

# NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT

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IN SUPPORT OF THE  
**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

FOR

## **THE THREE PENINSULAS WEST CORK AND KERRY VISITOR EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**for:**

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# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

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

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

## 1.2 Legislative Context

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

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

## 1.3 Approach

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

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

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

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

### **Stage One: Screening**

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

### **Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment**

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

**Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**

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

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

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

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

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor<sup>1</sup> model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

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

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

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

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

## Section 2 Description of the Plan

The **focus** of the Three Peninsulas<sup>2</sup> Visitor Experience Development Plan (VEDP) is focus is on strengthening the value of tourism to the local economy. The area's **Destination Promise** is:

*"A haven of absolute beauty and rest that draws you in from the moment you arrive - where you can discover kinship, sense empowerment, and absorb creative energy."*

The Plan's **Vision** is as follows:

*Extend the season, increase overnight visitation and visitor spend, and attract visitors to engage with the true essence and story of the peninsulas and islands of the Three Peninsulas of West Cork and Kerry without compromising the environment or culture of the region.*

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

- Position the peninsulas as a 'must do' destination and motivate visitors to stay overnight and spend more;
- Extend the length of the season;
- 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;
- Align to the Wild Atlantic Way brand and target markets;
- Support community values and aspirations, and strengthen community appreciation of local culture and intangible heritage;
- Support sense of place enhancement;
- 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; and
- Protect the natural heritage and special environmental character of the Region.

To help achieve the Plan's Vision and Objectives, **Catalyst Projects** have been identified, along with a range of **Supporting Actions** and **Enablers of Success**.

The thirteen **Catalyst Projects** identified by the VEDP as follows:

1. Develop the concept of a Twilight Series of weekend evening food and cultural events within the region
2. Establish a year round venue for the West Cork Music Festival
3. Develop the proposed Bonane Heritage & Interpretation Centre
4. Restore the Boathouse on Inlacullin / Garinish Island
5. Work towards including the Mizen Head Signal Station in the Great Lighthouses of Ireland tourism initiative.
6. Complete the restoration of Lonehart Battery on Bere Island
7. Progress the Schull Harbour development
8. Develop and improve moorings at Castletownbere for leisure vessels
9. Implement the Beara Breifne Masterplan and develop connectivity between the between the Beara Way, Sheep's Head Way and the Kerry Way
10. Support the development of O'Daly Bardic School project
11. Work toward opening the disused copper mine at Allihies for pre booked guided tours
12. Develop the two car aerial tramway system to Dursey Island, the visitor centre and related visitor facilities
13. Improve the tourism offering of Bantry through its 'Destination Town' designation

Note: for the above when proposals are progressed to feasibility stage consultation with relevant interested parties will take place.

All of the Experiences identified by the Plan are aligned to two Themes:

1. **Cultural Fusion** (with Hero Themes of Flavours of Fusion, Artistic Encounters and Celestial Sanctuary); and
2. **Vibrant Resilience** (with Hero Themes of Harmonious Confrontation, Kith Kin and Clan and Marginal Livelihoods).

The VEDP identifies a serious of actions for **Enablers of Success** relating to:

1. Governance
2. Destination Development
3. Improving Access to and within the Region
4. Strengthening Supporting Infrastructure

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<sup>2</sup> The Three Peninsulas comprise Mizen Head, Sheep's Head, Beara Peninsula and associated islands.

5. Building Capacity and Awareness
6. Enhancing Visitor Awareness of Hero Experiences in the Three Peninsulas
7. Animating the Destination
8. Environmental Enhancement

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.

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 compliance<sup>3</sup> with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

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

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the next 22 years. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSE for the Southern Region (that includes the area to which the Plan 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 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 is informing the review of existing, assessed lower-tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans, which already include various provisions relating to land use, tourism and infrastructure. Such reviews will also be subject to environmental assessments.

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

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<sup>3</sup> Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

## Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

### 3.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

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

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

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

### 3.2 Identification of Relevant European sites

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

Details of European sites that occur within 15 km of the VEDP is listed in Table 3.1. European Sites and EPA Rivers and Catchments are also mapped at Figure 3.1. Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) has been considered by both the AA screening assessment (provided under this section) and Stage 2 AA (provided under Section 4). Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following NPWS/ Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht documents:

- (2015) Conservation Objectives: Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC 000090. Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives: Caha Mountains SAC 000093. Version 1.
- (2011) Conservation Objectives: Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC 000101. Version 1.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Sheep’s Head SAC 000102. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives: Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC 000109. Version 1.
- (2014) Conservation Objectives: Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC 001040. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Cleanderry Wood SAC 001043. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC 001342. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Mucksna Wood SAC 001371. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2017) Conservation Objectives: Glanmore Bog SAC 001879. Version 1.
- (2017) Conservation Objectives: Maulagowna Bog SAC 001881. Version 1.
- (2013) Conservation Objectives: Kenmare River SAC 002158. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Farranamanagh Lough SAC 002189. Version 1.
- (2017) Conservation Objectives: Dunbeacon Shingle SAC 002280. Version 1.

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

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

- (2017) Conservation Objectives: Reen Point Shingle SAC 002281. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Beara Peninsula SPA 004155. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA 004156. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood SAC 000353. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for The Bull and The Cow Rocks SPA 004066. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC 002173. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives: Drongawn Lough SAC 002187. Version 1.
- (2017) Conservation Objectives: Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC 001873. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Kilgarvan Ice House SAC 000364. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood SAC 002098. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Glanlough Woods SAC 002315. Version 1.
- (2017) Conservation Objectives: Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC 000365. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Iveragh Peninsula SPA [004154]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Killarney National Park SPA [004038]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (201x) Conservation Objectives: Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs SAC 000097. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Eirk Bog SPA [004108]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Deenish Island and Scariff Island SPA 004175. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2014) Conservation Objectives: Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC 000335. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation Objectives: Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC 002041. Version 1.

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



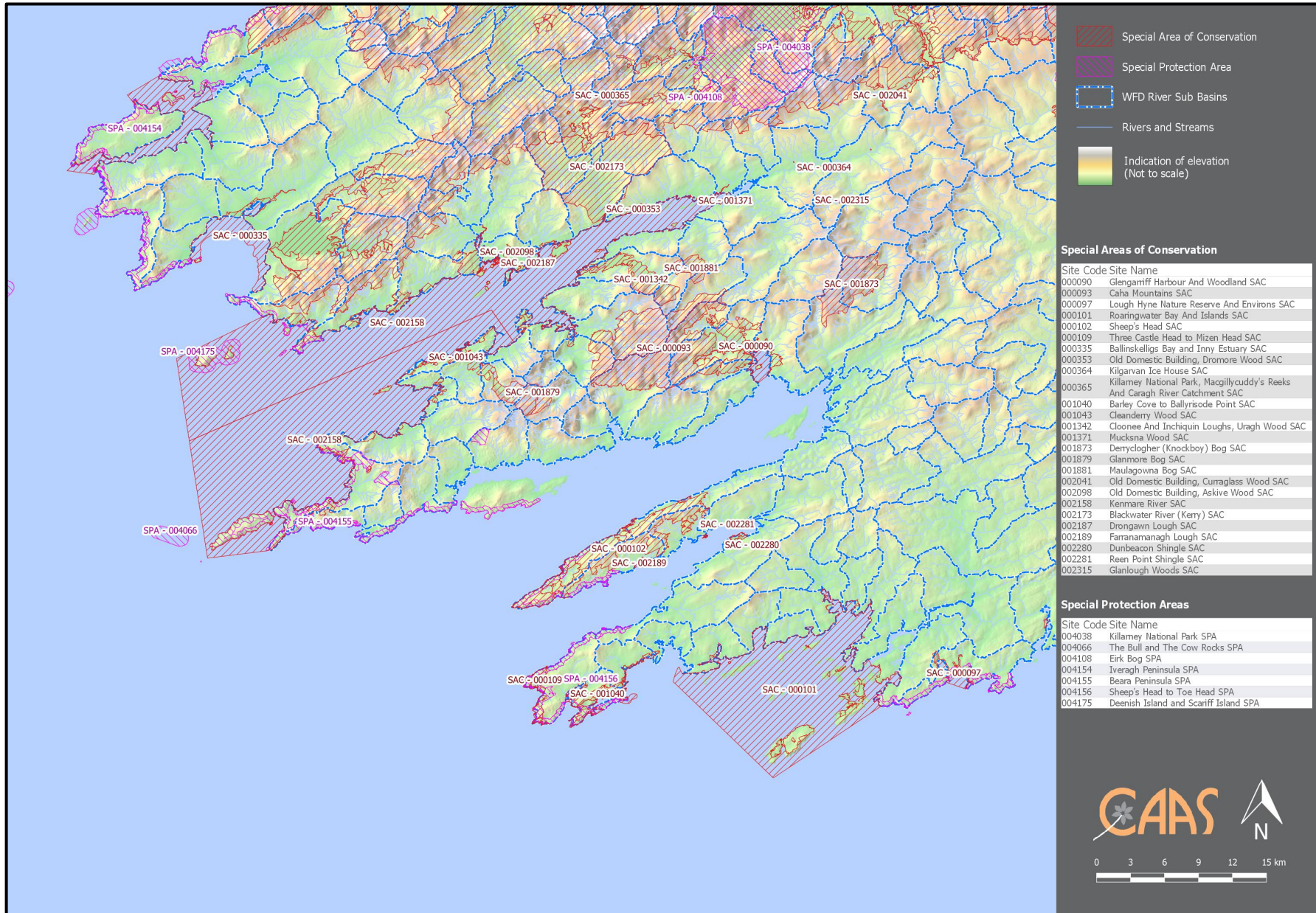


Figure 3.1 European sites within 15km of the VEDP boundary<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded July 2019)  
CAAS for Fáilte Ireland

### 3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

#### 3.3.1 Is the VEDP Necessary to the Management of European Sites?

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

#### 3.3.2 Elements of the VEDP with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

The focus of the VEDP is to motivate international tourists to visit and stay in the local communities across the Three Peninsulas and to increase the economic dividend generated by international visitors to the area, while extending the season. Its overarching objective is to support the ongoing tourism development of the Three Peninsulas, evolving from visitor attraction to a year-round tourism destination. In order to be realised, projects included in the VEDP will have to comply, as relevant, with the various provisions of legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier AA) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the VEDP is not part and does not contribute towards.

The VEDP's Vision is to "*Extend the season, increase overnight visitation and visitor spend, and attract visitors to engage with the true essence and story of the peninsulas and islands of the Three Peninsulas without compromising the environment or culture 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 the peninsulas as a 'must do' destination and motivate visitors to stay overnight and spend more;
- Extend the length of the season;
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- Support community values and aspirations, and strengthen community appreciation of local culture and intangible heritage;
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The Plan identifies a series of actions for Enablers of Success relating to:

1. Governance
2. Destination Development
3. Improving Access to and within the Region
4. Strengthening Supporting Infrastructure
5. Building Capacity and Awareness
6. Enhancing Visitor Awareness of Hero Experiences in the Three Peninsulas
7. Animating the Destination
8. Environmental Enhancement

Plan experiences and products, increased visitor numbers, an increased dwell time and a broader seasonal spread each have the potential to encourage visitors to unmanaged or mismanaged European Sites that may be vulnerable to increased recreational activity and amenity use has the potential to encourage visitors to these sites and introduce effects. The nature and scale of these effects vary depending on the nature of the tourist enterprise and the location of their operation.

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

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

### **3.3.3 Characterising Visitor Interactions at Tourist Destinations**

Fáilte Ireland regularly engages with environmental research that is used to make informed management decisions and produce robust guidelines to facilitate the protection of the environment. From its inception in 2014, the Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) Operational Programme Monitoring Programme (undertaken to date by CAAS on behalf of Fáilte Ireland guided by relevant stakeholders) has been conducting research into the impacts of tourism on the receiving environment. To date the surveys have covered 43 sites and monitored the activities and effects of over 20,000 visitors to WAW discovery points.

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

This research characterises visitor movements at each site while examining the ecological features and sensitives present. A detailed assessment of the site facilities and management actions on site is also undertaken. From this data, impacts to ecological receptors 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 which steers the research and develops the program as the data is collected. This working group comprises of members from the EPA, NPWS, the Environmental Pillar and a representative from each of the County Councils along the WAW.

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

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

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

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

### **3.3.4 Screening of Sites**

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

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

**Table 3.1 Screening of European sites within 15km of the VEDP boundary**

Site Code	European site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000090	Glengarriff Harbour And Woodland SAC	Within	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024] Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, interactions with marine trophic structures and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.	Yes	Yes
000093	Caha Mountains SAC	Within	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024] Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.	Yes	Yes
000101	Roaringwater Bay And Islands SAC	Within	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, interactions with marine trophic structures and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.	Yes	Yes



Site Code	European site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000102	Sheep's Head SAC	Within	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise.</li> </ul> In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.	Yes	Yes
000109	Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC	Within	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.	Yes	Yes
001040	Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC	Within	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] European dry heaths [4030] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife</li> </ul> In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.	Yes	Yes
001043	Cleanderry Wood SAC	Within	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> </ul>	Yes	Yes

Site Code	European site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise.</li> </ul>		
001342	Cloonee And Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC	Within	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024] <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421] <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, interactions with marine trophic structures and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p>	Yes	Yes
001371	Mucksna Wood SAC	Within	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p>	Yes	Yes
001879	Glanmore Bog SAC	Within	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>10. Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>11. Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>12. Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>13. Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>14. Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>15. Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ol> <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p>	Yes	Yes
001881	Maulagowna Bog SAC	Within	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> </ul>	Yes	Yes

Site Code	European site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p>		
002158	Kenmare River SAC	Within	<p>Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]  Reefs [1170]  Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]  Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]  Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]  Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]  Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]  Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]  European dry heaths [4030]  <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]  Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]  Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]  <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]  <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]  <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]  <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]</p>	<p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, interactions with marine trophic structures and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p>	Yes	Yes
002189	Farranamanagh Lough SAC	Within	<p>Coastal lagoons [1150]  Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</p>	<p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p>	Yes	Yes
002280	Dunbeacon Shingle SAC	Within	<p>Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</p>	<p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, removal or material, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul>	Yes	Yes



Site Code	European site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.		
002281	Reen Point Shingle SAC	Within	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	<p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, removal or material, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p>	Yes	Yes
004155	Beara Peninsula SPA	0	Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009] Chough ( <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> ) [A346]	<p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p>	Yes	Yes
004156	Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA	0	Peregrine ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103] Chough ( <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> ) [A346]	<p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the VEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p>	Yes	Yes
000353	Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood SAC	1.66	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	<p>The lesser horseshoe bat is a vagile species that is known to have a home range of 4.2km around its roost site. This species uses isolated resources in the landscape, commuting along linear ecological corridors and features to foraging locations. They are particularly sensitive to lighting condition and roads. Therefore, visitor activity in the area surrounding their roosts could introduce sources for effects for the species. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul>	Yes	Yes
004066	The Bull and The Cow Rocks SPA	1.93	Storm Petrel ( <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> ) [A014] Gannet ( <i>Morus bassanus</i> ) [A016] Puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204]	<p>The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Three Peninsulas VEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No

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Site Code	European site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
002173	Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC	2.03	European dry heaths [4030] Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Three Peninsulas VEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Three Peninsulas VEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required for most of the QIs. However, the lesser horseshoe bat is a vagile species that is known to have a home range of 4.2km around its roost site. This species uses isolated resources in the landscape, commuting along linear ecological corridors and features to foraging locations. They are particularly sensitive to lighting condition and roads. Therefore, visitor activity in the area surrounding their roosts could introduce sources for effects for the species. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul>	Yes	Yes
002187	Drongawn Lough SAC	3.06	Coastal lagoons [1150]	The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as water quality interactions. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Three Peninsulas VEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Three Peninsulas VEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No
001873	Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC	3.63	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct land use management, drainage, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. The distances between Three Peninsulas VEDP and the European Site mean that there are no pathways for effects and therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No
000364	Kilgarvan Ice House SAC	4.07	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	The lesser horseshoe bat is a vagile species that is known to have a home range of 4.2km around its roost site. This species uses isolated resources in the landscape, commuting along linear ecological corridors and features to foraging locations. They are particularly sensitive to lighting condition and roads. Therefore, visitor activity in the area surrounding their roosts could introduce sources for effects for the species. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul>	Yes	Yes
002098	Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood SAC	4.72	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	The lesser horseshoe bat is a vagile species that is known to have a home range of 4.2km around its roost site. Therefore, there is sufficient distance between the SAC and the VEDP boundary to remove potential pathways to affect the lesser horseshoe population of the SAC.	No	No
002315	Glanlough Woods SAC	5.11	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	The lesser horseshoe bat is a vagile species that is known to have a home range of 4.2km around its roost site. Therefore, there is sufficient distance between the SAC and the VEDP boundary to remove potential pathways to affect the lesser horseshoe population of the SAC.	No	No
000365	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks And Caragh River Catchment SAC	5.25	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130]	The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Three Peninsulas VEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Three Peninsulas VEDP and the European site, there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No

AA Natura Impact Statement for The Three Peninsulas West Cork and Kerry Visitor Experience Development Plan

Site Code	European site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0] Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] Euphydrys aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421] Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833] Alosa fallax killarnensis (Killarney Shad) [5046]			
004154	Iveragh Peninsula SPA	6.49	Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009] Peregrine (Falco peregrinus) [A103] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188] Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199] Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346]	The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Three Peninsulas VEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No
004038	Killarney National Park SPA	7.22	Merlin (Falco columbarius) [A098] Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395]	The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Three Peninsulas VEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No
000097	Lough Hyne Nature Reserve And Environs SAC	8.47	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]	The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Three Peninsulas VEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Three Peninsulas VEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No
004108	Eirk Bog SPA	9.65	Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395]	The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Three Peninsulas VEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No
004175	Deenish Island and Scarriff Island SPA	10.21	Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009] Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus) [A013] Storm Petrel (Hydrobates pelagicus) [A014] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194]	The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Three Peninsulas VEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No
000335	Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC	13.44	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395]	The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Three Peninsulas VEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Three Peninsulas VEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No
002041	Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC	13.58	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	The lesser horseshoe bat is a vagile species that is known to have a home range of 4.2km around its roost site. Therefore, there is sufficient distance between the SAC and the VEDP boundary to remove potential pathways to affect the lesser horseshoe population of the SAC.	No	No

### 3.4 Other Plans and Programmes

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

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

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the next 22 years. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSEs for the Southern Region (the Three Peninsulas are located within the Southern Region) sets out objectives relating tourism development, that have been subject to environmental assessment, including those relating to: enhancing provision of tourism and leisure amenity; promoting tourism activity; developing a road network and public transport services, facilitating improved visitor access and longer dwell times; developing walking and cycling trails, opening greater accessibility to the marine and countryside environment by sustainable modes; and facilitating appropriate tourism development, including that relating to greenways, blueways and peatlands. The RSEs is informing 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 will also be subject to environmental assessments.

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

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

### 3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

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

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant adverse effects on 20 (no.) European sites.

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

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

under the  
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)  
for  
The Three Peninsulas West Cork and Kerry Draft Visitor Experience Development Plan

**Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening**

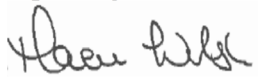
This ancillary determination is ancillary to both:

- Fáilte Ireland's AA Natura Impact Statement; and
- Fáilte Ireland's AA determination that is made in advance of finalisation of The Three Peninsulas West Cork and Kerry Visitor Experience Development Plan.

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

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

**Signatory:**



**Maeve Walsh**  
**Environment Officer**  
Fáilte Ireland's

**Date: 10.08.2020**

**Figure 3.2 Ancillary AA Determination**

## Section 4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

### 4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the Plan alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse impacts on the integrity of the 20 European sites brought forward from screening (see Table 3.1), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

### 4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

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

Appendix I characterises each of the qualifying features of the twenty European sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites' vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website<sup>7</sup>.

### 4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters are described when characterising impacts<sup>8</sup>:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>7</sup> last accessed 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019; <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>

<sup>8</sup> These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2016) "Guidelines for ecological impact assessment"; Environmental Protection Agency (2002) "Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements"; and National Roads Authority (2009) "Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes".

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

#### Generic Conservation Objective for cSACs:

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

#### One generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:

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

### 4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects

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

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

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

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

#### 4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

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

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

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

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the VEDP (see Section 5), e.g. in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance<sup>9</sup> with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

#### 4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

Most of the European sites within the VEDP area are coastal, except for Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC, Caha Mountains SAC, Cloonee And Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC, Maulagowna Bog SAC and Glanmore Bog SAC.

<sup>9</sup> Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

Visitor interactions and activities at Discovery Points have the potential to result in the following effects:

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

These sources for effects are localised and small scale; however, if unmanaged, the provisions to increase tourist numbers to the Three Peninsulas could result in habitat loss (as indicated above) which could affect the connectivity of habitats and species populations. This potential habitat loss could also influence the connectivity isolated resources for the Lesser Horseshoe bat within the Three Peninsulas. This species is a QI for sites within the Three Peninsulas area as well as three SACs within 4.2km (known species range around their roost sites) of the VEDP; Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood SAC, Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC and Kilgarvan Ice House SAC.

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

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the VEDP (see Section 5), e.g. in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance<sup>10</sup> with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

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

Visitor movement patterns and activities on site can introduce direct and indirect disturbance effects to designated species. Similarly, potential disturbance effects could occur during construction at a destination. These effects are dependent on on-site management practices, visitor behaviours and the operational procedures of strategic partners.

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

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the VEDP (see Section 5), e.g. in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance<sup>11</sup> with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

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

Visitor movement patterns and activities on site can introduce direct and indirect disturbance effects to designated species. These effects can influence the ranging behaviours of species over time and

<sup>10</sup> Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

<sup>11</sup> Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.



therefore influence the density of species at a local level. These effects are dependent on on-site management practices, visitor behaviours and the operational procedures of strategic partners.

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

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the VEDP (see Section 5), e.g. in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance<sup>12</sup> with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

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

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

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

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

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the VEDP (see Section 5), e.g. in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance<sup>13</sup> with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

#### **4.3.1.6 Climate change**

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

<sup>12</sup> Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

<sup>13</sup> Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

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

Site Code	Site Name <sup>14</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>15</sup>
000090	Glengarriff Harbour And Woodland SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, interactions with marine trophic structures and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000093	Caha Mountains SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000101	Roaringwater Bay And Islands SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, interactions with marine trophic structures and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000102	Sheep's Head SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise.</li> </ul>

<sup>14</sup> For distance from Plan boundary and qualifying features for each European Site (QIs and SCIs), please refer to Table 3.1.

<sup>15</sup> Informed by, inter alia, *The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland, Overview Volume 1* (NPWS, 2013)

Site Code	Site Name <sup>14</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>15</sup>
		<p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000109	Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
001040	Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
001043	Cleanderry Wood SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
001342	Cloonee And Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects as such direct disturbance, compaction of soil, interactions with marine trophic structures and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul>

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001371	Mucksna Wood SAC	As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise.</li> </ul> Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.
001879	Glanmore Bog SAC	As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.
001881	Maulagowna Bog SAC	As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; and</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise.</li> </ul> Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.
002158	Kenmare River SAC	As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, interactions with marine trophic structures and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Trampling of herbaceous vegetation;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.
002189	Farranamanagh Lough SAC	As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:

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002280	Dunbeacon Shingle SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as as direct disturbance, removal or material, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002281	Reen Point Shingle SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as as direct disturbance, removal or material, and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites;</li> <li>• Fishing activities;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004155	Beara Peninsula SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004156	Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise;</li> <li>• Removal and throwing of large rocks; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>

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000353	Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such direct disturbance, effects to foraging or commuting habitats within their home range and alterations to lighting conditions. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002173	Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such direct disturbance, effects to foraging or commuting habitats within their home range and alterations to lighting conditions. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000364	Kilgarvan Ice House SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such direct disturbance, effects to foraging or commuting habitats within their home range and alterations to lighting conditions. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of wastewater, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna;</li> <li>• Disturbance of wildlife;</li> <li>• Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and</li> <li>• Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>

## Section 5 Mitigation Measures

The SEA and AA team worked with the Plan-preparation team at Fáilte Ireland in order to integrate requirements for environmental protection and management into the Plan.

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 compliance<sup>16</sup> with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents<sup>17</sup>:

- 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 VEDP (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 VEDP 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;
- The Cork and Kerry County Development Plans, include various provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management; and
- The Climate Action Plan 2019, the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions), the National Mitigation Plan (2017 and any subsequent versions) and the Cork and Kerry Climate Change Adaptation Strategies.

### Infrastructure Capacity

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

### Visitor Management

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

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

### Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services

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

<sup>16</sup> Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

<sup>17</sup> The current versions of these documents are provided at Appendix III "Fáilte Ireland published documents referenced in the VEDP".

## Section 6 Conclusion

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

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

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the VEDP will not give rise to any effect on the ecological integrity of any European sites, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes or projects<sup>18</sup>. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated.

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<sup>18</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:  
a) no alternative solution available,  
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and  
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.



# Appendix I Background information on European sites

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

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Site Description/Vulnerability
000090	Glengarriff Harbour And Woodland SAC	Within	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024] Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]	A wooded glacial valley opening out into a sheltered bay with rocky islets. Underlying rock is Old Red Sandstone, with soils varying from acid brown earths to alluvial brown earths and peat. Hyper-oceanic climate. Site supports a complex mosaic of terrestrial habitats, mostly old oak woodland, conifer plantations and complexes of rock outcrop, heath and scrub, blanket bog, Molinia grassland and rivers and streams. The sheltered bay is highly indented with many islets and a rocky shoreline. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; grazing in forests and woodlands, recreational activities, tree felling for public safety. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000093	Caha Mountains SAC	Within	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024] Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]	This upland site is underlain by old red sandstone. The average altitude within the site is 420m, though a few peaks extend to 630m. The site features glacial valleys and corries, such as that within which Barley Lake occurs. A broad boggy plateau studded with small lakes occurs at about 420m. Substantial cliffs are present in the north-western part of the site. Afforestation is carried on outside of the site. Site is of high scientific interest because of the large area of upland blanket bog, which features an excellent example of a saddle bog. In addition to the bog, there are good examples of siliceous rock and scree, and some reasonable examples of alpine heath and wet heath. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; hand cutting of peat, dispersed habitation, non-intensive sheep grazing, invasive non-native species, paths tracks and cycle tracks. All of these threats have been identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000101	Roaringwater Bay And Islands SAC	Within	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]	Roaringwater Bay is a wide, shallow bay located in the south-west of Ireland. It is close to the continental shelf, and is therefore fed by the clear, nutrient-poor waters of the Gulf Stream. There are several offshore islands and rocks, which protect inshore areas from the full force of the Atlantic, and they are themselves exposed to the prevailing swell on their south-west coasts. Tidal streams are channelled by sounds and narrows between the islands, such as at Gascanane Sound, and tidal currents can be strong. Inner Roaringwater Bay is shallow and sheltered and the seabed is composed of sediments. Bedrock is composed of a series of Devonian Old Red Sandstone reefs that run parallel to troughs of Devonian Carboniferous marine clastics in a north east/south west direction. The bay's south east side is formed by a sublittoral reef, emergent as Clear, Sherkin and Spanish Islands. Three subsidiary sublittoral reefs within the bay are emergent firstly as the Calf Island archipelago and Hare Island, secondly as Carthy's Island and the Skeams, and thirdly as the Goat Island/Long Island/Castle Island/Horse Island chain. The effect is one of considerable complexity and diversity. In addition to cliff and heath vegetation, the islands support dry grassland, humid grassland, some swamp and marsh vegetation, and small areas of shingle, salt marsh and sand dune. Small lakes occur on Clear and Sherkin Islands. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; removal of beach materials, human intrusions and disturbances, restructuring agricultural land holding, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, lack of grazing, marine and freshwater aquaculture, non intensive grazing and stock feeding. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000102	Sheep's Head SAC	Within	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024]	A narrow ridge of sandstone which encloses a number of linear basins filled either by peat bogs or lakes. The dominant vegetation of the site is a mosaic of dry heath, wet heath and humid grassland which is mainly found on the rocky ridges. Rock outcrops commonly on the site. Sea cliffs are found mostly on the western side of the site. These support small seabird populations. The site is very exposed and subject to strong south-westerly winds. This site is important for a variety of reasons. It includes a large area of heath varying from dry to wet heath, which is relatively intact and undisturbed and is of good quality. Two rare species of flora are found on the site: Tuberaria guttata and Viola lactea, the latter protected. The site has minor importance for the seabirds that occur, but it is notable for the density of choughs (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) that are found. The Kerry Slug (Geomalacus maculosus) occurs in the open heath habitat. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; stock feeding, abandonment of pastoral systems and lack of grazing, paths, tracks and cycling paths, non-intensive grazing and restructuring agricultural land holding. All of these threats have been identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.

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000109	Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC	Within	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	Situated in the extreme south-west of Co. Cork, this very exposed site consists of two ridges of Old Red Sandstone separated by a low-lying area. The cliffs run for c.6 km and reach up to 130 m in height. Sea stacks and islets are frequent. Soils are mainly shallow peats and are vegetated predominantly by dry heath. Exposed rock is frequent. Areas of dry grassland, some of which is partly improved, also occur. Where depressions occur, lakes, ponds or swamp type vegetation are found. The largest lake is Dun Lough. Grazing is main landuse within site. The area is renowned for its scenic beauty. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; non intensive grazing and paths, tracks, cycling tracks. All of these threats have been identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
001040	Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC	Within	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] European dry heaths [4030] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]	The site straddles a 10km stretch of coastline near Mizen Head in west Co. Cork. The underlying geology is Old Red Sandstone which has a NE - SW folding. The site comprises a range of coastal habitats, which, in addition to the listed annexed types, include a brackish lake (artificial in origin) and tidal river, rocky bedrock shoreline, low cliffs and a marine area. Heath is the dominant habitat and is varied, ranging from shallow dry soils to wet peaty soils. At Brow Head and east of Crookhaven there are the remains of formerly worked copper mines. The beach sand at Barley Cove is notably calcareous and white in colour. Grazing and tourism related recreational activities are the primary landuses within the site and in surrounding areas. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; restructuring agricultural land holding, lack of grazing, intensive mixed animal grazing and stock feeding. All of these pressures have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
001043	Cleanderry Wood SAC	Within	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]	The site is located on the southern shore of the Kenmare River Inlet in Co. Kerry. It is on a steep slope directly above the sea. Part of the site includes low cliffs and bedrock shore. Apart from woodland, the site mainly comprises a mosaic of heath, rock outcrops and acid grassland. The heath varies from wet heath to dry heath. Derryvegal Lough (Upper) and a small outlet stream is included in the site. Area is, more or less, in a natural state, with only some light grazing. No site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
001342	Cloonie And Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC	Within	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024] <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421] <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833]	Situated on the north-western slopes of the Caha Mountains and overlooking the Kenmare River inlet, the site comprises a series of linked oligotrophic lakes. Inflowing and connecting rivers and streams are often fast-flowing and some waterfalls are present. The lakes have some marginal fen and swamp vegetation. Uragh Wood is situated on the steep mountain slope on the south-western shore of Inchiquin Lough. Some of the islands on the lakes are wooded. The remainder of the site is a complex of wet grassland, heath and some blanket bog. Exposed rock and cliffs are a feature of the site. Landuse in the area is mainly grazing by sheep. Commercial afforestation occurs in surrounding areas. Some commercial afforestation is also included since it is used by lesser horseshoe bats for foraging and as a commuting corridor. The NPWS have not identified any site-specific threats for the site.
001371	Mucksna Wood SAC	Within	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	A small oak wood, mixed with planted conifers, developed on glacial drift and located on the coast at the mouth of the Kenmare River. The NPWS have listed threats to the site to include; invasive non-native species, tree felling for public safety and forestry clearance. All of these threats have been identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
001879	Glanmore Bog SAC	Within	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]	This large upland site, situated on the Beara Peninsula, is underlain by Old Red Sandstone. It rises in altitude from 0 to 602 m and consists mainly of heath, upland grassland and exposed rock, with a small area of blanket bog. A large lake, Glenbeg Lough, is a feature of the site and this lake is surrounded by steep scree and rocky slopes. The site is drained by two main rivers. The Ownagappul River flows from Glenbeg Lough to the sea at Cappul Bridge, and all of this river is included in the site. Headwater streams of the Glanmore River occur in the eastern part of the site. Grazing by sheep is the main landuse within the site. The NPWS have listed threats to the site to include; pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, fishing, hand cutting of peat, non intensive cattle grazing, invasive non-native species, non intensive sheep grazing. All of these pressures have been identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
001881	Maulagowna Bog SAC	Within	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	This site is located in the Caha Mountains in the extreme south-west of County Kerry. The underlying geology is sandstone. The site lies beneath a series of rocky crags which partly surround Lough Cumber. The blanket bog occurs in association with upland heath and grassland. Small streams and exposed rock create habitat diversity. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; non intensive sheep grazing and recreational activities. All of these pressures have been identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002158	Kenmare River SAC	Within	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410]	Kenmare River is a long and narrow south-west facing bay situated in the south-west of Ireland. It is a deep, drowned glacial valley, approximately 12 km wide at the mouth and 55 km long. Durse Island marks the south-west point. The bedrock is mainly Old Red Sandstone with Devonian - Carboniferous marine clastics on the south-west coast. It is deeply fissured in a NE/SW direction. The bedrock is emergent throughout the length of the bay. Exposure to prevailing winds and swells at the mouth diminishes toward the head of the bay. Numerous islands and inlets along the length of the bay provide further areas of additional shelter in which a variety of habitats and unusual communities occur. The coastal fringe is

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			Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] European dry heaths [4030] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]	dominated by a mosaic of dry and wet heath, along with patches of blanket bog, coastal grassland and exposed rock. The heath is particularly well developed at Derrynane Bay, which supports a fine dune system. Also present are small areas of deciduous woodland and fresh-water marsh. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, agricultural activities, invasive non-native species, marine water pollution, recreational activities and urbanisation. All of these pressures have been identified both inside and beyond the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002189	Farranamanagh Lough SAC	Within	Coastal lagoons [1150] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Farranamanagh Lough is a small, shallow (2m), sedimentary lagoon situated on the south side of the Sheeps Head peninsula in west Co. Cork. It is separated from the sea by a stony ridge. Seawater enters through a narrow outlet by percolation and overtopping the stony barrier at high tide and during storms. Salinity varies considerably (2-25 ppt) depending on rainfall and seawater incursions. Bedrock is Old Red Sandstone and soils are generally peaty podzols and acid brown earths. Land surrounding the lagoon is a mix of rocky heath, wet grassland, marsh vegetation and wet scrub. Salt marsh fringes the lagoon along the eastern shore. Removal of beach materials has been identified as a threat within the boundary. No other site-specific threat has been identified by the NPWS.
002280	Dunbeacon Shingle SAC	Within	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	The site is located in Dunmanus Bay, in the extreme south-west of Co. Cork. It comprises a mosaic of coastal habitats, with substantial areas of salt marsh, including pools, freshwater marsh and heath. Scrub woodland and a small area of wet woodland is also present. An area of unmanaged damp grassland and some areas of improved grassland are included. No site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002281	Reen Point Shingle SAC	Within	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	The site is located in Dunmanus Bay, in the extreme south-west of Co. Cork. It comprises a small headland, the inner part of which is improved grassland and not part of the site. Shingle bars occur on both sides of the headland and merge with heath, salt marsh and a small lagoon. On the seaward side, the shingle is associated with bedrock shore. No site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004155	Beara Peninsula SPA	0	Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009] Chough ( <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> ) [A346]	The Beara Peninsula SPA is a coastal site situated on the west coast of Co. Cork, south-west of the town of Kenmare. It encompasses the high coast and sea cliff sections of the western end of the peninsula from Reenmore Point/Cod's Head in the north, around to the end of Dursey Island in the west, and as far east as Bear Island in the south. The site includes the sea cliffs, the land adjacent to the cliff edge and several upland areas further inland of the coast about Eagle Hill, Knockgour, Allihies and Firkeel. The high water mark forms the seaward boundary. Most of the site is underlain by Devonian sandstones and siltstones, though Carboniferous rocks are found about Black Ball Head and on Bear Island; small areas of igneous rocks occur at Cod's Head, Dursey Island, Black Ball Head and Bear Island. No site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004156	Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA	0	Peregrine ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103] Chough ( <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> ) [A346]	The Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA is large site situated on the south-west coast of Co. Cork. It encompasses the high coast and sea cliffs from Sheep's Head to Mizen Head, Brow Head and Crookhaven in the west and from Baltimore to Tragumna Bay, Gokane Point and the Toe Head peninsula in the east. The site includes the sea cliffs, the land adjacent to the cliff edge (inland for 300 m), an area further inland to the east of Dunlough Bay, and also areas of sand dunes at Barley Cove and Crookhaven. The high water mark forms the seaward boundary. Most of the site is underlain by Devonian sandstones and mudstones, though Carboniferous rocks are also found on the Sheep's Head and Toe Head peninsulas. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; grazing. This threat has been identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000353	Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood SAC	1.66	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	This site consists of a large three storey stone building situated in Dromore Wood, outside Kenmare, Co. Kerry. Part of the cellar section was modified in 1989 to create an artificial hibernation site which was soon colonised by small numbers of Lesser Horseshoe Bats. The numbers of bats using the site has now increased to >200 each winter. There is a small resident population of >50 bats all year round. The site is surrounded by woodland- providing both a suitable foraging habitat and shelter for bats as they commute to the summer site- currently unknown. Forest and plantation management and use has been identified as a threat within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004066	The Bull and The Cow Rocks SPA	1.93	Storm Petrel ( <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> ) [A014] Gannet ( <i>Morus bassanus</i> ) [A016] Puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204]	The site comprises two very small rocky islands, the Cow and the Bull, situated at respective distances of approximately 2.5 km and 4 km from Dursey Head in the extreme south-west of Ireland. The islands, which are of Old Red Sandstone, rise to over 60 m and are generally precipitous. Vegetation is sparse and comprises a typical maritime flora. The marine area to a distance of 500 m around each island is included within the site for the benefit of the breeding seabirds. The Bull has an automated lighthouse. No site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002173	Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC	2.03	European dry heaths [4030] <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]	This site is situated on the south-western slopes of the Macgillycuddy Reeks, overlooking the Kenmare River inlet. The underlying geology is Old Red Sandstone. The site comprises most of the catchment of the Blackwater River system. Two other main rivers, the Kealduff and Derreendarragh, link into the Blackwater and these rivers are characterised by having numerous tributary streams. The rivers rise at altitudes of up to 600 m and flow quite rapidly over their journey of about

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			Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	10 km to the sea. The principal habitats within the site are upland grassland and various types of heaths. The grassland is improved to varying extents. Where the peat is deeper blanket bog has developed, though much of this is now cutaway. Deciduous woodland occurs along some of the rivers. Coniferous afforestation is a significant landuse within the site. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; agricultural activities, mechanical removal of peat, roads and motorways and dispersed habitation. All of these threats have been identified by the NPWS. No other site-specific threat has been identified by the NPWS.
002187	Drongawn Lough SAC	3.06	Coastal lagoons [1150]	Situated on the northern side of the Kenmare River Inlet in Co. Kerry, Drongawn Lough is a moderate sized saline lake lagoon with a narrow silled inlet. The lagoon is deep (18 m) and tidal exchange is limited by the narrow inlet but salinity remains high (28-32 ppt). The sides of the lagoon near the inlet consist of steeply shelving exposed rock with a gently sloping muddy floor at 6 m. The land around the lagoon is a mix of blanket bog, heath and wet grassland. Some of the wet grassland and heath is partly improved for grazing. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
001873	Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC	3.63	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	Situated on the south-eastern slopes of Knockboy Mountain (707m) this site contains the headwaters of the Cummerdarrig River and the Derryduff Stream which flow east and south to the head of Bantry Bay. The site is an undulating complex of blanket bogs, heath, upland grassland and rock outcrops. Small loughs and numerous streams are a feature. Most of the bogs are small (1-3 ha) but they occur with a regularity on a series of gently sloping shelves across the mountain side. Lagopus lagopus occurs on site. Sheep grazing occurs but at a low density - otherwise there are no landuse activities. The NPWS have listed threats to the site to include; non intensive sheep grazing, paths, tracks and cycling tracks and recreational activities. All of these pressures have been identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000364	Kilgarvan Ice House SAC	4.07	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	This site includes a small stone structure called an ice house which is situated in Glannaserha Wood on the southern side of the Roughty River, Kilgarvan, Co. Kerry. This structure was formerly used for food storage but is now used by >300 Lesser Horseshoe bats as a winter hibernation site. The number of bats using the hibernaculum has increased since the entrance was fitted with a grille in 1987. The surrounding woodland which is within the site, provides both suitable foraging habitat and some shelter for bats as they commute to two summer roosting sites several kilometres away on either side of the ice house. The summer roosts are a disused cottage and a disused barn each of which are used by over 170 bats. The NPWS have identified agricultural activities as being a threat to this site. No other site-specific threats have been identified.
002098	Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood SAC	4.72	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	This site consists of a small two storey stone building, near Sneem, Co. Kerry, which is used by >200 Lesser Horseshoe Bats as a summer breeding site. The bats enter the building through spaces above three windows and roost in the upper portion of the building, hanging from roof timbers. The site is surrounded by woodland which provides both suitable foraging habitat and shelter for bats as they commute between this site and the winter hibernation site - at present unknown. Forest and plantation management and use has been identified as a threat within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002315	Glanlough Woods SAC	5.11	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	The site consists of an old disused farmhouse located in a fairly isolated area in south Kerry. Adjacent habitats include improved grassland and broadleaved woodland. The woodland provides suitable foraging areas for the bats. No site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000365	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks And Caragh River Catchment SAC	5.25	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoetoneo-juncetea [3130] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0] Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] Euphydryas aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421] Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833] Alosa fallax killarneyensis (Killarney Shad) [5046]	This is the largest terrestrial site in Ireland and encompasses the mountains and lakes of the Iveragh Peninsula and the Paps range. It is the most mountainous region of Ireland, and includes the highest peak Carrauntoohil at 1039 m. The underlying rock is almost entirely Old Red Sandstone, although carboniferous limestone occurs on the east side of Lough Leane. Glacial processes have shaped the sandstone into dramatic ridges and valleys, including the well wooded Killarney valley. A wide range of semi-natural habitats are present, along with some improved land and forestry in the Caragh River catchment. Generally, the proximity of the site to the Atlantic in the south-west ensures a strong oceanic influence.

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004154	Iveragh Peninsula SPA	6.49	Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009] Peregrine ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103] Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188] Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199] Chough ( <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> ) [A346]	The Iveragh Peninsula SPA is a large site situated on the west coast of Co. Kerry. The site encompasses the high coast and sea cliff sections of the peninsula from just west of Rossbehy in the north, around to the end of the peninsula at Valencia Island and Bolus Head, and as far east as Lamb's Head in the south. The site includes the sea cliffs, the land adjacent to the cliff edge and also areas of sand dunes at Derrynane and Beginish. The high-water mark forms the seaward boundary except at Doulus Head/Killelan Mountain where the adjacent sea area to a distance of 500 m from the cliff base is included. The site is underlain by Devonian sandstones, siltstones and mudstones. A small area of igneous rocks (dolerite and gabbro) occurs at Beginish and on the adjacent shore. No site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004038	Killarney National Park SPA	7.22	Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ) [A098] Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	This large site encompasses the lakes and part of the Macgillycuddy's Reeks in the vicinity of Killarney. The underlying geology is Old Red Sandstone, although Carboniferous limestone occurs on the eastern shores of Lough Leane. Lough Leane is the most important and largest (8.6 km along its long axis) of the lakes, and is classified as a mesotrophic system. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; grazing, recreational activities, paths, tracks and cycling tracks and leisure fishing. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. Fertilisation and urbanisation have been listed as threats beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000097	Lough Hyne Nature Reserve And Environs SAC	8.47	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]	The site is situated on the south coast just to the east of Roaringwater Bay. From the open coast, which is exposed to the prevailing south-westerly winds, there is a narrow inlet, Barlogue Creek, which leads to the extremely sheltered bay, Lough Hyne. An area of large boulders with strong tidal streams, known as 'the rapids', connects the Lough with Barlogue Creek. The structure of the Lough is such that there is a restricted tidal flow into the Lough and a more prolonged outflow. The tidal range in the Lough is approximately 1 m but is 3.5 m in Barlogue Creek. Tragumna Bay to the east of Lough Hyne forms part of the site. The terrestrial component of the site includes woodland, mostly mixed though with some parts fairly pure native deciduous, as well as heath, scrub, marsh and swamp vegetation. A small lake, Ballyally Lough, is included in site. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; fishing, potting and invasive non-native species. All of these threats have been identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004108	Eirk Bog SPA	9.65	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	Eirk Bog is located within the Owenreagh River valley, approximately 1 km north of Moll's Gap. The underlying geology is Old Red Sandstone. The morphology and vegetation of the bog is intermediate between raised and Atlantic blanket bog. Eirk is part of a larger complex of bogs, which are separated by streams containing fen vegetation. There are patches of wet heath and some small areas of woodland. No site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004175	Deenish Island and Scariff Island SPA	10.21	Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009] Manx Shearwater ( <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> ) [A013] Storm Petrel ( <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> ) [A014] Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183] Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194]	These small to medium sized uninhabited islands are situated between 5 and 7 km west of Lamb's Head off the Kerry coast and thus are very exposed to the forces of the Atlantic. Scariff is the larger of the two. It is very steep sided all the way round, rising to a peak of 252 m. The highest cliffs are on the south side. The island vegetation is a mix of maritime grassland, bracken and some heath type vegetation. There are ruins of a monastic settlement and a cottage in the north-east sector of the island. Deenish is less rugged than Scariff, rising to 144 m in its southern half but the northern half is lower and flatter. The vegetation is mostly grassland, with some heath on the higher ground. Old fields are overgrown with bracken and brambles. The sea area to 500 m around the islands is included within the site to provide 'rafting' areas for the Shearwaters. No site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000335	Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC	13.44	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410] Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395]	The site is situated in the west of County Kerry and comprises the estuary of the River Inny and the shallow waters of Ballinskelligs Bay (to a depth of c. 16 m). The extent of the site is from Horse Island in the west to Rinneen Point in the south east of the bay. The estuary of the Inny is well sheltered by a protruding sand spit, now a golf course, on the south side. A small area of sandhills still occurs on the northern side of the estuary. Most of the tidal section of river is included in site. Above the intertidal sand and mud flats and salt marshes, there are areas of wet grassland, freshwater marsh and swamp vegetation. The NPWS have listed threats to the site to include; recreational activities, agricultural activities, removal of beach materials, fishing and sand and gravel extraction. All of these threats have been identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002041	Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC	13.58	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	This site consists of a small two-roomed stone dwelling situated in Rossacrae Wood, North of Kilgarven, Co. Kerry. It is used by > 100 Lesser Horseshoe Bats as a summer breeding site. The bats gain access through an opening over a doorway at the rear of the building and through a window leading to a small loft. The bats hang from the roof timbers in the loft. The surrounding wood provides suitable foraging habitat and shelter for bats as they commute to the - at present - unknown hibernation site. No site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.

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

Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0]	Inappropriate grazing levels; invasive species; and clearance for agriculture or felling for timber	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in management.
<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> ( <i>Twaite Shad</i> ) [1103]	Habitat quality, particularly at spawning sites is the most notable threat to this species.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change
Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	Abandonment; overgrazing; burning; outdoor recreation; quarries; communication networks; and wind farm developments.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change

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Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ) [1330]	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass ( <i>Spartina anglica</i> ); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion
Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
Bottle-Nosed Dolphin ( <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> ) [1349]	The bottlenose dolphin is vulnerable to a range of threats and pressures in its natural habitat. Such threats and pressures include accidental entanglement in fishing gear, competition for prey resources, pollution and other habitat degradation, and disturbance by human activities.	Human interaction, pollution, noise.
Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Coastal Lagoons [1150]	Drainage, natural silting, nutrient enrichment, water pollution from industrial and commercial activities.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes
<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]	Declines in habitat quality lead to species decline.	Habitat management; land use change and drainage.
European dry heaths [4030]	Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	Recreation; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing: non-native plant species, particularly sea buckthorn ( <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> ).	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Distance to human activities, accidental entanglement in fishing gear competition for prey resources, illegal killing, pollution and habitat degradation.	Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
Harbour Seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365]	Disturbance by human activities, accidental entanglement in fishing gear, competition for prey resources, disease and illegal killing.	Highly sensitive to pollution and other habitat degradation.
<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	Overgrazing; fire; agricultural expansion; invasion by alien species particularly <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> , and poor regeneration.	Onset of inundation or waterlogging Inappropriate management
Kerry Slug ( <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> ) [1024]	Main threats to this species include; afforestation, forestry management, invasion of woodland by <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> , agricultural reclamation and infrastructure development	Land use management, groundwater dependant
Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Drainage, siltation and pollution are threats to this habitat type	Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	Decrease in water quality, use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); hunting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution
<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution
<i>Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)</i> [1410]	Over-grazing by cattle or sheep; infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]	Peatland damage, increase sedimentation, fertilisation.	Highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]	Reclamation, afforestation and burning; overstocking; invasion by non-heath species; exposure of peat to severe erosion.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]	There are no significant impacts affecting this species.	None identified

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Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]	Barriers to upstream migration (e.g. weirs), which limit access to spawning beds and juvenile habitat are main threats to this species.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity.
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	The main threats to this species include; by-catch in fishing gear, pollution of the marine environment and habitat degradation.	Falling prey densities is a threat to this species.
Reefs [1170]	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	Loss of roosting sites due to deterioration or renovation of old buildings, loss of commuting routes linking roosts to foraging sites, and unsympathetic management of foraging habitats are the major threats to this species.	Highly sensitive to disturbance.
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species
<i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]	Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations.	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.
Sandbanks [1110]	The NPWS state that it is considered that current pressures and future threats are unlikely to significantly impact this habitat.	None identified
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]	Removal of beach material and interference with the supply of sand; construction of coastal defences; sand compaction caused by vehicles and trampling.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8110]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation
Slender Naiad ( <i>Najas flexilis</i> ) [1833]	Fertilization; disposal of household waste; water pollution; eutrophication; and invasion by alien species.	Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Soft waterlakes with base rich influences [3130]	Eutrophication, peat cutting, losses from agriculture and peatland drainage.	Highly sensitive to hydrological change and water pollution.
Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]	Forestry planting and agricultural improvements are ongoing and causing habitat loss, along with succession to heath and scrub.	Land use management activities
Submerged or partially submerged seacaves [8330]	No specific threats were identified for the habitat.	Sensitive to natural processes and human activities.
<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0]	Invasive alien's species. Restricted distribution and limited suitable habitat	Inappropriate management, Invasion by alien species
<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]	Threatened by habitat loss, deliberate collection, encroachment of invasive or vigorous species, or indirectly by water pollution, removal of woodland or alteration of watercourses.	Land use management and direct impacts
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	Erosion; grazing; recreational pressures; development of golf courses and housing; dumping; cutting of peat; coastal protection works; climate change	Coastal development. Erosion, over-grazing and recreation
<i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]	Eutrophication; overgrazing, excessive fertilisation; afforestation; and the introduction of invasive alien species.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.

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

Special Conservation Interests	Vulnerabilities of Special Conservation Interests
Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ) [A098] Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395] Storm Petrel ( <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> ) [A014] Gannet ( <i>Morus bassanus</i> ) [A016] Puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204] Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009] Peregrine ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103] Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188] Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199] Chough ( <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> ) [A346] Manx Shearwater ( <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> ) [A013] Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183] Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194]	Bird species are particularly vulnerable to direct disturbance due to noise and/or vibration. These effects are localised and disturbance effects are foreseen to be low at distances beyond 2km. Direct habitat loss is a serious concern for bird species, as well as the reduction in habitat quality. Habitat degradation could occur through effects such as local enrichment due to agricultural practices or damage to habitat through activities such as trampling. Prey species diversity and availability is a key element of species conservation. Community dynamics and ecosystem functionality are complex concepts and require site specific information. The site synopsis and conservation objectives for the SPAs identified within the ZOI were used to identify any specific prey sensitivities. Availability of nesting/roosting habitat. Particularly for the Hen Harrier. Vegetation composition, structure and functionality.
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Direct land take is a common vulnerability to all sites; as well as significant water quality effects. The conservation objective of all SPAs designated for Wetland and Waterbirds is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds using it.

## Appendix II Relationship with other Plans and Programmes

The relevance of the plans, programmes, etc. to the Visitor Experience Development Plan is that 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.

Plans etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective
<b>Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework</b>	The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between.
<b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b>	€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.
<b>EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022</b>	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>
<b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	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.
<b>National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)</b>	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>
<b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b>	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.
<b>Marine Spatial Plan for Ireland (in preparation)</b>	It is intended that the Marine Spatial Plan will be finalised in 2020, and forwarded to the European Commission at that time, ahead of the due date for submission by Member States of their plans in March 2021.
<b>Tourism Action Plan 2016-2018</b>	Includes a total of 23 actions to be addressed in the period between now and 2018 aimed at securing continued growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment.
<b>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</b>	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.
<b>Food Harvest 2020</b>	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.
<b>National Rural Development Programme</b>	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
<b>River Basin Management Plans</b>	River Basin Management Plans set out the status of waters in the River Basin District.
<b>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</b>	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.
<b>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b>	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
<b>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b>	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
<b>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b>	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.
<b>Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies</b>	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies will provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.
<b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or COs for SACs and SPAs</b>	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: 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
<b>Local Economic and Community Plans</b>	LECPs seek to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities.
<b>Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Planning Schemes</b>	Outlines planning objectives for land use development (including transport objectives). Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. Sets out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area.



# Appendix III Fáiite Ireland published documents referenced in the VEDP

Contents of Appendix III to this Natura Impact Statement:

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