the Plan during implementation and operation. <p>Further detail is referenced in Appendix A5.</p>				
E.5.5	<p>Secure UNESCO Biosphere designation for the Clew Bay Area.</p> <p>A Biosphere consists of three interrelated zones that aim to fulfil complementary and mutually reinforcing functions: - 1) one or more legally constituted core areas, devoted to long-term protection; 2) adjacent buffer zones; and 3) an outer transition area where sustainable development is promoted and developed by public authorities, local communities and enterprises. While Biosphere Reserves have international recognition, they are nominated by national governments and remain under their existing jurisdiction. Currently there are 701 sites in 124 countries, including two in Ireland – Dublin Bay Biosphere and Killarney National Park Biosphere Reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a task force to begin considering the advantages and constraints involved in moving forward with this initiative. Assuming an initial level of commitment to the concept, develop a feasibility study. Factors to be considered include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spatial boundaries of Biosphere and the three zones; Implications for tourism and a preliminary assessment of economic benefit that includes an analysis of tourism opportunities; Implications for supporting the natural and cultural integrity of Clew Bay and integration of existing programmes and initiatives, including dark skies; Potential for supporting further scientific and cultural research; Benefits of international collaboration; Management framework; Nature of community engagement. Assuming regional interest, commitment and an indication of feasibility, develop an implementation plan for the nomination process. <p>In considering the benefits of this action, including the potential for creating a framework for destination development, management and marketing of Clew Bay, consider Dublin Bay Biosphere as a working example: https://www.dublinbaybiosphere.ie/. The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere includes dark sky activities: http://www.gsabiosphere.org.uk/explore-the-biosphere/.</p> <p>Note that all the actions in this plan will support and enrich the concept of a UNESCO Biosphere.</p>				
ENABLER 6: Enhancing Visitor Awareness of HERO Experiences in Clew Bay					
E.6.1	<p>Work with Fáilte Ireland to profile key HERO experiences on Discover Ireland platforms and ensure that the positioning of Clew Bay is in line with this plan. Highlight the types of experiences that will differentiate the region and encourage increased visitation and interest.</p>				
E.6.2	<p>Work with marketing partners to ensure that messaging and visual material relating to Clew Bay are aligned with the Wild Atlantic Way and the direction of this plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage consistent messaging to support consumer confidence and public perception as travel restrictions for non-essential travel ease. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with community partners to profile all events, activities, experiences, visitor sites and attractions when the timing is appropriate. If the Biosphere initiative moves forward successfully in the lifetime of this plan, use the Biosphere designation to create a consolidated Clew Bay marketing and digital presence. This will play an important role in reducing the gaps and current fragmentation in the online marketing of the area. 				
E.6.3	<p>SME digital strategies:</p> <p>Covid-19 has accelerated the shift to digital and new consumer behaviours are rapidly emerging. The need to fully embrace digital strategies is now more important than ever.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the distribution of experiences through engaging businesses in adopting online booking systems and online distribution. Promote increased industry participation in social media. 				
ENABLER 7: Animating the Destination					
FESTIVALS & EVENTS					
E.7.1	<p>This Enabler primarily relates to a time when larger public gatherings will once again be permitted. It identifies the need to support existing festivals and to investigate opportunities for new events, particularly where these promote the themes and experiences identified in this plan, and to see these as an opportunity to extend the tourism season and expand visitor and community experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the initial phase of implementation, consideration will need to be given to supporting events that have lost operational funds due to cancellation. When the time is appropriate to host festivals and events, work with marketing groups to ensure that all festivals and events are promoted online on the websites of local tourism groups and the event itself. Work with Mayo County Council and Leave No Trace Ireland to develop a practical handbook of a Leave No Trace event policy. Use this to promote best practices in waste management, the greening of festivals and to encourage capacity building in demonstrating event-friendliness and hosting. In the Short Term, it is assumed that events will need to be kept small. While a number of events may have to be cancelled, it is possible to consider other ways community events could be opened up to visitors. As work proceeds on the various elements of this plan, such as the Biosphere initiative or landscape research, presenting outputs to an audience that includes visitors will raise awareness for Clew Bay. This may require a larger venue to accommodate social distancing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other approaches to hosting events may need to identify practical ways of limiting numbers through 'gated' events where social distancing can be maintained. 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the opportunity to build events returns, host a networking event to explore new ways forward, collaboration, extension of festivals, new ideas particularly for shoulder season and winter months, and the sharing of information on evolving standards for festivals and events. Continue to support the emerging trend toward the development of integrated activities within events, such as combining guided hiking activities with food festivals, and use festivals to showcase other elements of the destination visitor experience to encourage return visitation. Develop community capacity to monitor and report the economic impact of festivals and events. 				

<p>E.7.2</p>	<p>SENSE OF PLACE</p> <p>Encourage all communities to focus on strengthening their ‘sense of place’ and overall welcome. This is well advanced in a number of towns and villages but is an area that requires ongoing commitment. Use the Fáilte Ireland <i>Destination Town</i> toolkit as a guide to developing a sense of place. In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners such as Leave No Trace Ireland to promote litter management policies across the region and within communities. • Work with local government officials to explore opportunities for business incentives that will improve the streetscape, and continually assess how to maintain the upkeep of the urban built environment. In particular focus on public realm and sense of arrival for visitors in Louisburgh, Murrisk, Achill Sound, Keel and Newport (Public realm improvements set to move forward in Newport and Achill). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Progress the improvements in Princess Grace (Kelly) Park in Newport. • Continue to invest in enhancing the public realm experience across Clew Bay’s towns and villages. • Assess the provision of basic visitor infrastructure along the Wild Atlantic Way and facilitate improvements in toilet facilities, litter receptacles, viewpoints, signage and parking in a manner that is sensitive to the environmental context. • Continue to leverage Westport’s status as a designated Heritage Town and the work undertaken as part of the country’s pilot programme initiative, to facilitate aesthetic improvements and heritage restoration, and to promote the telling of Westport’s story as a planned town. • Promote participation in the Tidy Towns Competition in every community and promote Westport’s certification as a Purple Flag town. 				
<p>SEA Commentary:</p> <p><i>The assessment of the Plan’s “Enablers of Success” against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs B1, B2, B3, PHH1, S1, W1, W2, W3, AC1, M1, M2, M3, CH1, CH2 and L1) is consistent with the:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.4; and</i> • <i>Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</i> <p><i>Implementing the DEDP 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 DEDP does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The DEDP is situated alongside a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use development, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management. These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and form the decision-making and consent-granting framework.</i></p> <p><i>These actions will contribute towards positive environmental effects (see Table 8.3) through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sustainable development, environmental protection, environmental management;</i> • <i>Regionality; and</i> • <i>Seasonality.</i> <p><i>The actions will also contribute towards the promotion of new experiences – including those relating to land use activities and developments – and would be likely to contribute towards an increase in the number and dwell time of visitors (and associated potential adverse effects – see Table 8.3) to the Clew Bay area. New built developments and increases in the number and dwell time of visitors would continue to be planned for, mitigated and consented through the existing statutory planning and consent framework. The mitigation of potential adverse effects arising (see Table 8.3) would also be contributed towards by additional DEDP measures, including those relating to infrastructure capacity, visitor management and green infrastructure and ecosystem services. Any amendment to the DEDP or integration of DEDP provisions into other Plans, Programmes etc. would have to be subject to Screening for SEA and AA processes and full assessments as relevant.</i></p> <p><i>The development of new and existing greenways, blueways, trails and walking and cycling routes, including those within the Clew Bay area and linking to other areas has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations. The development of these projects, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas, for example along the coast or estuaries or adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Potential adverse effects would be mitigated both by measures referred to in Section 9 of this report. The development of green infrastructure can achieve synergies with regard to the provision of open space amenities, sustainable mobility, the sustainable management of water, the protection and management of biodiversity, the protection of cultural heritage and the protection of protected landscape sensitivities.</i></p> <p><i>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. These measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this SEA Environmental Report. By integrating all SEA recommendations into the Plan, Fáilte Ireland is helping to ensure that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</i> • <i>The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</i> 					

Section 9 Mitigation Measures

9.1 Introduction

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the Plan. Various environmental sensitivities and issues have been communicated to Fáilte Ireland through the SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes.

By integrating all SEA and AA recommendations into the Plan¹²⁰, Fáilte Ireland is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

Mitigation was achieved through the following:

- Establishing the status of the Plan and its interrelationship with the Statutory Decision-Making and Consent-Granting Framework¹²¹; and
- Integrating Requirements for Environmental Compliance into the Plan¹²².

9.2 Establishing the status of the Plan and its interrelationship with the Statutory Decision-Making and Consent-Granting Framework¹²³

The SEA team worked with the Plan-preparation team at Fáilte Ireland in order to help establish the status of the Plan and its interrelationship with the Statutory Decision-Making and Consent-Granting Framework.

Implementing the DEDP 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 DEDP does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent.**

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

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the 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 RSE for the Northern and Western Region (that includes the area to which the DEDP relates) 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

¹²⁰ All recommendations made by the SEA and AA processes have been integrated into the Plan.

¹²¹ This framework includes various environmental requirements.

¹²² These requirements include those that have arisen through the SEA and/or AA processes.

¹²³ This framework includes various environmental requirements.

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. The RSES provides a framework for 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 are also subject to environmental assessments.

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

Figure 9.1 provides a schematic of the relationship between Destination and Experience Development Plan and the existing Statutory Decision-Making and Consent-Granting Framework. Also indicated is the hierarchy of accompanying environmental assessment in force. Note that the Overall Findings of this SEA are provided under Section 8.2 of this SEA Environmental Report.

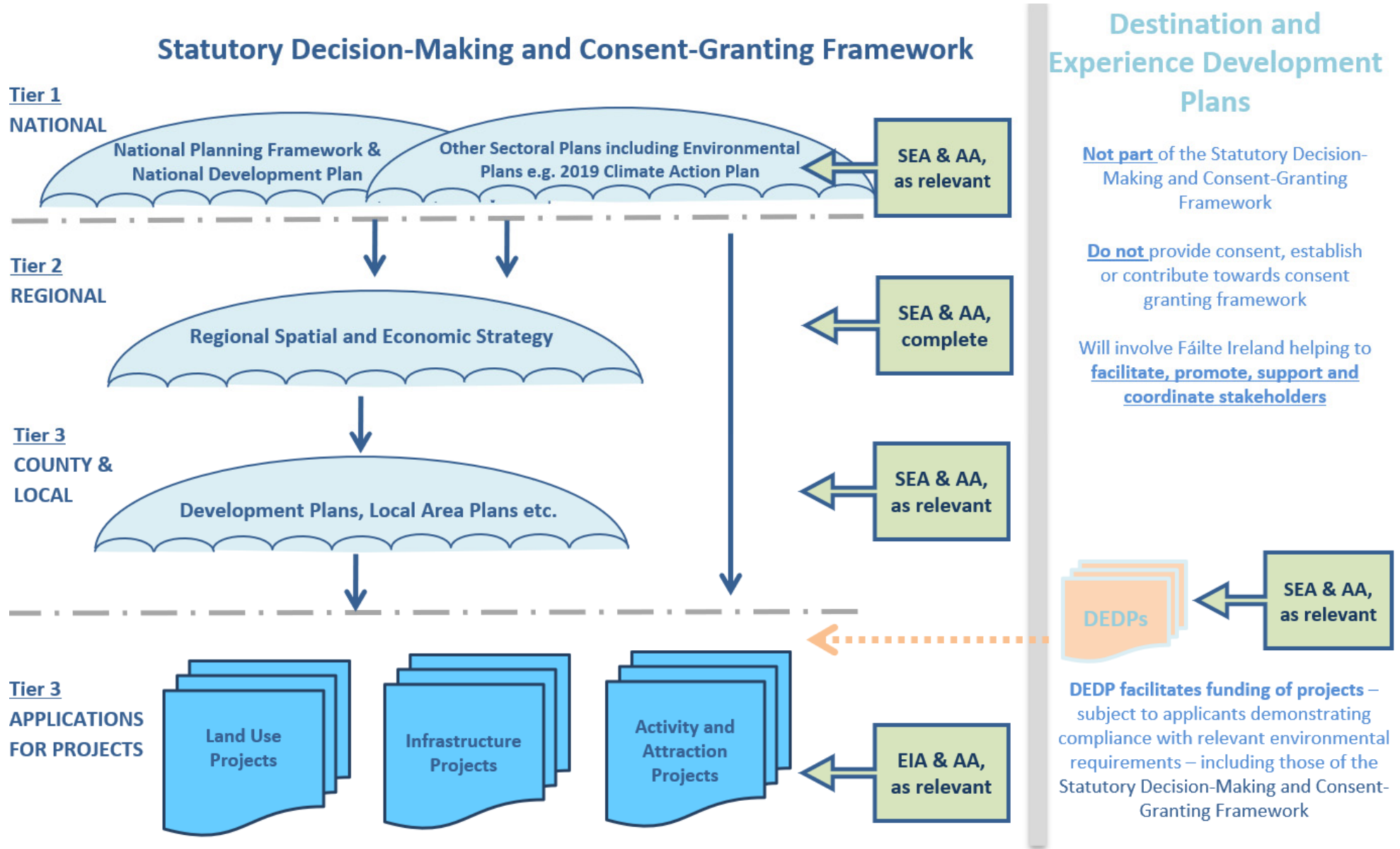


Figure 9.1 Statutory Decision-Making and Consent-Granting Framework, DEDPs and Environmental Assessment Requirements

9.3 Integrating Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management into the Plan¹²⁴

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.

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 compliance¹²⁵ 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 DEDP (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the DEDP 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, such as the Mayo County Development Plan, and Local Area Plans) and that have undergone environmental assessment, as appropriate, including various provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management¹²⁶; and
- The Climate Action Plan and the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions)¹²⁷.

Infrastructure Capacity¹²⁸

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.

Fáilte Ireland will follow National Planning Framework guidelines and liaise with relevant planning authorities to ensure any proposed developments are adequately provided for in terms of critical service infrastructure.

The promotion of developing visitor friendly infrastructure where it is required will also be encouraged.

¹²⁴ These requirements include those that have arisen through the SEA and/or AA processes.

¹²⁵ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

¹²⁶ For more information please refer to Appendix II of this report or the website of the relevant public authority.

¹²⁷ For more information please refer to Section 4.10 and/or Appendix II of this report or the website of the relevant public authority.

¹²⁸ This requirement has arisen through the SEA and/or AA processes.

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

Visitor Management¹²⁹

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 Services¹³⁰

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.

Where possible, extension of existing greenways and future development of new greenways and blueways should complement and integrate rather than replace existing green infrastructure. Stakeholders considering the development of greenways and blueways should have regard to the "Connecting with nature for health and wellbeing" EPA Research Report 2020. The Westport Greenway should be looked towards as an example of how residents can benefit from new infrastructure.

Inland Fisheries Ireland's Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environments (2020) should be consulted by both developers and decision-makers.

¹²⁹ This requirement has arisen through the SEA and/or AA processes.

¹³⁰ This requirement has arisen through the SEA and/or AA processes.

Section 10 Monitoring Measures

10.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. This section details the measures that have been selected in order to monitor the likely significant effects of implementing relevant Fáilte Ireland Plans, Programmes, etc.

The monitoring programme is flexible to take account of specific environmental issues and unforeseen adverse impacts should they arise. It monitors all potential effects, including positive and negative ones (including cumulative effects – refer also to Section 7.3). Monitoring can demonstrate the positive effects facilitated by the Plan and can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

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

10.2 Indicators and Targets

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

Table 10.1 overleaf shows the current indicators and targets that have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing relevant Fáilte Ireland Plans, Programmes, etc. These monitoring measures are updated on an ongoing basis.

Monitoring is an ongoing process and the programme allows for flexibility and further refinement of indicators and targets.

10.3 Sources

Confirmation of compliance with relevant environmental measures (see Section 9) will be a source of information for the Monitoring Programme. This documentation may include monitoring undertaken by beneficiaries to demonstrate compliance with the environmental requirements.

Other existing monitoring sources will be used, including:

- Information gathered through existing Fáilte Ireland environmental monitoring programmes (and any subsequent replacements), including the Monitoring Programme for the Wild Atlantic Way, a sub-programme of which will be extended to/reported on for the Clew Bay DEDP area in order to monitor any effects of visitors (see Section 4.6.3);
- Sources maintained by Mayo County Council (such as those arising from the SEA of land use plans) and the relevant authorities e.g. the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Central Statistics Office; and
- Lower-tier environmental assessment and decision making – including a review of project approvals granted and associated documents – will also be utilised as part of the Monitoring Programme.

10.4 Reporting and Responsibility

Reporting on environmental monitoring will address the indicators set out below. Fáilte Ireland is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action, in combination with the relevant authorities.

Environmental monitoring for the DEDP and other existing/future Fáilte Ireland plans, programmes, etc. may be undertaken and reported on at the same time. The findings of monitoring will be reported on periodically with frequencies to be determined during implementation.

Table 10.1 Selected Indicators, Targets and Monitoring Sources

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Source and (where available) Frequency
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive	B1: Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under National and International legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Plan ¹³¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with “Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management” – see Section 9 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage’s report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years) • Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage’s National Monitoring Report for the Birds Directive under Article 12 (every 3 years) • Consultations with the NPWS • CORINE mapping resurvey (every c. 5 years) • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes
	B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity without remediation resulting from Plan	B2: No significant ecological networks or parts thereof which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation resulting from the Plan	
	B3i: Number of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from the Plan	B3i: Avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from the Plan	
	B3ii: Number of significant impacts on the protection of listed species	B3ii: No significant impacts on the protection of listed species resulting from the Plan	
Population and Human Health	PHH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors resulting from the Plan, as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency	PHH1: No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with “Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management” – see Section 9 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Consultations with the HSE and EPA • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes
Soil	S1: Artificial surfaces land cover extent	S1: Contribute towards the target of the National Planning Framework’s SEA (2018) to “Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4%.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with “Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management” – see Section 9 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • CORINE mapping resurvey (every c. 5 years) • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes

¹³¹ 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 programme to proceed; and (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Source and (where available) Frequency
Water	W1i: Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009)	W1i: No deterioration in the status of any surface water or adverse effect upon the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' as a result of the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with "Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management" – see Section 9 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • Data issued under the Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme for Ireland (multi-annual) • EPA <i>The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland</i> reports • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes
	W1ii: Mandatory and Guide values as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008)	W1ii: No deterioration in the value of bathing waters or adverse effect upon the ability of any bathing water to achieve Mandatory values and, where possible, Guide values as a result of the Plan	
	W2: Interactions with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC resulting from development adhering to the Plan	W2: Not to affect the ability of groundwaters to comply with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC, subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD	
	W3: Compliance of relevant lower tier assessments and decision making with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines	W3: For lower tier assessments and decision making to comply with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines	
Air and Climatic Factors	AC1: Demonstration of compliance with provisions relating to climate adaptation and mitigation have been integrated into the Plan.	C1: To maximise the amount of measures relating to climate adaptation and mitigation being implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with "Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management" – see Section 9 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes
Material Assets	M1: Number of instances whereby additional tourists are directed by beneficiaries of funding towards areas in the Plan area where adequate and appropriate critical infrastructure with sufficient capacity is unavailable	M1: No instances whereby additional tourists are directed by beneficiaries of funding towards areas in the Plan area where adequate and appropriate critical infrastructure with sufficient capacity that does not present a danger to human health are unavailable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with "Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management" – see Section 9 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Consultations with the partners such as the EPA, Irish Water and/or Mayo County Council • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes
	M2: Number of significant adverse effects on the use of or access to public assets and infrastructure	M2: No significant adverse effects on the use of or access to public assets and infrastructure	
	M3: Preparation and implementation of construction and environmental management plans	M3: For construction and environmental management plans to be prepared and implemented for relevant projects	

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Source and (where available) Frequency
Cultural Heritage	CH1: Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places protected from significant adverse effects arising from the Plan	CH1: No unauthorised adverse effects on archaeological heritage resulting from implementation of the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with “Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management” – see Section 9 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes
	CH2: Percentage of entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from the Plan	CH2: No unauthorised adverse effects on architectural heritage resulting from implementation of the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with “Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management” – see Section 9 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes
Landscape	L1: Number of unmitigated conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in Development Plans and other statutory land-use plans	L1: No unmitigated conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in Development Plans and other statutory land-use plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation demonstrating compliance with “Requirements for Environmental Protection and Management” – see Section 9 • Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities • SEA Monitoring Programme reports for the land use plans of relevant local authorities (as required, monitoring reports published on various timescales and frequencies) • Input from any other existing or replacement Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes

Appendix I SEA Determination

SEA Determination

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination

for the:

Draft Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Article 3 para. 2 of the SEA Directive¹, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes, or modifications to these:


- a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive², or
- b) which, in view of the likely effect on sites, have been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive³ i.e. the Directive requires that SEA is undertaken where Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA)⁴ is being undertaken on plans, programmes etc.

This tourism sector Plan does not contribute towards the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive and does not contain provisions or define rules that must be complied with when administrative consent of other projects is being granted.

The Plan does, however, fall under the definition of a "plan" contained within the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (as amended) and therefore must be screened for the need to undertake AA. The Screening for AA has found that the Plan has the potential, if unmitigated, to affect the ecological integrity European Sites and that measures to ensure that potential effects are avoided are required. Taking into account the requirements of the Habitats Directive and recent case law (including, European Court of Justice Judgement C323-17), Stage 2 AA must therefore be carried out for the Plan. As Stage 2 AA is being undertaken on the Plan, SEA must also be undertaken for this Plan - see requirement at b) above.

This determination has been made having regard to the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument Number (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011).

Signatory:



Date: 17.11.20

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

² Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011, on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (codification), as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU

³ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

⁴ AA is provided for by the Habitats Directive and is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a strategic action or project, alone and in combination with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of a European Site in view of its conservation objectives.

Appendix II Relationship with Legislation and Other Plans and Programmes

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. 	combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution. 	Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions. 	The IPPC Directive is based on several principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an integrated approach best available techniques, flexibility; and public participation 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment. 	<p>achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288(COD))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption. The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor. Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive; Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014; Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels; 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels. 	environmental protection and management.
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner. 	<p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy. • Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services. • The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity ○ Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure ○ Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry ○ Sustainable management of fish stocks ○ Reducing invasive alien species ○ Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss 	<p>bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy	<p>Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. • Supporting EU-level GI projects. • Improving access to finance for GI projects. • Improving information and promoting innovation. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). • EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. • Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. • Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. • Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. • Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. 	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. • Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. • Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. • Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage. 	<p>regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. • Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario. 	<p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). • New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. • First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive)</p> <p>Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). • Sets new air quality objectives for PM_{2.5} (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. • Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. • Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM₁₀) or up to five years (NO₂, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. • Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. • Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. • Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. • Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. • Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. 		environmental protection and management.
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain “good status” of water bodies. Promote sustainable water usage. The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive Sampling Drinking Water Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. Achieve “good status” for all waters. Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. Involve the public and streamline legislation. Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. Recover costs for water services. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive o Shellfish Directive o Freshwater Fish Directive o Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive o Dangerous Substances Directive 		regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, control and conserve groundwater. • Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. • Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. • Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption. • Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I. • Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a). • Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5. • Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause. • Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action. • Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health. • Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban wastewater and the treatment and discharge of wastewater from certain industrial sectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban wastewater entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. • Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of wastewater discharges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes minimum requirements for urban wastewater collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors. 	<p>others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the Guidelines. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study. 	<p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Landscape Convention 2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<p>practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. 	<p>legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</p>	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing 	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better implementation of legislation. Better information by improving the knowledge base. More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make the Union's cities more sustainable. To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</p>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats to promote cooperation between states to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species 	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Bali Road Map (2007)</p>	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and 	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mitigation 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc.,</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<p>negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adaptation technology financing 	<p>individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Cancun Agreements (2010)	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation Transparency of actions Technology Finance Adaptation Forests Capacity building 	<p>Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.</p>	<p>The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Common Agricultural Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. 	<p>effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances. 	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation; and Restriction of chemicals. <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Stockholm Convention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner To target additional POPs Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Ramsar Convention</p>	<p>The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".</p>	<p>Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. 	<p>effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
OSPAR Convention	<p>The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.</p>	<p>OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy Eutrophication Strategy Hazardous Substances Strategy Offshore Industry Strategy Radioactive Substances Strategy Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme <p>These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European 2020 Strategy for Growth	<p>Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. 	<p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Level			
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, (replacing the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020) and the National Development Plan (2021-2030)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to 	<p>The National Planning Framework published alongside the National Development Plan yields ten National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Compact Growth Enhanced Regional Accessibility Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise.</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<p>protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Mobility A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills High-Quality International Connectivity Enhanced Amenity and Heritage Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services 	<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.</p>
<p>Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation]</p>	<p>The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. 	<p>In preparation</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects. Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). 	<p>legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Waste Management Act 1996, as amended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels 	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure 	combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration. 	The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources 	The Regulations include measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited Limits on the land application of fertilisers Storage requirements for livestock manure; and Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy. 	When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<p>entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy of the Government on climate change, • Climate justice, • Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and • The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency. 	<p>bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). • The Plan provides a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets. 	<p>The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs; • Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals; • Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and • Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</p>	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all. • It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 : (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997) 	<p>The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.</p>	<p>The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture & Foreshore Management Division are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 • Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001) • Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 101 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; • to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications. 	<p>legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011</p>	<p>The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences and • Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal. • In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)</p>	<p>These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in Natura 2000 sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries; • Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required; • Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation; • Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan; • Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan; • Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment; • Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities; • Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and • Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>National Seafood Operational Programme (20104-2020)</p>	<p>The Operational Programme (OP) supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in Ireland aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the EU's "Europe 2020" objectives. The OP supports the general reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the development of its Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) in Ireland.</p> <p>The OP strategy is designed around the Irish national priorities in the agri-food sector: 'Act Smart' by encouraging knowledge and innovation, 'Think Green' through a responsible and sustainable use of resources, 'Achieve Growth' in order to maintain and create jobs.</p>	<p>The Irish OP is organised around the following priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Priority 1 (UP1): €67 million (28% of the total allocation) aim at assuring the sustainable development of fishing activities, while protecting the marine environment • Union Priority 2 (UP2): €30 million (12% of the total allocation) will support the Irish National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture that aims at boosting the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector. • Union Priority 3 (UP3): €84.8 million (35.4% of the total allocation) will go towards compliance with CFP rules regarding control and data collection. • Union Priority 4 (UP4): €12 million (5% of the total allocation) will support local development initiatives — a substantial, eleven-fold increase compared to the 2007-2013 funding period. • Union Priority 5 (UP5): €33 million (13.8% of the total allocation) will go towards creating scale in the Irish marketing and processing sectors, starting from the base of very small-scale businesses. • Union Priority 6 (UP6): €10.6 million (4% of the total allocation) will be used on measures to improve the knowledge on the state of the marine environment and the level of protection of marine areas 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012</p>	<p>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors; • Increase the contribution to the national GDP; • Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework; • Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems; • Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem; • Implement and comply with environmental legislation; • Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity; • Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and • Engagement and participation by all. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost efficient manner for consumers. Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs. 	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing on and offshore wind, Building a sustainable bioenergy sector, Fostering R&D in renewables such as wave & tidal, Growing sustainable transport; and Building out robust and efficient networks. 	<p>bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. 	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity; Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future; Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Eirgrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2011 -2016	<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> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020. 	<p>regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Water Resources Plan [in preparation]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment. 	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater <p>General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products 	<p>environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
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. 	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>“Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning.”</i> 	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible. 	<p>environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published. Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management. 	<p>The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention Collection Self-sufficiency Regulation Legacy issues North-south cooperation Guidance and awareness Implementation 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
			comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision is: <i>“A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.”</i> 	<p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce overall travel demand. To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. To reduce transport emissions. To improve accessibility to transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<p>improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies ○ strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets 	<p>cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism And Sport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades. 	<p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); • Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and • Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; • Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and • To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. • Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Security of Supply ○ Sustainability of Energy ○ Competitiveness of Energy Supply 	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand • Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland • Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation • Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks • Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production • Being prepared for energy supply disruptions 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and forthcoming regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans (including marine)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. • Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance based actions. • Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance 	<p>bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)</p>	<p>The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.</p>	<p>2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. 	<p>Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems Give statutory protection to NHAs Enhances wildlife species and their habitats Includes more species for protection 	<p>regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors. To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Broadband Plan (2012)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland. 	<p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband. Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process. Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications. Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels. Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off. Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains. Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth. Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders. Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management. <p>The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.</p>	<p>environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)</p> <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</p> <p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. Outlines surface water quality standards. Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality. Sets groundwater quality standards. Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division. 	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecute for water pollution offences. Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. 	<p>environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Water Services Act 2007</p> <p>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</p> <p>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the water services infrastructure. Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply. Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland. 	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced. Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems. Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</p>	<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. 	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Customer Expectations. Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. Provide Effective Management of Wastewater. Protect and Enhance the Environment. Support Social and Economic Growth. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in the Future. 	<p>comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Food Harvest 2020</p>	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan</p>	<p>Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment</p>	<p>not applicable</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)</p> <p>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)</p> <p>Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. • GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. • Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. • Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. • Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. • Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage. 	<p>cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Rural Development Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas 	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; • Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and • Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020. 	<p>Measures include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afforestation and Creation of Woodland • NeighbourWood Scheme • Forest Roads • Reconstitution Scheme • Woodland Improvement Scheme • Native Woodland Conservation Scheme • Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions • Producer Groups • Innovative Forest Technology 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Genetic Reproductive Material Forest Management Plans 	bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
River Basin Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. Involve the public through consultations. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	<p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs. <p>To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive. 	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner. 	<p>Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	<p>Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.</p>	<p>Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030	<p>This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.</p>	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFV forecasts Electricity targets Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets Hydrogen targets Biofuels targets LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
			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.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. • 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. • 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. • The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high end value added product development. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020 • Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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. 	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce overall travel demand • Maximise the efficiency of the transport network • Reduce reliance on fossil fuels • Reduce transport emissions • Improve accessibility to transport <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
			bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Context • Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination • Enhancing the Visitor Experience • Research in the Irish Tourism Sector • Supporting Local Communities in Tourism • Wider Government Policy • International Context • Co-ordination Structures 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; • 250,000 people employed in tourism; and • 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional/ County/Local Level			
Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies, replacing Regional Planning Guidelines	Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) provide long-term strategic planning frameworks and will be replaced by Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs). The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RPGs gave regional effect to the National Spatial Strategy. • RSEs give regional effect to the National Planning Framework. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024	The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus; • Light Rail; • Heavy Rai; • Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment; • Integrated Service Plan; and • Integration and Accessibility. 	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site • To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. • These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Protection Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP)	<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” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. 	<p>environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Development Plans, including the Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020</p> <p>Local Area Plans, including the Westport Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2005-2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline 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. Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. Protect and enhances amenities and environment. Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. Aim to promote sustainable development. Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Green Infrastructure Plans/Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes the maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure in an area. Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats. 	not applicable	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Mayo County Council Biodiversity Plan 2010-2015	The County Mayo Biodiversity Action Plan aims to raise awareness of and promote the conservation of the natural heritage and biodiversity of the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a framework for the conservation of biodiversity at a local level. • Helps ensure that national & international targets for biodiversity conservation can be achieved, while at same time addressing local priorities. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021	The plan gives effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy	Shifts the focus of waste away from disposal and towards a circular economy, should also be taken account of where relevant.	<p>Overarching objectives include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift the focus away from waste disposal and treatment to ensure that materials and products remain in productive use for longer thereby preventing waste and supporting reuse through a policy framework that discourages the wasting of resources and rewards circularity; • Make producers who manufacture and sell disposable goods for profit environmentally accountable for the products they place on the market; • Ensure that measures support sustainable economic models (for example by supporting the use of recycled over virgin materials); harness the reach and influence of all sectors including the voluntary sector, R&D, producers / manufacturers, regulatory bodies, civic society; and • Support clear and robust institutional arrangements for the waste sector, including through a strengthened role for Local Authorities (LAs). 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Mayo County Council Draft Noise Action Plan 2018-2023</p>	<p>The Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.</p>	<p>The purpose of this Action Plan is to endeavour to manage the existing noise environment and protect the future noise environment within the action planning area. Management of the existing noise environment may be achieved by prioritising areas for which further assessment and possible noise mitigation may be required. Protection of the future noise environment may be achieved by acoustical planning, which further incorporates noise into the planning process via measures such as land-use planning, development planning, sound insulation measures, traffic planning and control of environmental noise sources.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Fáilte Ireland plans, strategies etc. relating to the Wild Atlantic Way or other brands or initiatives, including the Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme 2015-2019</p>	<p>Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.</p> <p>The vision for the Wild Atlantic Way brand is: To create a world class, sustainable and un-missable experience brand that engages and energises the visitor so that they become powerful advocates and leaves them wanting to return for more.</p>	<p>Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence.</p> <p>The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Any other plans and projects, or associated proposals, such as those relating to: Croagh Patrick trails; Wild Nephin Ballycroy National Park and trail network; and Great Western Greenway including extensions to Louisburgh and Keel</p>	<p>Various other plans and projects which are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment</p>	<p>Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 7.3) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Appendix III Designated Sites

European Sites			
SACs			
Site Code	Site Name	Site Code	Site Name
000278	Inishbofin And Inishshark SAC	000542	Slieve Fyagh Bog SAC
000297	Lough Corrib SAC	001228	Aughrusbeg Machair and Lake SAC
000330	Tully Mountain SAC	001309	Omey Island Machair SAC
000466	Bellacorick Iron Flush SAC	001311	Rusheenduff Lough SAC
000470	Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC	001482	Clew Bay Complex SAC
000471	Brackloon Woods SAC	001497	Doogort Machair/Lough Doo SAC
000476	Carrowmore Lake Complex SAC	001513	Keel Machair/Menaun Cliffs SAC
000484	Cross Lough (Killadoon) SAC	001529	Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough SAC
000485	Corraun Plateau SAC	001774	Lough Carra/Mask Complex SAC
000495	Duvillaun Islands SAC	001922	Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC
000500	Glenamoy Bog Complex SAC	001932	Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC
000507	Inishkea Islands SAC	001955	Croaghaun/Slievemore SAC
000522	Lough Gall Bog SAC	002005	Bellacragher Saltmarsh SAC
000527	Moore Hall (Lough Carra) SAC	002008	Maumturk Mountains SAC
000532	Oldhead Wood SAC	002031	The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC
000534	Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC	002034	Connemara Bog Complex SAC
002179	Towerhill House SAC	002118	Barnahallia Lough SAC
002243	Clare Island Cliffs SAC	002130	Tully Lough SAC
002268	Achill Head SAC	002144	Newport River SAC
002298	River Moy SAC	002177	Lough Dahybaun SAC
002998	West Connacht Coast SAC		
SPAs			
Site Code	Site Name	Site Code	Site Name
004004	Inishkea Islands SPA	004144	High Island, Inishshark and Davillaun SPA
004037	Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven SPA	004177	Bills Rocks SPA
004042	Lough Corrib SPA	004212	Cross Lough (Killadoon) SPA
004051	Lough Carra SPA	004221	Illaunnaon SPA
004052	Carrowmore Lake SPA	004227	Mullet Peninsula SPA
004062	Lough Mask SPA	004228	Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA
004098	Owenduff/Nephin Complex SPA	004231	Inishbofin, Omey Island and Turbot Island SPA
004111	Duvillaun Islands SPA	004235	Doogort Machair SPA
004136	Clare Island SPA		
Other Connected Sites			
SACs		SPAs	
Site Code	Site Name	Site Code	Site Name
268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	4031	Inner Galway Bay SPA
458	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC	4036	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA
Natural Heritage Areas			
Site Code	Site Name	Site Code	Site Name
000548	Tawnymackan Bog NHA	001473	Bangor Erris Bog NHA
001566	Tristia Bog NHA	001567	Tullaghan Bay And Bog NHA
001570	Ummerantarry Bog NHA	002374	Cloon And Laghtanabba Bog NHA
002381	Doogort East Bog NHA	002383	Croaghmoyle Mountain NHA
002403	Sraheens Bog NHA	002419	Glenturk More Bog NHA
002420	Cunnagher More Bog NHA	002432	Forrew Bog NHA
002436	Tooreen Bog NHA	002446	Ederglen Bog NHA
002455	Lough Greney Bog NHA		
Proposed Natural Heritage Areas			
Site Code	Site Name	Site Code	Site Name
000278	Inishbofin And Inishshark	000297	Lough Corrib
000330	Tully Mountain	000459	Altaconey Bog
000466	Bellacorick Iron Flush	000469	Bills Rocks
000470	Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex	000471	Brackloon Woods
000476	Carrowmore Lake Complex	000477	Clare Island
000481	Coolbarreen Lough	000483	Croagh Patrick
000484	Cross Lough (Killadoon)	000485	Corraun Plateau
000495	Duvillaun Islands	000500	Glenamoy Bog Complex
000507	Inishkea Islands	000509	Inishturk
000519	Lough Conn And Lough Cullin	000522	Lough Gall Bog

SEA Environmental Report for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

000527	Moore Hall (Lough Carra)	000532	Oldhead Wood
000534	Owenduff/Nephin Complex	000542	Slieve Fyagh Bog
000735	Maumtrasna Mountain Complex	001228	Aughrusbeg Machair And Lake
001233	Ballynakill Bay and Lamb's Island	001253	Dernasliggaun Wood
001309	Omey Island Machair	001311	Rusheenduff Lough
001470	Ardogommon Wood	001482	Clew Bay Complex
001483	Cloghmoyle Dunes	001486	Cloonboorhy Lough
001488	Corraun Point Machair/Dooreel Creek	001491	Dambaduff Lough
001497	Doogort Machair/Lough Doo	001499	Drumleen Lough
001504	Frehill Island	001511	Inishdegil Islands
001513	Keel Machair/Menaun Cliffs	001518	Kinlooye Lough
001520	Knappagh Woods	001528	Lough Beg, Carrowmore
001529	Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough	001774	Lough Carra/Mask Complex
001917	Crump Island Complex	001922	Bellacorick Bog Complex
001932	Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex	001955	Croaghau/Slievemore
001967	Inishgalloon	001968	Mweelaun Island
001969	Caher Island	001970	Ballybeg Island
001971	Inishdalla	001972	Friar Island
002005	Bellacragher Saltmarsh	002008	Maumturk Mountains
002031	The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex	002034	Connemara Bog Complex
002062	Old Domestic Building, Heath Island, Tully Lough	002080	Letterfrack Hostel

Appendix IV Fáilte Ireland published documents referenced in the DEDP/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.

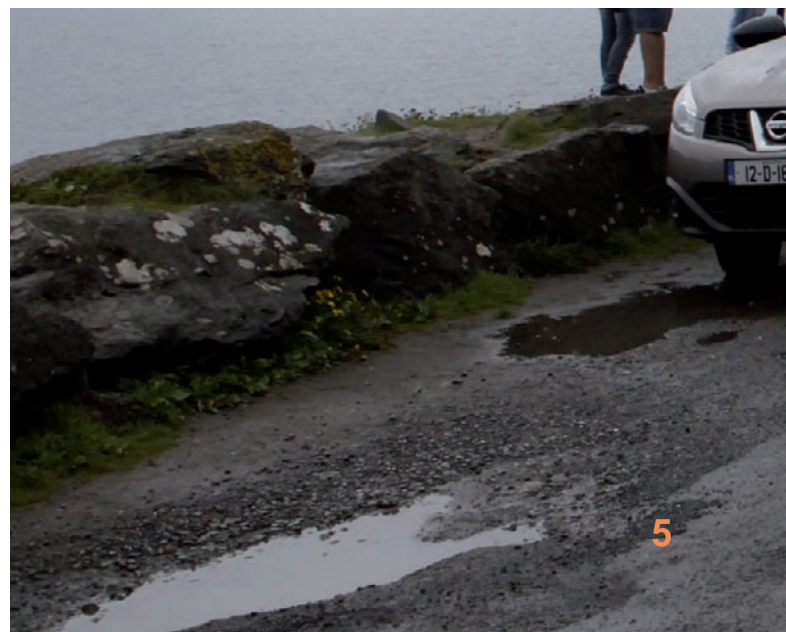
Surface materials will typically include tar and chip or compacted stone for rural sites, whereas village and harbour sites might include bitumen macadam, tar and chip, and possibly concrete.

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.

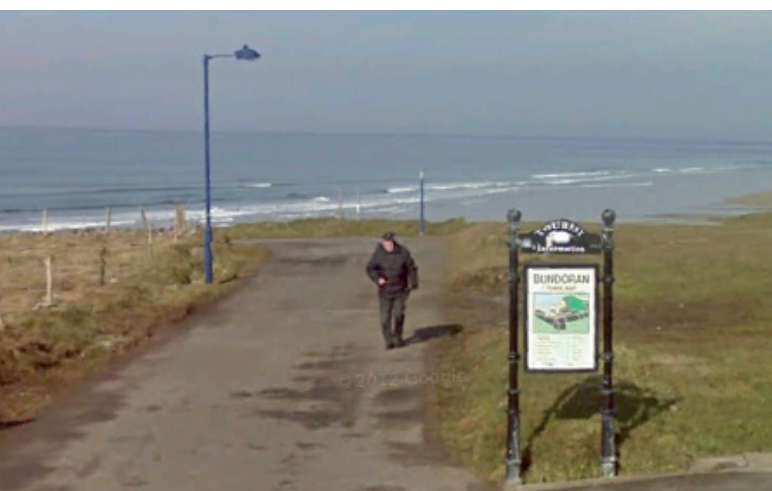
In many instances, typical actions required that may include:

- 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.

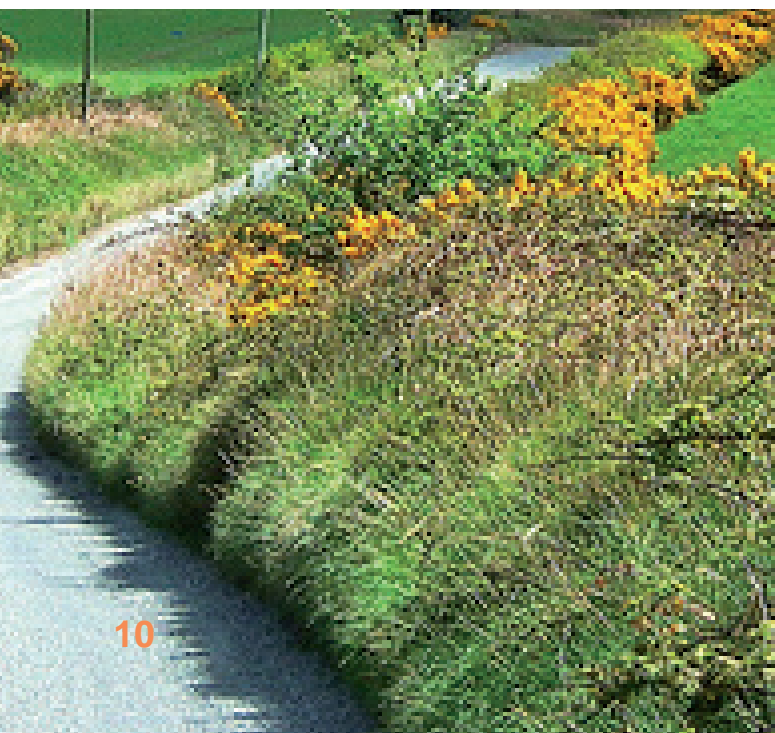
Recycling:

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> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Proposed low earth bunds shall be placed within the existing parking or built surface areas.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">All material used, including rock, soil, seed and sods shall be sustainably sourced and appropriate to the setting</p>
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

SLÍ FHIÁIN AN ATLANTAIGH

Appendix 6

'Environmental Management for Local Authorities and Others'

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

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

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

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

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

If proposals are screened out then planning exemptions are not lost. If a Stage 2 AA is required then planning exemptions are lost and planning permission must be 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	<p>Construction Waste Local authorities and others shall demonstrate that all waste arising during construction phase will be managed and disposed of in a way that ensures the provisions of the Waste Management Acts and regulations and Regional Waste Management Plans. Construction Waste Management Plans will be implemented by local authorities and others to minimise waste and ensure correct handling and disposal of construction waste streams in accordance with the Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects, Department of the Environment, July 2006.</p>
	<p>Waste Creation Local authorities and others shall support the minimisation of waste creation and promote a practice of reduce, reuse and recycle where possible.</p>
	<p>Waste Disposal Local authorities and others shall safeguard the environment by seeking to ensure that residual waste is disposed of appropriately.</p>
	<p>Irish Water Local authorities and others shall co-operate with and support, as relevant and appropriate, Irish Water in its new role as the lead authority for water services.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>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).</p>
	<p>Protection of Archaeological Sites Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of archaeological sites and monuments and their settings, archaeological objects and underwater archaeological sites that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments. Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places.</p>
	<p>Consultation Local authorities and others shall consult with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites.</p>
	<p>Underwater Archaeological Sites Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine, intertidal and sub-tidal locations.</p>
	<p>Architectural Heritage Local authorities and others shall help to ensure the appropriate protection of architectural heritage by complying, as appropriate, with the legislative provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to architectural heritage and the policy guidance contained in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011 (and any updated/superseding document).</p>
Landscape	<p>Landscape Designations Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of county and local level landscape designations from incompatible developments. Proposals for development that have the potential to significantly adversely impact upon these designations shall be accompanied by an assessment of the potential landscape character and visual impacts of the proposed development - demonstrating that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation. Such assessments should be prepared having regard to the relevant aspects of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2013 Landscape Institute).</p>
	<p>Coastal Areas and Seascapes Local authorities and others shall protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.</p>