

Upper Shannon, Shannon Erne, Border Destination & Experience Development Plan

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING AND NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT

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Environmental Assessment

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This document comprises an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS), prepared in order to support the Appropriate Assessment for the Upper Shannon, Shannon-Erne and Border (USSEB) Destination & Experience Development Plan (hereafter referred to the ‘Plan’ or the ‘USSEB DEDP’) in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and Article 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended (the Habitats regulations).

The potential impacts on European sites (also known as Natura 2000 sites), both as a result of the USSEB DEDP and in-combination with other plans and projects, are appraised in this report.

This report should be read in conjunction with the USSEB DEDP and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – Environmental Report prepared by Brady Shipman Martin (2024).

1.2 Expertise and Qualifications

This Report has been prepared by Namrata Kaile, Ecologist and Environmental Consultant with Brady Shipman Martin. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree (BSc) in Life Sciences from University of Delhi and a Master’s Degree (MSc) with distinction in Environmental Sciences from Trinity College Dublin. She is a full member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM) and has been working professionally in the field of environmental consultancy for the last five years. Namrata is experienced in drafting and reviewing AA Screening Reports, EIA Screening Reports as well as in coordination of EIARs. She is also experienced in undertaking baseline ecological surveys and preparing Ecological Impact Assessments Reports (EclIA).

A technical review of this document has been completed by Senior Ecologist and Associate, Matthew Hague BSc MSc Adv. Dip. Plan. & Env. Law CEnv MCIEEM. Matthew is a highly experienced and qualified ecologist, with a master’s degree in Ecosystem Conservation and Landscape Management. He has over 20 years of experience in ecological and environmental consultancy, across a wide range of sectors. Matthew is a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) and a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM). Matthew has also completed an Advanced Diploma in Planning and Environmental Law, at King’s Inns and is a member of the Irish Environmental Law Association (IELA).

1.3 Legal requirement for Appropriate Assessment

European sites make up a network of sites designated for nature conservation under Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the “Habitats Directive”) and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the “Birds Directive”). The requirements for Appropriate Assessment are set out under *Article 6 of the Habitats Directive*, transposed into Irish law by the *European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended)* (the “Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations”) and the *Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)* (the “Planning Acts”).

European sites are also known as Natura 2000 Sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)). As defined in section 177R of the Planning Acts “European site” means:

- (a) a candidate site of Community importance,
- (b) a site of Community importance,
- (ba) a candidate special area of conservation,
- (c) a special area of conservation,
- (d) a candidate special protection area and
- (e) a special protection area.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states that:

“(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

The first test is to establish whether, in relation to a particular plan or project, appropriate assessment is required. Article 42(1) of the Habitats Regulations requires that the AA screening test must be applied to the Plan, as follows:

42. (1) Subject to Regulation 42A, a screening for Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project for which an application for consent is received, or which a public authority wishes to undertake or adopt, and which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European Site, shall be carried out by the public authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the site, if that plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the European site.

An appropriate assessment is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the development (plan or project), individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

1.3.1 Stages in the Appropriate Assessment Process

There are four main stages in the AA process and are as follows:

1.3.1.1 Stage 1 - Screening

The stage 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.

1.3.1.2 Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment

This stage considers whether the plan or project, alone or in combination with other projects or plans, will have adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, and includes any mitigation measures necessary to avoid, reduce or offset negative effects.

1.3.1.3 Stage 3 – Alternative Solutions

This stage examines any alternative solutions or options that could enable the plan or project to proceed without adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site.

1.3.1.4 Stage 4 – Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)

Stage 4 examines whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) for allowing a plan or project that will have adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site to proceed in cases where it has been established that no less damaging alternative solution exists.

1.4 Baseline data collection

This report takes the following guidance documents into account:

- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine, September 2018, updated in September 2019 (V1.1), further updated in April 2022 (V1.2) and September 2024 V1.3*);
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) (2010a). *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities*;
- DoEHLG (2010b). *Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10: Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*;
- European Commission (2021). *Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites- Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*;
- European Commission (2018). *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*;
- Directorate – General for Environment (European Commission), (2021). *Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community Interest under the Habitats Directive*;
- National Roads Authority (NRA)¹ (2009). *Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Road Schemes*;
- Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) (2021). *Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*;
- National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) (2021). *Guidance for Public authorities on the Application of Articles 12 and 16 of the EU Habitats Directive to development/works undertaken by or on behalf of a Public authority*.

Information was collated from the organisations and websites listed below:

- Data on European sites and rare and protected plant and animal species contained in the following databases:

¹ Now Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

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- The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (www.NPWS.ie);
- The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NDBC) (www.biodiversityireland.ie);
- BirdWatch Ireland (www.birdwatchireland.ie);
- Bat Conservation Ireland (www.batconservationireland.org).

- Information on land-use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (<http://www.myplan.ie/en/index.html>);
- Recent and historical OSi mapping and aerial photography, including www.geohive.ie;
- Information on local watercourses from www.catchments.ie;
- Information on water quality in the area (www.epa.ie);
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area (www.gsi.ie);
- Information on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (Article 17 report) (NPWS, August 2019);
- Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2024);
- Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the accompanying reports;
- Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and the accompanying reports;
- Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the accompanying reports.

The report takes full account of the details of the USSEB DEDP, and a detailed examination of all relevant elements was undertaken. The Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report (Brady Shipman Martin, 2024) was also reviewed in the preparation of this report.

A desk-based assessment of the receiving environment was undertaken and this focussed on habitats and species that are listed as Qualifying Interests (QI) (in the case of SACs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCI) (in the case of SPAs) for European sites. An assessment of habitat suitability for species with links to European sites was undertaken, in order to appraise the potential for *ex-situ* effects on European sites.

2 Outline Description of the Plan

2.1 Introduction

The Upper Shannon, Shannon-Erne and Border (USSEB) Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) is a five-year sustainable tourism plan for Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon north of, and including, Roscommon Town (the 'Destination'). It builds on recent and current capital investment projects including The National Famine Museum at Strokestown Park, the Shannon Pot Discovery Centre and ongoing work at Lough Key Forest and Activity Park, and it identifies new investment opportunities around the Shannon, Shannon-Erne Waterway, and the Beara Breifne Way, as well in the forest parks, lakelands and the heritage and cultural gems.

The topography of the area, with significant lakeland areas and extensive Shannon and Erne River shorelines, lends itself well to slow adventure activities and sports tourism, in particular golf and angling. Angling is recognised as having been of particular value across the Destination, supporting smaller operators, accommodation and hospitality providers in areas outside of the more traditional tourism focal points and outside of the main tourism season, thus contributing significantly to regional and seasonal spread. Key attractions in the area include the Cavan County Museum, Arigna Mining Experience, The Shed Distillery, Lough Key Forest and Activity Park and the National Famine Museum at Strokestown Park. Key activity providers include Cavan Adventure Centre, Lough Allen Adventure, Shannon River Adventures, and the group of slow tourism providers under the umbrella of Slow Adventure Leitrim.

Opportunities are also afforded by the long distance walking route, the Beara Breifne Way, which enters the area on the Suck Valley Way and winds its way through the Destination before ending at Blacklion in Cavan. The Destination has finest forest parks in the country including Dún an Rí and Killykeen in Cavan, Glenfarne Woods in Leitrim, and Lough Key Forest And Activity Park in Roscommon, which provides one of the largest campsites in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands. Other notable and popular free attractions include Acres Lake (and the 'Snake on the Lake' boardwalk), Glencar Waterfall, Castle Saunderson, Roscommon Castle and upland amenities such as Sliabh Bawn. There are scenic towns, villages, excellent restaurants and bars, and stunning outdoor activity options in the outlying parts of the region.

The Ireland's Hidden Heartlands *Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027* introduces the principle of regenerative tourism and places it at the heart of the strategy. In the context of an evolving global focus on sustainability and climate action, a regenerative approach to tourism ensures community and place are at the centre of the tourism model, collectively working towards delivering a net positive benefit for all stakeholders – Visitor, Industry, Community and the Environment. A regenerative approach encourages tourism to give back more than it takes through engaging the visitor and industry in protecting and enhancing nature and its habitats, the host communities and local places. Nature will be central to destination development with the environment and sustainability front of mind in all future decision making.

2.2 Vision

The vision for the Upper Shannon, Shannon-Erne and Border Destination and Experience Development Plan states that:

“Nature is at the heart of an inspiring sustainable tourism destination, where tourism delivers net positive outcomes to communities and the environment. Ecotourism and slow adventure are the hallmarks of the destination delivered through best in class on and off the water experiences. The visitor hubs of Carrick-on-Shannon, Cavan and Roscommon Town have developed a year round appeal for tourism. Signature attractions such as the Beara Breifne Way, Shannon Erne Blueway, National Famine Way, Forests Parks and Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark inspire new levels of community and visitor engagement with slow tourism. Best in class water activities from Cruising on the Shannon to exploring our heritage through on water experiences provide inspiring visitor moments. A growing network of accredited Greenways, Blueways and trails have become the catalysts for regenerative tourism and the platform for visitors to connect with our local community delivering a year round economic impact.”

2.3 Strategic Objectives

The Plan is structured around the following strategic objectives and are closely aligned to the Strategic Objectives that are set out for the wider Hidden Heartlands region in the *Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027*:

1. Strategic Objective 1: Development of a destination based on regenerative tourism principles

Following regenerative tourism principles, establish the Upper Shannon, Shannon Erne and Border region as a destination with high standards in sustainable tourism development and a reduced carbon footprint.

Strategic Objectives:

- 1.1. Maximise the potential of the Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark to grow community-based tourism opportunities and demonstrate how visitors can engage with place-based eco-tourism experiences.
- 1.2. Develop the capability of the tourism industry and community tourism groups to develop new regenerative and ecotourism experiences for visitors, profiling the Destination’s commitment to sustainability and embracing the principle of regeneration as a platform for innovation.
- 1.3. Enable responsible visitor engagement with nature through sustainable in nature amenities such as the boardwalk at Acres Lake and developing viewing points and other appropriate interventions that highlight water and nature assets and the unique geology of Leitrim, Cavan and Roscommon.
- 1.4. Optimise the opportunities presented by the Just Transition Fund and, in particular, the Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme 2023-2027, to deliver new sustainable visitor experiences within communities in Roscommon.
- 1.5. Collectively achieve a reduction in carbon emissions in line with the targets set out in the National Climate Action Plan.
- 1.6. Seek opportunities to support the development of a national EV charging infrastructure, especially at visitor attractions and activity provider sites across the Destination.
- 1.7. Align with the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 in ensuring that the tourism activity in Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon ‘acts for nature’ in the development of awareness of biodiversity and its importance, and in the implementation of measures to enhance biosecurity measures throughout the Destination.

- 1.8. Grow national and international recognition for how the Destination facilitates the protection and enhancement of the environment as the fundamental asset of the visitor experience in counties Leitrim, Cavan and Roscommon.

2. Strategic Objective 2: Growth in Destination Awareness

Grow the profile of the Destination through collectively growing awareness, locally and in the domestic and international markets of Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon as great places to visit, where the visitor is assured of an authentic, place-based experience and which also delivers net positive benefits for the community, the environment, and the tourism industry.

Strategic Objectives:

- 2.1. Grow the demand generation capabilities of the tourism industry based on understanding visitor needs and motivations, and how to attract domestic and international visitors on a year-round basis aligned with the Fáilte Ireland Visitor Motivations Framework and the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Brand Toolkit.
- 2.2. Employ a visitor centric approach to the development of interpretation and orientation throughout the Destination that is aligned with the Fáilte Ireland Visitor Motivations Framework and the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Brand Toolkit.
- 2.3. Develop and strengthen the capacity and capability of tourism industry networks and tourism clusters to establish new ways of working together and collectively grow local awareness of existing and newly developed products and experiences.
- 2.4. Increase the tourism industry's engagement with the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands brand to collectively grow awareness and recognition of the regional experience brand to increase the share of the domestic and international market.
- 2.5. Elevate the profile of the Destination as a regenerative tourism destination characterised by a) visitors' ability to access quality and diverse eco-tourism and slow adventure tourism experiences and b) community pride in, and stewardship of, their cultural and natural environment and c) industry /stakeholders' respect for the environment as fundamental to the destination offering.
- 2.6. Grow the digital capabilities of the tourism industry to collectively grow destination visibility and sustained marketing of new experiences and motivational itineraries to encourage visitor dispersion into and across the area.
- 2.7. Increase the destination profile as a family and multi-generational holiday destination.
- 2.8. Grow awareness within the domestic market of signature destination experiences such as cruising.

3. Strategic Objective 3: Connection and integration of land and water-based trails

Deliver new levels of connectivity between new and existing trails, both land-based and water-based, across the Destination to create an enhanced and integrated scale of outdoor activity provision and development of best-in-class slow tourism hubs.

Strategic Objectives:

- 3.1. Deliver the Beara Breifne Way to become an internationally recognised way-marked walking trail and focal point for communities in the Destination to engage with the emerging tourism opportunities.
- 3.2. Develop the network of nationally accredited greenways, blueways and trails within the Destination and, where feasible and viable, connect with trails that facilitate and encourage visitor flow within the wider Hidden Heartlands' region, and to and from adjoining destinations; e.g. Ulster Way, Boyne Valley to Lakeland Greenway.
- 3.3. Integrate signature trails with other outdoor activities featured within the Tourism Masterplan for the Shannon; e.g. development, extension and accreditation of the Shannon and Shannon-Erne Blueways.
- 3.4. Develop links between trails, attractions and activities to facilitate new ways for visitors to access and interact with local experiences; e.g. the National Famine Way and the National Famine Museum | Strokestown Park, Arigna Mining Experience and the Miners' Way, Lough Key Forest and Activity Park and the Boyle – Carrick-on-Shannon Greenway, The Shed Distillery and Electric Bike Trails, Dún an Rí Forest Park and the Boyne Valley to Lakeland Greenway, and to and through the Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, e.g. Killykeen Forest Park and the Killykeen greenway.
- 3.5. Identify means and on-water routes that facilitate slow exploration of the Destination by water; e.g. through day-boat hire, small e-powered vessels, and/or water taxis.
- 3.6. Link existing and new land- and water-based trails to build a new scale of integrated trails and opportunities to enable visitors to engage with mix of eco-tourism and 'off the beaten track' opportunities that tap into the heritage and living culture of the local area.
- 3.7. Revitalise existing trails to become more place-based and experiential, based on their capacity to orientate the visitor to established or emerging destination experiences e.g. Táin Trail, Lough Allen Drive, Miners Way, Ulster Way.
- 3.8. Create a best-in-class approach to developing walking trail heads to grow the Destination profile as a centre of excellence for outdoor activity. This will be supported by a commitment to maintaining the quality of trails and maintenance plan to ensure the sustainable management of the trails experience.

4. Strategic Objective 4: Development of Place-based, Ecotourism Experiences

Develop the range and quality of visitor experiences across the Destination drawing on the natural, community and cultural heritage with a focus on ecotourism.

Strategic Objectives:

- 4.1. Develop new visitor experiences linked to eco-tourism and slow adventure leveraging the core destination assets such as the River Shannon, Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Geopark, Shannon

Erne Waterway, established and emerging national trails, forest parks and water amenities, whose core objective is the protection of the natural and/or cultural heritage.

- 4.2. Create compelling in nature visitor experience moments blended with local heritage, culture and activities that utilise the on land and water trail network of greenways and blueways.
- 4.3. Expand the opportunities for community tourism groups to enable visitors to immerse themselves in local culture through the development of new experiences linking agri-tourism, local heritage, food, and culture.
- 4.4. Develop eco-tourism experiences linked to water across, e.g. paddling, cruising, cycling, angling, identified through the Loughs Tapestry plan (see Section 4.2.7 below for Loughs Tapestry).
- 4.5. Create new cross-border and cross regional experiences to introduce new visitor flows into the Destination e.g. from/to the Wild Atlantic Way, Fermanagh Lakelands and Omagh and the Sperrins VEDP, and Ireland's Ancient East.
- 4.6. Maximise the opportunity provided by the National Famine Museum and the National Famine Way to connect businesses and communities with the diaspora market.
- 4.7. Build the capability of existing visitor attractions, cultural hubs (e.g. The Dock Art Gallery, Carrick on Shannon; King House, Boyle; Ramor Theatre, Virginia, among others) and activity providers to develop innovative visitor experiences to grow the range of things to do in the day and evening time.
- 4.8. Develop a number of signature climate neutral and sustainable destination experiences linked to the natural and cultural heritage and showcase the role of water in shaping the landscape and communities.
- 4.9. Develop the capability of the tourism industry to deliver new forms of nature-based wellbeing experiences and work with strategic partners to develop nature-based wellness opportunities in forest parks, on trails and on and beside water access points.
- 4.10. Develop angling across the Destination given its potential to support both geographic and seasonal dispersal.
- 4.11. Capitalise on the growing momentum signified by the development of the Hidden Heartlands' Golf Association and the existing high-quality (e.g. Slieve Russell PGA status) and extensive offering to develop the Destination's profile for international golfers.

5. Strategic Objective 5: Growth in Sustainable Economic Impact

Grow the economic impact of tourism and create high quality jobs in the Destination by supporting the industry to enhance its capacity and capability and by developing and enhancing the visitor services' provision.

Strategic Objectives:

- 5.1. Support tourism businesses to improve their capacity and capability through a range of support programmes, such as the Digital that Delivers Programme and the Employer Excellence Programme, as well as other more tailored training supports.

- 5.2. Develop the opportunity identified in the Tourism Masterplan for the Shannon and Discovery Zones to grow the ability of the main visitor hubs and towns such as Carrick on Shannon, Cavan and Roscommon Towns to disperse visitors across the wider Destination.
- 5.3. Build the profile of the Destination as a host for niche business tourism activity linking the tourism hubs of Carrick-on-Shannon, and Cavan and Roscommon Towns, as sustainable business tourism host venues.
- 5.4. Develop smaller towns across the Destination such as Manorhamilton, Drumshanbo, Boyle, Bailieborough, and Virginia as key service hubs from a daytime and evening-time visitor economy perspective, and enhance their ability to act as gateways to and from neighbouring regions.
- 5.5. Grow the level of available accommodation stock in our rural and urban areas to include hotel accommodation with alternative forms of accommodation linked to the outdoors. New accommodation development should strive for net-zero status.
- 5.6. Support the industry in developing saleable experiences for individual experience providers as well as bundled saleable experiences for clusters of experience providers where appropriate.
- 5.7. Deliver a range of developmental and promotional initiatives that are aimed at lengthening the visitor season by growing revenue during the shoulder season; e.g. targeted cruise-hire promotion during the shoulder season and the development of new festivals and events across the Destination during the shoulder season.
- 5.8. Deliver on the recommendations arising from the recently published *Feasibility Study for the Sustainable Development and Greening of the Cruise Hire Sector*, to ensure that the sector grows its capacity and diversifies its offering in a sustainable manner.
- 5.9. Work with education and training agencies in Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon to align investment in building capabilities and capacity with existing and new tourism enterprises.
- 5.10. Develop a community tourism training programme to build the capabilities of the community tourism enterprise sector to realise the social and economic potential of tourism for their locality.
- 5.11. Establish new sustainable transport options working with existing providers such as Local Link to enhance visitor access to local attractions, communities and activities, and support the night-time economy in key locations.
- 5.12. Maximise the visibility of the Destination, and access routes to the Destination at ferry ports, airports, in particular regional airports such as Ireland West (Knock) and Shannon Airports. Chart the visitor journey from the point of access to the Destination, in terms of all forms of transport, but particularly all the sustainable forms of transport, including 'the last mile'.
- 5.13. Improve the signage to attract visitors off bypasses (e.g., the new N5 bypass currently under construction) and Motorways, in order to grow the visitor footfall in the smaller towns.

6. Strategic Objective 6: Development of New Levels of Collaboration

Build new levels of tourism industry and stakeholder collaboration by strengthening of existing tourism networks and clusters and creating new ones where necessary.

- 6.1. Develop a network of geographic and themed clusters of visitor experiences rooted in regenerative tourism principles across the Destination to facilitate collaboration between the industry
- 6.2. Engender a pan-agency focus on tourism clusters and networks for tourism investment and collectively grow local community and business engagement to stimulate new tourism opportunities; e.g. the Geopark Sustainable Business network. Support networks which foster community level engagement in order to share learnings, mentoring opportunities and develop new community tourism experiences- e.g. Community Wetlands Forum.
- 6.3. Grow the capabilities of the Destination's visitor attractions and cultural hubs to work together, cross promote and collaborate, and with those in the neighbouring regional experience brands of the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Ancient East.
- 6.4. Deliver on the sustainable tourism objectives of the *Shannon Tourism Masterplan 2020-2030* in partnership with all agencies and stakeholders.
- 6.5. Grow cross border destination collaboration by working on collective initiatives such as Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Geopark, and Fermanagh Lakelands and Omagh and the Sperrins VEDP.
- 6.6. Ensure tourism is integrated as a key element of future placemaking activity; e.g. public realm projects, town and village enhancements.
- 6.7. Develop a collective tourism impact measurement system for the DEDP adopting a current situation baseline model to align stakeholder activity, programming and investment with the target outcomes of the plan underwritten by the VICE model as the basis for how success is measured.
- 6.8. Leverage partnering initiatives as collaborative platforms to drive regenerative tourism and the adoption of appropriate accreditation systems.

2.4 Destination Catalyst Overview

To achieve the above strategic objectives, the USSEB DEDP focuses on a number of 'destination catalyst' and 'destination enabling' initiatives. The catalyst initiatives and their key objectives are as follows:

Embed Regenerative Tourism - *To embed regenerative principles into all aspects of tourism development, delivery and measurement.*

Tourism Industry Capability Development - *To develop the capabilities of the tourism industry so that it is more resilient, more commercially viable, and more effective in how it markets the Destination domestically and internationally, and so that proactively collaborates within and across all tourism sectors and stakeholders in the development of the Destination.*

Accredited and Activated Greenways and Blueways - *Grow the number of nationally accredited greenways and blueways in the Destination that focuses on ensuring a quality visitor experience, in order to provide key slow tourism linkages between hubs and key attractions and activity providers.*

The North Shannon and Shannon-Erne Waterways - *Continue to deliver the Shannon Tourism Master Plan 2020-2030 in amplifying the North Shannon, and the Shannon-Erne Waterway, as core to the Destination, [...]*

The Beara Breifne Way - *Deliver the Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon elements of the Beara Breifne Way, the longest way-marked trail in Ireland, introducing new opportunities for visitors to explore places of the beaten track and generate community tourism development.*

Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark - *Grow the awareness of the Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark and develop the number of visitor experiences that enable visitors to uncover and explore the uniqueness of the place: the combination of geology, archaeology, folklore, community and landscape.*

The Loughs Tapestry - *Create a tapestry (network) of co-created responsible and regenerative tourism experiences, drawing on the Destination's lakeland topography and its associated 'hidden' natural and cultural heritage. Through this, create, a sense of scale and connectivity, encouraging visitors to explore further, and to visit and return at different times of the year. The approach to the development of the tapestry will ensure a greater appreciation by the visitor and host communities of the heritage of the area and how best it can be maintained for the long term benefit of all.*

Forest Adventure - *Building on the success of Lough Key, develop the forest park visitor experience across the USSEB to create a new scale of connected eco-tourism forest-based experiences.*

The catalyst initiatives detailed above will be supported through a significant number of destination enabling initiatives, which are individually listed in the DEDP Action Plan (Appendix 1). The overarching focus of the enabling initiative includes - *Accommodation, Community Tourism Experiences, Developing Attractions and Activity Providers, Connected Cultural Experiences, Connecting Outdoor Trails, Sustainable Transport, Tourism Gateways and Hubs and Festivals ad Events.*

The complete list of catalyst project and destination enabling projects are summarised in **Section 4.2.4.**

3 Stage 1: Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction

The first part of the Appropriate Assessment process is the Screening phase. Screening identifies the likely effects of the USSEB DEDP on European sites that could arise, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects and considers whether these impacts are likely to have a significant effect on the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

As per Section 1.3 and in accordance with Article 42 of the Habitats regulations, screening for appropriate assessment must be carried out. Screening must be undertaken without the inclusion of mitigation and it is in this context that this AA Screening Report is prepared.

Following screening therefore, if there is a possibility of there being a significant effect on a European site, this will generate the need for an appropriate assessment for the purposes of compliance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. This means that if the conclusions at the end of the screening exercise are that significant effects on any European sites, as a result of the USSEB DEDP, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, are likely, uncertain or unknown, then an Appropriate Assessment must be carried out. This is in accordance with established precedent and case law.

3.2 Potential Zone of Influence

This assessment is based on the source-pathway-receptor model, which dictates that, for an effect to occur, there must be a 'source' (such as a construction site); a 'receptor' (such as a designated site for nature conservation); and a 'pathway' between the two (such as a watercourse). A construction site or completed development may also create a barrier to movement, for example, by preventing the migration of fauna along a river corridor, or by obstructing the migration of birds.

Identification of a potential effect means that there is a possibility of ecological or environmental damage occurring, with the level and significance of the impact depending upon the nature and exposure to the potential effect and the characteristics of the receptor. Although there may be a risk of an impact, it may not necessarily occur, and if it does occur, it may not be significant.

There are no set recommended distances for projects to consider European sites as being relevant for assessment. DoEHLG (2010a, pp. 31 – 32) states that:

"The approach to screening is likely to differ somewhat for plans and projects, depending on scale and on the likely effects, but the following should be included:

1. Any Natura 2000 sites within or adjacent to the plan or project area
2. Any Natura 2000 sites within the likely zone of impact of the plan or project. A distance of 15km is currently recommended in the case of plans, and derives from UK guidance (Scott Wilson et al., 2006). For projects, the distance could be much less than 15km, and in some cases less than 100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects
3. Natura 2000 sites that are more than 15km from the plan or project area depending on the likely impacts of the plan or project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, bearing in mind the precautionary principle. In the cases of sites with water dependent habitats or species,

and a plan or project that could affect water quality or quantity, for example, it may be necessary to consider the full extent of the upstream and/or downstream catchment.”

The 2021 OPR guidelines, *Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*, state that the Zone of Influence “*should be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km)*” (p. 8).

Therefore, considering the nature, scale and location of the USSEB DEDP, and in accordance with the source-pathway-receptor model, the potential Zone of Influence for the USSEB DEDP includes any site to which there is a potential for impacts, as set out in the following sections.

3.3 Description of the Receiving Environment and the Potential Zone of Influence

The description of the receiving environment presented in this section has been based on a desktop study of relevant available information, as cited in the text.

The development plan for Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon promotes the development and strengthening of the overall value of tourism in this region as stated below.

The Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028 states that:

T 15 - The Council will support the preparation of Destination Experience Development Plans (DEDP) and other tourism masterplans both within the county and also those which crosses from the county into neighbouring counties in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and other tourism stakeholders. The Council will work with Fáilte Ireland to prepare and implement The Ancient Destination Experience Development Plan (ADEPD) as it extends into parts of the county.

The Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 states that:

TOUR OBJ 11 - To support the preparation of Destination Experience Development Plans (DEDP) and other tourism masterplans both within the county and also those which crosses from the county into neighbouring counties in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and other tourism stakeholders.

The Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 states that:

ED 6.24 - Support the preparation and implementation of Regional Tourism Plans in the County Development Plan, to support the continued collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and tourism stakeholders to ensure successful implementation and delivery of these tourism plans.

Regional Tourism Development Strategies (2023-2027) have been developed for each of Fáilte Ireland’s four Regional Experience Brands (Ireland’s Ancient East, Dublin, the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands). The purpose of the Regional Tourism Strategies is to identify sustainable tourism development priorities that will unlock the commercial potential of the region and generate socio-economic benefits for all local stakeholders and the tourism industry. Under the Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027, there is a requirement to prepare USSEB DEDP.

Biodiversity plays a significant role in the provision of clean air, water, healthy soils and food as well as visually contributing to a plan area with its natural beauty and heritage. Article 10 of the Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife, including for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna. The Directive requires that ecological connectivity and areas of ecological value outside the Natura 2000 network of designated ecological sites are maintained and it recognises the need for the management of these areas through land use planning and development policies. Ecological networks are important in connecting areas of local biodiversity with each other and with nearby designated sites so as to prevent islands of habitat from being isolated entities. They are composed of linear features, such as treelines, hedgerows and rivers / streams which provide corridors or stepping stones for wildlife species moving within their normal range.

Ecological corridors are important for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species, particularly for mammals, bats and small birds and facilitate linkages both between and within designated ecological sites, non-designated surrounding countryside and the more urban areas of the Counties.

The study area also shares a border with Northern Ireland and the potential for likely significant transboundary environmental effects have been considered.

Wetlands include a wide range of habitats including watercourses, marshes, fens, bogs, turloughs, wet woodlands and estuaries. They support a variety of habitats and species, function in the protection of water quality and flood control, are important carbon stores contributing to climate resilience, and provide open space and recreational opportunities.

3.3.1 Designated European Sites

Within the study area, there are a number of sites designated for protection under the Natura 2000 network. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are legally protected under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and are selected for the conservation of Annex I habitats and Annex II species. Special Protection Areas are protected under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 2009/147/EC.

Within the zone of influence, the SPAs and SACs sites within Northern Ireland, collectively referred to as the 'National Site Network' have also been assessed.

All designated Natura 2000 Sites located within the study area and zone of influence are listed in **Tables 3.1 and 3.2**. The transboundary National Site Network within the zone of influence are listed in **Table 3.3**. Refer to **Figure 3.1**.

Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs have been set for the habitats and species for which the sites have been selected. Site specific detailed conservation objectives are available on the NPWS website² for Ireland and on Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural affairs website³ for Northern Ireland.

² NPWS website 2024: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives>

³ DAERA website - <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/special-areas-conservation>

Table 3.1 European sites located within the study area

Site Code	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Site Code	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
004151	Donegal Bay SPA	000625	Bunduff Lough and Machair/ Trawalua/ Mullaghmore SAC
004187	Sligo/Leitrim uplands SPA	000428	Lough Melvin SAC
004050	Lough Arrow SPA	000623	Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC
004048	Lough Gara SPA	001403	Arroo Mountain SAC
004105	Bellanagare Bog SPA	001919	Glenade Lough SAC
004064	Lough Ree SPA	001976	Lough Gill SAC
004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	002032	Boleybrack Mountain SAC
004061	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA	000979	Corratirrim SAC
004065	Lough Sheelin SPA	000584	Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands SAC
004049	Lough Oughter Complex SPA	001673	Lough Arrow SAC
004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	002298	River Moy SAC
		002354	Tullaghanrock Bog SAC
		000595	Callow Bog SAC
		000614	Cloonshanville Bog SAC
		000592	Bellanagare Bog SAC
		001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC
		000612	Mullygollan Turlough SAC
		002110	Corliskea/Trien/Cloonfelliv Bog SAC
		000600	Cloonchambers Bog SAC
		002338	Drumalough Bog SAC
		000597	Carrowbehy/ Caher Bog SAC
		000607	Errit Lough SAC
		000604	Derrinea Bog SAC
		001571	Urlaur Lakes SAC
		000218	Coolcam Turlough SAC
		000297	Lough Corrib SAC
		002349	Corbo Bog SAC
		000440	Lough Ree SAC
		001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC
		000007	Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC
		000006	Killyconny Bog (Cloghbally) SAC
		002299	River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC

Table 3.2 European sites located within the potential zone of influence of the study area

Site Code	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Site Code	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
004115	Inishduff SPA	002340	Moneybeg and Clareisland Bogs SAC
004150	West Donegal Coast SPA	000191	St. John's Point SAC
004145	Durnesh Lough SPA	000133	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC
004099	Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA	000163	Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC
004068	Inishmurray SPA	001125	Dunragh Loughs/ Pettigo Plateau SAC
004135	Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA	000138	Durnesh Lough SAC
004234	Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA	000115	Ballintra SAC
004013	Drumcliff Bay SPA	001992	Tamur Bog SAC
004035	Cummeen Strand SPA	002164	Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC
004129	Ballysadare Bay SPA	002303	Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC
004097	River Suck Callows SPA	001680	Streedagh Point Dunes SAC
004140	Four Roads Turlough SPA	000627	Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC
004139	Lough Croan Turlough SPA	000622	Ballysadare Bay SAC
004045	Glen Lough SPA	000638	Union Wood SAC
004102	Garriskil Bog SPA	001898	Unshin River SAC
004043	Lough Derravaragh SPA	001656	Bricklieve Mountains and Keishcorran SAC
004046	Lough Iron SPA	000636	Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC
004047	Lough Owel SPA	002006	Ox Mountains Bogs SAC
004167	Slieve Beagh SPA	000634	Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog SAC
004091	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA	000633	Lough Hoe Bog SAC
		000637	Turloughmore (Sligo) SAC
		000492	Doocastle Turlough SAC
		000497	Flughany Bog SAC
		001899	Cloonakillina Lough SAC
		000504	Kilglassan/ Caheravoostia Turlough Complex SAC
		000503	Greaghans Turlough SAC
		000461	Ardkill Turlough SAC
		000541	Skealaghan Turlough SAC
		000295	Levally Lough SAC
		002197	Derrinlough (Cloonkeenleananode) Bog SAC

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Site Code	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Site Code	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
		000326	Shankill West Bog SAC
		001242	Carrownagappul Bog SAC
		002350	Curraghlahanagh Bog SAC
		002347	Camderry Bog SAC
		000301	Lough Lurgeen Bog/ Glenamaddy Turlough SAC
		000296	Lisnageeragh Bog and Ballinastack Turlough SAC
		000285	Kilsallagh Bog SAC
		002296	Williamstown Turloughs SAC
		000255	Croaghill Turlough SAC
		000588	Ballinturly Turlough SAC
		002200	Aughrim (Aghrane) Bog SAC
		000609	Lisduff Turlough SAC
		002199	Ballygar (Aghrane) Bog SAC
		001637	Four Roads Turlough SAC
		000610	Lough Croan Turlough SAC
		000611	Lough Funshinagh SAC
		002202	Mount Jessop Bog SAC
		002346	Brown Bog SAC
		002348	Clooneen Bog SAC
		000448	Fortwilliam Turlough SAC
		002341	Ardagullion Bog SAC
		000679	Garriskil Bog SAC
		000688	Lough Owel SAC
		002201	Derragh Bog SAC
		001810	White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo SAC
		002120	Lough Bane and Lough Glass SAC
		002121	Lough Lene SAC
		002203	Girley (Drewstown) Bog SAC
		001786	Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC
		000475	Carrowkeel Turlough SAC

Table 3.3 Transboundary European sites located within the potential zone of influence of the study area

Site Code	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Site Code	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
UK9020071	Upper Lough Erne SPA	UK0016614	Upper Lough Erne SAC
UK9020051	Pettigoe Plateau SPA	UK0030047	Lough Melvin SAC
UK9020302	Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA	UK0030116	Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River SAC
		UK0016603	Cuilcagh Mountain SAC
		UK0030212	Moninea Bog SAC
		UK0016607	Pettigoe Plateau SAC
		UK0030300	West Fermanagh Scarplands SAC
		UK0016619	Monawilkin SAC
		UK0030045	Largalunny SAC
		UK0030068	Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs SAC
		UK0016621	Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC

3.3.2 Nationally Designated Sites

Nationally Designated Sites include *Natural Heritage Areas* (NHAs) which are legally protected areas that are considered important for their habitats or which holds species of plants and animals whose habitat needs protection. *Proposed Natural Heritage Areas* (pNHAs) are also of significance for wildlife and habitats but have not yet been statutorily designated. However, under the Wildlife Amendment Act (2000) NHAs are legally protected from damage from the date they are formally proposed for designation⁴.

Also, in Northern Ireland protected sites include Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) which are protected areas that represent the wildlife and geological sites that make a considerable contribution to the conservation of valuable natural places and are protected under the Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002, Part IV.

Refer to **Tables 3.4** and **3.5** and **Figure 3.2** below for the NHAs and pNHAs located within the study area and within the potential zone of influence of the study area. **Table 3.6** below includes the transboundary ASSIs.

Table 3.4 Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) located within the study area and within the potential Zone of Influence

Site Code	Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) within the study area	Site Code	Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) within the potential zone of influence
002430	Aghavoghil Bog NHA	002415	Carrane Hill Bog NHA
002435	Crockauns/ Keelogyboy Bogs NHA	000235	Bracklagh Bog NHA
002384	Dough/ Thur Mountains NHA	001159	Lough Fad Bog NHA

⁴ NPWS website: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/nha>

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Site Code	Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) within the study area	Site Code	Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) within the potential zone of influence
002321	Corry Mountain Bog NHA	000151	Inishduff NHA
000617	Kilronan Mountain Bog NHA	001580	Girley Bog NHA
000009	Slieve Rushen Bog NHA	001324	Jamestown Bog NHA
001652	Tullaghan Bog (Roscommon) NHA	000684	Lough Derravaragh NHA
000603	Cornaveagh Bog NHA	001812	Lough Garr NHA
000591	Bella Bridge Bog NHA	001450	Mount Jessop Bog NHA
000220	Lough Namucka Bog NHA	001448	Forthill Bog NHA
000221	Moorfield Bog/ Farm Cottage NHA	000222	Suck River Callows NHA
000605	Derrycanan Bog NHA	000229	Ballygar Bog NHA
002072	Lisnarrigh Bog NHA	001227	Aughrim Bog NHA
001420	Corracramph Bog NHA	000283	Kilmore Bog NHA
001405	Cashel Bog (Leitrim) NHA	001244	Castle Ffrench East Bog NHA
000422	Aghnamona Bog NHA	001255	Derrynagran Bog and Esker NHA
000691	Rinn River NHA	001254	Derrinlough Bog NHA
001423	Cloonageeher Bog NHA	000247	Slieve Bog NHA
000985	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough NHA	000281	Keeloges Bog NHA
		000267	Funshin Bog NHA
		000292	Leaha Bog NHA
		000245	Clooncullaun Bog NHA
		001902	Slieveward Bog NHA
		000280	Castle Ffrench West Bog NHA

Table 3.5 Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) located within the study area and within the potential Zone of Influence

Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the study area	Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the potential zone of influence
000428	Lough Melvin pNHA	000133	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) pNHA
000625	Bunduff Lough And Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore pNHA	001125	Dunragh Loughs/Pettigo Plateau pNHA
000623	Ben Bulbin, Gleniff And Glenade Complex pNHA	000138	Durnesh Lough pNHA
001415	Kinlough Wood pNHA	000115	Ballintra pNHA
001403	Arroo Mountain pNHA	000191	St. John's Point pNHA
001404	Bonet River pNHA	000139	Erne Estuary/Finner Dunes pNHA
001919	Glenade Lough pNHA	002068	Carricknahorna Lough And Lough Gorman pNHA

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Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the study area	Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the potential zone of influence
001976	Lough Gill pNHA	001992	Tamur Bog pNHA
001418	O'Donnell's Rock Wood pNHA	001836	Annagheane Lough pNHA
002032	Boleybrack Mountain pNHA	001835	Lisabuck Lough pNHA
000986	Lough Macnean Upper pNHA	001786	Kilroosky Lough Cluster pNHA
000979	Corratirrim pNHA	001840	Lislannan Bog pNHA
000584	Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands pNHA	001839	Killyvilly Lough pNHA
000426	Kilgarriff Marsh pNHA	001838	Kilcorran Lough pNHA
001419	Owengar Wood pNHA	001837	Mullaglassan Lough pNHA
001409	Cromlin Bridge Wood pNHA	001785	Mullaghmore Lake (South) pNHA
001407	Corduff Lough pNHA	001602	Drumreaske Lough pNHA
001413	Garadice Lough Wood pNHA	001784	Rosefield Lake And Woodland pNHA
000974	Annagh Lough (Ballyconnell) pNHA	001612	Wright's Wood pNHA
000007	Lough Oughter And Associated Loughs pNHA	001611	Ulster Canal (Aghalisk) pNHA
000977	Clonty Lough pNHA	001783	Corcreeghy Lake And Woodland pNHA
000983	Glasshouse Lake pNHA	001781	Lisarilly Bog pNHA
000980	Drumkeen House Woodland pNHA	001606	Rafinny Lough pNHA
001841	Drumcor Lough pNHA	001601	Drumgole Lough pNHA
000984	Lough Garrow And Lough Gubdoo pNHA	001268	Cordoo Lough pNHA
000002	Bruse Hill pNHA	001666	Tassan Lough pNHA
000003	Cootehill Church pNHA	001607	Lough Smiley pNHA
000001	Dromore Lakes pNHA	000563	Muckno Lake pNHA
000988	Madabawn Marsh pNHA	001600	Drumakill Lough pNHA
000006	Killyconny Bog (Cloghbally) pNHA	001495	Lough Ross pNHA
000008	Lough Ramor pNHA	001605	Lough Egish pNHA
000987	Lough Sheelin pNHA	001595	Loughbawn House Loughs pNHA
000992	Lough Gowna pNHA	001596	Black And Derrygoony Loughs pNHA
000978	Cordonaghy Bog pNHA	001604	Gibson's Lough pNHA
000424	Clooncoe Wood And Lough pNHA	001599	Creevy Lough pNHA
001807	Lough Errew pNHA	002077	Nafarty Fen pNHA
001417	Lough Rinn pNHA	001671	Spring And Corcrin Loughs pNHA
001808	Lough Sallagh pNHA	001608	Monalty Lough pNHA
001642	Lough Boderg And Lough Bofin pNHA	000561	Lough Naglack pNHA
000608	Kilglass And Grange Loughs pNHA	000560	Lough Fea Demesne pNHA

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Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the study area	Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the potential zone of influence
001818	Lough Forbes Complex pNHA	001462	Drumcah, Toprass And Cortial Loughs pNHA
000440	Lough Ree pNHA	001803	Stephenstown Pond pNHA
000602	Corbo Bog pNHA	001461	Darver Castle Woods pNHA
001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) pNHA	001616	Louth Hall And Ardee Woods pNHA
001627	Corbally Turlough pNHA	000456	Stabannan-Braganstown pNHA
001617	Ardakillin Lough pNHA	001828	Reaghstown Marsh pNHA
001648	Shad Lough pNHA	001594	Ballyhoe Lough pNHA
000594	Brierfield Turlough pNHA	000552	Corstown Loughs pNHA
000612	Mullygollan Turlough pNHA	001454	Ardee Cutaway Bog pNHA
000598	Castleplunket Turlough pNHA	001558	Breakey Loughs pNHA
001624	Carrowreagh Turlough pNHA	001587	Mentrim Lough pNHA
000613	Rathnalulleagh Turlough pNHA	001806	Kildemock Marsh pNHA
001646	Newtown Turlough pNHA	000556	Lough Shesk pNHA
002110	Corliskea/Trien/Cloonfelliv Bog pNHA	000672	Aghalasty Fen pNHA
000218	Coolcam Turlough pNHA	000686	Lough Glore pNHA
001618	Attishane Turlough pNHA	001810	White Lough, Ben Loughs And Lough Doo pNHA
001645	Lough O'Flynn pNHA	001814	Lough Naneagh pNHA
000600	Cloonchambers Bog pNHA	000681	Hill Of Mael And The Rock Of Curry pNHA
001632	Drumalough Bog pNHA	001721	Lough Bane pNHA
000597	Carrowbehy/Caher Bog pNHA	002069	Ardagullion Bog pNHA
000607	Errit Lough pNHA	000679	Garriskil Bog pNHA
000604	Derrinea Bog pNHA	001687	Glen Lough pNHA
001571	Urlaur Lakes pNHA	000687	Lough Iron pNHA
001644	Lough Glinn pNHA	000673	Ballynafid Lake And Fen pNHA
000592	Bellanagare Bog pNHA	000692	Scragh Bog pNHA
000614	Cloonshanville Bog pNHA	000688	Lough Owel pNHA
001222	Ardagh Bog pNHA	001449	Lough Naback pNHA
002013	Tullaghanrock Bog pNHA	001822	Carrickglass Demesne pNHA
000587	Lough Gara pNHA	000447	Derrymore Bog pNHA
000457	Derrynabrock Bog pNHA	000442	Brown Bog pNHA
001643	Lough Drumharlow pNHA	000449	Lough Bannow pNHA
001402	Annagheary Lough pNHA	002103	Royal Canal pNHA

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Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the study area	Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the potential zone of influence
001421	Sheemore Wood pNHA	001819	Lough Bawn pNHA
001412	Drumhierny Wood pNHA	001821	Cordara Turlough pNHA
001636	Fin Lough (Roscommon) pNHA	000448	Fortwilliam Turlough pNHA
001633	Drumman's Island (Lough Key) pNHA	001443	Lough Slawn pNHA
001631	Drum Bridge (Lough Key) pNHA	001444	Derry Lough pNHA
001651	Tawnytaskin Wood (Lough Key) pNHA	000611	Lough Funshinagh pNHA
001638	Hog's Island (Lough Key) pNHA	000610	Lough Croan Turlough pNHA
000596	Corrigeenroe Marsh pNHA	001637	Four Roads Turlough pNHA
001673	Lough Arrow pNHA	000609	Lisduff Turlough pNHA
001920	Carrickaport Lough pNHA	000588	Ballinturly Turlough pNHA
000427	Lough Allen, South End and Parts pNHA	001242	Carrownagappul Bog pNHA
		001319	Summerville Lough pNHA
		000326	Shankill West Bog pNHA
		000256	Curraglehanagh Bog pNHA
		000323	Richmond Esker Nature Reserve pNHA
		001279	Kilkerrin Turlough pNHA
		000240	Camderry Bog pNHA
		000301	Lough Lurgeen Bog/Glenamaddy Turlough pNHA
		001282	Kiltullagh Lough pNHA
		000296	Lisnageeragh Bog And Ballinastack Turlough pNHA
		001237	Boyouanagh Turlough pNHA
		000285	Kilsallagh Bog pNHA
		000255	Croaghill Turlough pNHA
		000295	Levally Lough pNHA
		000263	Drumbulcaun Bog pNHA
		000289	Knockavanny Turlough pNHA
		000234	Belclare Turlough pNHA
		000282	Killower Turlough pNHA
		000331	Turlough O'Gall pNHA
		000224	Altore Lake pNHA
		000215	Rathbaun Turlough pNHA
		000503	Greaghans Turlough pNHA

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Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the study area	Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the potential zone of influence
		000504	Kilglassan/Caheravoostia Turlough Complex pNHA
		000461	Ardkill Turlough pNHA
		000541	Skealaghan Turlough pNHA
		000475	Carrowkeel Turlough pNHA
		001910	Mannin And Island Lakes pNHA
		000523	Lough Gower pNHA
		000511	Killaturly Turlough pNHA
		001657	Cloongoonagh Bog pNHA
		000510	Kilgarriff Bog pNHA
		000502	Gowlaun Bog pNHA
		000547	Tawnaghbeg Bog pNHA
		000497	Flughany Bog pNHA
		001899	Cloonakillina Lough pNHA
		001677	Moylough Turlough pNHA
		000633	Lough Hoe Bog pNHA
		000634	Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog pNHA
		002006	Ox Mountains Bogs pNHA
		000492	Doocastle Turlough pNHA
		001901	Quarryfield West Turlough pNHA
		000637	Turloughmore (Sligo) pNHA
		000636	Templehouse And Cloonacleigha Loughs pNHA
		001907	Fin And Riskeen Loughs pNHA
		001905	Feenagh And Bunnamuck Loughs pNHA
		001656	Bricklieve Mountains & Keishcorran pNHA
		001898	Unshin River pNHA
		001900	Meharth Lough pNHA
		001904	Knockmullin Fen pNHA
		001906	Lough Dargan pNHA
		001909	Ballygawley Lough pNHA
		000638	Union Wood pNHA
		000622	Ballysadare Bay pNHA
		001670	Knocknarea Mountain And Glen pNHA

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Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the study area	Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the potential zone of influence
		000627	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) pNHA
		001658	Colgagh Lough pNHA
		001680	Streedagh Point Dunes pNHA
		000630	Inishmurray pNHA

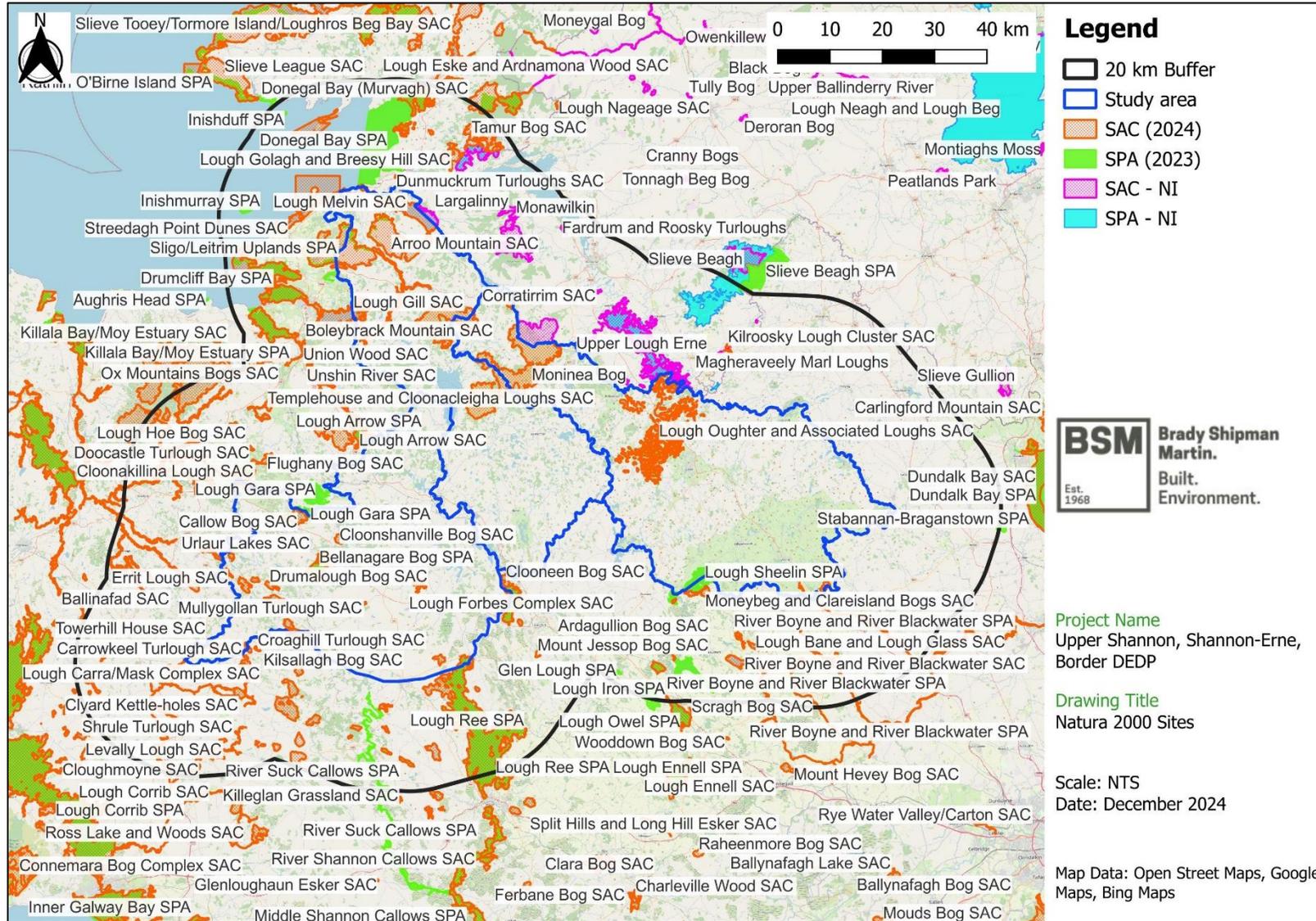
Table 3.6 Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) located within the potential zone of influence of the study area

Site Code	ASSIs within the potential zone of influence	Site Code	ASSIs within the potential zone of influence
ASSI 326	Larkhill ASSI	ASSI 236	Lenaghan Wood ASSI
ASSI 065	Pettigoe Plateau	ASSI 111	Largalinny ASSI
ASSI 247	Lough Scolban ASSI	ASSI 013	Monawilkin ASSI
ASSI 119	Magheramenagh ASSI	ASSI 244	Mullynaskeagh ASSI
ASSI 020	Drumlisaleen ASSI	ASSI 394	Tonnagh Quarry ASSI
ASSI 018	Moneendogue ASSI	ASSI 324	Keadew ASSI
ASSI 140	Lough Melvin ASSI	ASSI 016	Beagh Big ASSI
ASSI 017	Gavros ASSI	ASSI 322	Drumbegger ASSI
ASSI 019	Lergan ASSI	ASSI 427	Aghanaglack ASSI
ASSI 139	Ground Bridge ASSI	ASSI 144	Boho ASSI
ASSI 248	Lough Aleater ASSI	ASSI 235	Lurgan River Wood ASSI
ASSI 297	Knocknashangan ASSI	ASSI 428	Belmore Mountain ASSI
ASSI 403	Rushy Hill ASSI	ASSI 040	Horse Island ASSI
ASSI 332	Tower More ASSI	ASSI 282	Paris Island Big ASSI
ASSI 384	Scribbagh ASSI	ASSI 138	Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs ASSI
ASSI 400	Frevagh ASSI	ASSI 252	Banagher ASSI
ASSI 299	Ross ASSI	ASSI 269	Devenish Island ASSI
ASSI 353	Lough Anierin ASSI	ASSI 314	Largy Quarry ASSI
ASSI 385	Stranacally ASSI	ASSI 350	Castlecoole ASSI
ASSI 190	Tullysrnadeega ASSI	ASSI 120	Bellanaleck ASSI
ASSI 331	Glen East ASSI	ASSI 075	Mill Lough ASSI
ASSI 402	Drumcully ASSI	ASSI 364	Tempo River ASSI
ASSI 001	Carrickbawn ASSI	ASSI 249	Lough Corry ASSI

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Site Code	ASSIs within the potential zone of influence	Site Code	ASSIs within the potential zone of influence
ASSI 393	Lough Alaban ASSI	ASSI 382	Carnmore ASSI
ASSI 271	Big Dog Scarps and Lakes ASSI	ASSI 122	Drumacrittin Lough ASSI
ASSI 359	Lough Naman Bog and Lake ASSI	ASSI 121	Annachullion Lough ASSI
ASSI 380	Lough Formal ASSI	ASSI 081	Burdautien Lough ASSI
ASSI 201	West Fermanagh Scarplands ASSI	ASSI 080	Summerhill Lough ASSI
ASS 1242	Conagher ASSI	ASSI 078	Kilroosky Lough ASSI
ASSI 168	Glennasheevar ASSI	ASSI 014	Knockballymore Lough ASSI
ASSI 270	Lough Navar Scarps and Lakes ASSI	ASSI 110	Finn Floods ASSI
ASSI 191	The Cliffs of Magho ASSI	ASSI 090	Upper Lough Erne – Galloon ASSI
ASSI 108	Braade ASSI	ASSI 071	Upper Lough Erne – Crom ASSI
ASSI 298	Blackslee ASSI	ASSI 076	Killymackan Lough ASSI
ASSI 041	Dernish Island ASSI	ASSI 015	Moninea Bog ASSI
ASSI 094	Upper Lough Erne – Trannish ASSI	ASSI 366	Gortalughany ASSI
ASSI 166	Knockninny Hill ASSI	ASSI 376	Florence Court ASSI
ASSI 054	Inishroosk ASSI	ASSI 070	Tattenamona Bog ASSI
ASSI 093	Upper Lough Erne – Belleisle ASSI	ASSI 375	Marlbank ASSI
ASSI 048	Corraslough Point ASSI	ASSI 207	Kilnameel ASSI
ASSI 200	Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River ASSI	ASSI 069	Cuilcagh Mountain ASSI

Figure 3.1 European Sites within the study area and in the surrounding the potential zone of influence



3.3.3 Hydrology

The latest *Water Quality in Ireland* report 2016-2021 was published by the EPA in 2022. This report contains the most up-to-date and comprehensive assessment of the ecological health of Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, canals, transitional waters and coastal waters following the completion of the first six-year cycle of the WFD. The results shows that a considerable amount of work is still required to meet the environmental objectives of the WFD.

The study area covers the following WFD catchments - Erne Catchment (36), Sligo Bay (35), Upper Shannon (26A), Newry, Fane, Glyde and Dee (06), Boyne (07), Upper Shannon (26F), Upper Shannon (26C), Upper Shannon (26E), Upper Shannon (26D), Corrib (30), Upper Shannon (26B) and Moy & Killala Bay (34).

The status of the **river waterbodies** within the study area ranges from '*poor*' to '*high*'. The status of the **lake waterbodies** within the study area ranges from '*bad*' to '*high*'. There are no transitional or coastal waterbodies within the study area. The Donegal Bay Southern (IE_WE_430_0000) waterbody is immediately to the north of the study area and has '*High*' WFD status.

Groundwater Quality Status between 2016 and 2021 was generally '*good*'s across the groundwater bodies within the study area. The groundwater vulnerability of study area ranges from '*low*' to '*extreme*'. The GSI rates aquifers according to both their productivity and vulnerability to pollution. Aquifer vulnerability is the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter underground water. The study area is underlain with both regionally important and locally important bedrock. There are no gravel aquifers within the study area.

A number of these protected areas are present within the study area and these are as follows:

- The entire ground waterbody beneath the study area is included on the Drinking Water - Ground Waterbody.
- WFD RPA Nutrient Sensitive Areas (Lake, Coastal & Transitional waterbodies) – Lough Oughter, County Cavan (NW_36_657) & Lough Ree on the River Shannon (SH_26_750a)
- WFD RPA Nutrient Sensitive Areas (Rivers) - Cavan River (IEGBNIRI_NW_2001_0013) & Shannon River (IERI_SH_2001_0018)
- WFD RPA Shellfish Areas – Drumcliff Shellfish Area and Sligo Bay Shellfish Area, c. 8.7km to the west of the study area
- Salmonid Rivers – Owengrave Sligo (IE_WE_340030100)

3.3.3.1 Designated Shellfish Waters

The *EU Shellfish Waters Directive* (2006/113/EC) aims to protect and improve shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth.

Pollution reduction programmes are in operation for these areas. The identified pressures on these designated waters include urban wastewater systems, on-site wastewater treatment systems and port activities. The coastal waters provide an important resource, supporting and generating employment and recreational activities and must be protected.

There is no area of Shellfish waters within the study area. The closest ones are Drumcliff Shellfish Area and Sligo Bay Shellfish Area, c. 8.7km to the west of the study area.

⁵ EPA Groundwater Quality Data - <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

3.3.3.2 Salmonid Waters

The *Salmonid Regulations* (S.I. No. 293 of 1988) designate waters capable of supporting salmon (*Salmo salar*), trout (*Salmo trutta*), char (*Salvelinus*) and whitefish (*Coregonus*) as protected. Thirty-four rivers, tributaries and lakes in Ireland are listed and protected under these Regulations that prescribe quality standards for salmonid waters, sampling programmes and methods of analysis and inspection to be used by local authorities to determine compliance with the standards.

The Owengrave Sligo on the border of County Roscommon is a designated Salmonid Water under the EU Freshwater Fish Directive.

3.3.4 Other Designations

RAMSAR Sites

Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention. Wetlands are important ecosystems, which improve water quality, provide storm protection, flood mitigation, stabilise shorelines, maintain biodiversity, and provide natural products such as fish and shellfish. Ireland presently has 45no. RAMSAR sites. Relevant authorities are expected to manage their Ramsar Sites so as to maintain their ecological character and retain their essential functions and values for future generations. The only Ramsar Site within the study area is Lough Oughter (Ramsar Site no. 853) in County Cavan. There is also Lough Gara (Ramsar Site no. 852) in County Sligo, c. 250m to the north-west of the study area.

Wildfowl Sanctuaries

Wildfowl sanctuaries are areas that have been excluded from the 'Open Season Order' so that game birds can rest and feed undisturbed. There are 68no. sanctuaries in the State⁶. Shooting of game birds is not allowed in these sanctuaries. The Lough Ramor (WFS-03) and Dartrey/Fairfield (WFD-04) is located within County Cavan. There are no sites within County Leitrim. The Annaghmore Lough (WFS-44), Lough Croan (WFS-45), Lough Funshinagh (WFS-46) and Lough Key (part) (WFS-47) are located within County Roscommon.

Nature Reserves

Other nature conservation designations are *Statutory Nature Reserves*, which are protected under Ministerial order. There are no nature reserves within the study area. The closest nature reserve is the Union Wood Nature Reserve in County Sligo, c. 25km to the west of the study area.

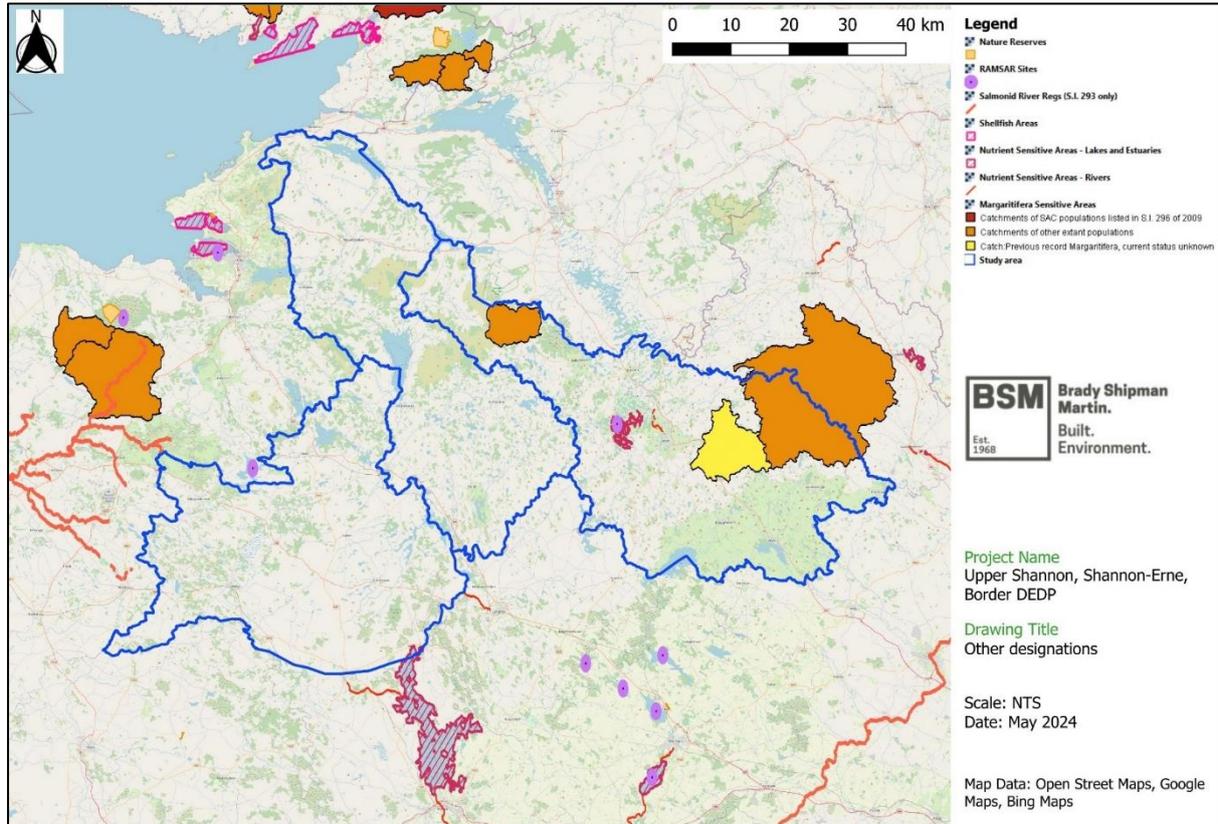
Margaritifera Sensitive Area

Freshwater pearl mussel is a globally threatened, long-lived and extremely sensitive species that can be impacted by many forms of pollution, particularly sediment and nutrient pollution and by hydrological and morphological changes, which may arise from developments, activities or changes in any part of the catchment. There are two species of freshwater pearl mussel in Ireland (*Margaritifera margaritifera* and *Margaritifera durrovensis*) and both are protected under Annex II and Annex V of the EU Habitats Directive. Within the study area the *Margaritifera* Sensitive Areas are found within the following – Erne Claddagh or Swanlinbar, Erne-Annalee-Larah and Erne-Annalee.

⁶ NPWS (2021).

Refer to **Figure 3.3** below.

Figure 3.3 Other Designated Sites within the study area and in the surrounding area



3.3.5 Potential for significant effects on Natura 2000 sites

The effects that could arise from the USSEB DEDP have been examined in the context of several factors that could potentially affect the integrity of any European site, see **Table 3.7** below.

Table 3.7 Potential for significant effects on designated sites in the potential Zone of Influence

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
European sites <i>within</i> the study area			
Donegal Bay SPA (site code 004151) within the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A003 Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) (wintering) ■ A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) (wintering) ■ A065 Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) (wintering) ■ A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) (wintering) ■ A999 Wetlands <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 17 May 2012), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the bird species or habitat listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes
Sligo/Leitrim uplands SPA (site code 004187) within the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A103 Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A346 Chough (<i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
Lough Arrow SPA (site code 004050) within the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A004 Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) ■ A061 Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) ■ A999 Wetland and Waterbirds <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition of the bird species listed. To acknowledge the importance of Ireland’s wetlands to wintering waterbirds a second objective has been included to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.		
Lough Gara SPA (site code 004048) within the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A038 Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus Cygnus</i>) ■ A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes
Bellanagare Bog SPA (site code 004105) within the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.	objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Lough Ree SPA (site code 004064) within the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A004 Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) ■ A038 Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus Cygnus</i>) ■ A050 Wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>) ■ A052 Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) ■ A053 Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) ■ A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) ■ A061 Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) ■ A065 Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) ■ A067 Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangul</i>) ■ A125 Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) ■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) ■ A142 Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) ■ A193 Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) ■ A999 wetland and Waterbirds <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>12 October 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed. To acknowledge the importance of Ireland's wetlands to wintering waterbirds a second objective has been included to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.</p>		
<p>Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA (site code 004101) within the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA (site code</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
004061) within the study area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A059 Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) ■ A061 Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) ■ A999 Wetland and Waterbirds <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed. To acknowledge the importance of Ireland’s wetlands to wintering waterbirds a second objective has been included to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.</p>	<p>permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
Lough Sheelin SPA (site code 004065) within the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A061 Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) ■ A067 Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangul</i>) ■ A059 Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) ■ A005 Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) ■ A999 Wetland and Waterbirds 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed. To acknowledge the importance of Ireland's wetlands to wintering waterbirds a second objective has been included to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.</p>	<p>objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Lough Oughter Complex SPA (site code 004049) within the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A005 Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) ■ A038 Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus Cygnus</i>) ■ A050 Wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>) ■ A999 Wetland and Watrebirds <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022), for each of the listed SCIs,</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed. To acknowledge the importance of Ireland's wetlands to wintering waterbirds a second objective has been included to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.</p>		
<p>River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (site code 004232) within the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A229 Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 02 July 2024), for the listed SCI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Lough Melvin SAC (site code 000428) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> ■ 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 03 December 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
Arroo Mountain SAC (site code 001403) within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths ■ 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) ■ 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8120 Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>) ■ 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 31 Aug 2016), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>		
Glenade Lough SAC (site code 001919) within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) ■ 1833 Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) ■ 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 26 Nov 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.		
Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC (site code 000623) within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1013 Geyer's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation ■ 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths ■ 5130 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) ■ 6230 Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)* 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels ■ 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) ■ 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs ■ 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)* ■ 7230 Alkaline fens ■ 8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) ■ 8120 Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii) ■ 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 21 Dec 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>		

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
Lough Gill SAC (site code 001976) within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) ■ 1095 Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) ■ 1096 Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) ■ 1099 River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) ■ 1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) ■ 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles ■ 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 15 Dec 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>		
<p>Boleybrack Mountain SAC (site code 002032) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds ■ 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) ■ 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 17 Aug 2016), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
Corratirrim SAC (site code 000979) within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8240 Limestone pavements* <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 17 Apr 2019), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes
Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands SAC (site code 000584) within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1393 Slender Green Feather-moss (<i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i>) ■ 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) ■ 3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds ■ 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths ■ 6230 Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) ■ 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs ■ 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)* ■ 8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) ■ 8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 05 Sep 2016), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>		
<p>Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (site code 000007) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation ■ 91D0 Bog woodland* 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 26 Nov 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Kilconny Bog (Cloghbally) SAC (site code 000006) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 02 Nov 2015), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (site code 002299) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1099 River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) ■ 1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 7230 Alkaline fens 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 03 Dec 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Lough Forbes Complex SAC (site code 001818) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion ■ 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 04 May 2016), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>		
<p>Lough Ree SAC (site code 000440) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) ■ 7110 Active raised bogs* ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7230 Alkaline fens ■ 8240 Limestone pavements* ■ 91D0 Bog woodland* ■ Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 09 Aug 2016), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>		
<p>Corbo Bog SAC (site code 002349) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 25 Nov 2015), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Annaghmore Lough Roscommon SAC (site code 001626) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1013 Geyer's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) ■ 7230 Alkaline fens 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 31 Jan 2019), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Mullygollan Turlough SAC (site code 000612) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 29 Jan 2018), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Corliskea/ Trien/ Cloonfelliv Bog SAC (site code 002110) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion ■ 91D0 Bog woodland 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 17 Feb 2016), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Cloonchambers Bog SAC (site code 000600) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 18 Jan 2016), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Drumalough Bog SAC (site code 002338) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 03 Aug 2016), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Carrowbehy/Caher Bog SAC (site code 000597) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 09 Nov 2015), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Coolcam Turlough SAC (site code 000218) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 07 Nov 2017), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Lough Corrib SAC (site code 000297) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1029 Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) ■ 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) ■ 1095 Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) ■ 1096 Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) ■ 1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) ■ 1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 6216 Slender Green Feather-moss (<i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i>) ■ 1833 Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) ■ 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea ■ 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. ■ 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) ■ 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion 		

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davalliana</i> ■ 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) ■ 7230 Alkaline fens ■ 8240 Limestone pavements ■ 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles ■ 91D0 Bog woodland <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 28 Apr 2017), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore or maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>		
Errit Lough SAC (site code 000607) within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 18 Dec 2017), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.	objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Urlaur Lakes SAC (site code 001571) within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 15 Dec 2017) for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes
Derrinea Bog SAC (site code 000604) within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 02 Nov 2015), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.		
Bellanagare bog SAC (site code 000592) within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 27 Nov 2015), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes
Cloonshanville Bog SAC (site code 000614) within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs* ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion ■ 91D0 Bog woodland* <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 21 January</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	2016), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore or maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.	objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Callow Bog SAC (site code 000595) within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 19 Jan 2016), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes
Tullaghanrock Bog SAC (site code 002354) within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 15 Dec 2015) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>River Moy SAC (site code 002298) within the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) ■ 1095 Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) ■ 1096 Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) ■ 1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 7110 Active raised bogs* ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion ■ 7230 Alkaline fens ■ 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles ■ 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>(Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6510 Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 03 Aug 2016) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>		
Lough Arrow SAC (site code 001673) within the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 21 Oct 2021) for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes
Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC (site code	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
000625) within the study area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 1395 Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) ■ 21A0 Machairs (* in Ireland) ■ 5130 Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) ■ 7230 Alkaline fens ■ 1065 Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) ■ 1351 Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 03 Mar 2015)</p>	<p>permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the USSEB DEDP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore or maintain the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out		
European sites outside the study area but potentially within the potential Zone of Influence of the USSEB DEDP			
Inishduff SPA (site code 004115) c. 18km to the north-west of the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A018 Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022) for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 18km to the north-west of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via Donegal Bay (Erne). However, considering the distance to the site, significant dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur and upon reaching the sea any pollutants would be even further diluted and dissipated by the receiving waters. Therefore, there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
West Donegal Coast SPA (site code 004150) c. 20km to the north-west of the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A009 Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A017 Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) ■ A018 Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) ■ A103 Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) ■ A184 Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) ■ A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) ■ A200 Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) ■ A346 Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022) for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 20km to the north-west of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via Donegal Bay (Erne). However, considering the distance to the site, significant dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur and upon reaching the sea any pollutants would be even further diluted and dissipated by the receiving waters. Therefore, there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Durnesh Lough SPA (site code 004145) c. 10.5 km to the north of the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A038 Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) ■ A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 10.5km to the north of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>12 October 2022) for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA (site code 004099) c. 20.0 km north-east of the area of study</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022) for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 20km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Inishmurray SPA (site code 004068) c. 14.3 km north-west of the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A018 Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) ■ A045 Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) ■ A184 Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) ■ A194 Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 18km to the north-west of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via Donegal Bay (Erne). There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022) for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA (site code 004135) c. 18.2 km to the west of the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A017 Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) ■ A045 Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022) for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 18.2km to the west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA (site code 004234) c. 15.5 km west of the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A045 Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022) for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 15.5km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Drumcliff Bay SPA (site code 004013) c. 7.5 km to the west of the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) ■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) ■ A999 Wetlands <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 04 Sep 2013) for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 7.5km to the west of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via Glencar Lough and Drumcliff River which flows into the Drumcliff Estuary. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Cummeen Strand SPA (site code 004035) c. 8.8 km to the west of the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A046 Brent Goose Branta (<i>bernicla hrota</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) ■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) ■ A999 Wetland <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 10 Sep 2013), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 8.8km to the west of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via Lough Gill, Garavoge River and Willsborough Stream all of which flows into the Garavoge Estuary. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Ballysadare Bay SPA (site code 004129) c. 11.2 km to the west of the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A046 Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) ■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) ■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) ■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) ■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) ■ A999 Wetlands <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 25 Oct 2013), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 11.2km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed and wetland habitat.		
River Suck Callows SPA (site code 004097) c. 2.85 km south of the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A038 Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) ■ A050 Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) ■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) ■ A142 Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) ■ A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) ■ A999 Wetlands <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 15 Nov 2022) for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition of the bird species listed</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 2.85km to the south of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via River Suck. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes
Four Roads Turlough SPA (site code 004140) c. 12.9 km south of the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) ■ A999 Wetland <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022) for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition of the bird species listed. To acknowledge the importance of Ireland’s wetlands to wintering waterbirds a second objective has been included to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.</p>	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 12.9km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Lough Croan Turlough SPA (site code 004139) c. 14.3 km to the south of the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) ■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) ■ A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A999 Wetland <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12/10/2022) for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition of the bird species listed. To acknowledge the importance of Ireland’s wetlands to wintering waterbirds a second objective has been included to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.</p>	<p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 14.3km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Glen Lough SPA (site code 004045) c. 18.0 km to the south of the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A038 Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022) for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 18.0km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
		objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Garriskil Bog SPA (site code 004102) c. 13.5km to the south of the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022) for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.13.5km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Lough Derravaragh SPA (site code 004043) c. 12.5 km to the south of the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A038 Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) ■ A059 Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) ■ A061 Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) ■ A125 Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) ■ A999 Wetland <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 16/07/2024)</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 12.5km to the south of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via Inny (Shannon) River. However, considering the distance to the site and dilution and mixing of surface waters, there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives,</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition of the bird species and habitats listed.</p>	<p>destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Lough Iron SPA (site code 004046) c. 18 km to the south of the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A038 Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) ■ A050 Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) ■ A052 Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) ■ A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) ■ A125 Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) ■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) ■ A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) ■ A999 Wetland <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 28 May 2024) for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition of the bird species listed and habitat listed.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 18km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
<p>Lough Owel SPA (site code 004047) c. 19.2 km to the south of the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) ■ A125 Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) ■ A999 Wetland <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022) for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition of the bird species listed. To acknowledge the importance of Ireland’s wetlands to wintering waterbirds a second objective has been included to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 18km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Slieve Beagh SPA (site code 004167) c. 20 km north-east of the study area</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A082 Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 23 Sep 2022)</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	for the listed SCI, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition of the bird species listed.	This Natura 2000 Site is c. 20km north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Stabannan-Braganstown SPA (site code 004091) c. 20 km to the east of the study area	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A043 Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 15 Nov 2022) for the listed SCI, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 20km east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Moneybeg and Clareisland Bogs SAC (site code 002340) adjacent to the south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is adjacent to the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via Lough Sheelin. There is therefore potential for significant</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 25 Feb 2016), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>St. John’s Point SAC (site code 000191) c.12 km to the north-west of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) ■ 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) ■ 7230 Alkaline fens ■ 8240 Limestone pavements ■ 8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves ■ 1065 Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 12km to the north-west of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via Donegal Bay (Erne). However, considering the distance to the site, significant dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur and upon reaching the sea any pollutants would be even further diluted and dissipated by the receiving waters. Therefore, there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1349 Common Bottlenose Dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 10 March 2015) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>		
<p>Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (sitecode 000133) c. 14km to the north of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1365 Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) ■ 2130 *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') ■ 2190 Humid dune slacks ■ 2170 Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 09 July 2012) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 14km to the north of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via Donegal Bay (Erne). However, considering the distance to the site, significant dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur and upon reaching the sea any pollutants would be even further diluted and dissipated by the receiving waters. Therefore, there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.		
Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC (site code 000163) c. 21.3km to the north of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1028 Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) ■ 1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) ■ 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) ■ 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)* ■ 1421 Killarney Fern (<i>Vandenboschia speciosa</i>) ■ 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 11 September 2019) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 21.3km north of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Dunragh Loughs/ Pettigo Plateau SAC (site code	The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:	Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
001125) c. 19.4 km to the north of the study area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ■ 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 16 May 2017) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 19.4km north of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
Durnesh Lough SAC (site code 000138) c. 9.7 km to the north of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1150 Coastal lagoons ■ 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 05 Oct 2016) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.9.7km to the north of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via Donegal Bay (Erne). However, considering the distance to the site, significant dilution and mixing of surface and sea water would occur and upon reaching the sea any pollutants would be even further diluted and dissipated by the receiving waters. Therefore, there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
Ballintra SAC (site code 000115) c. 11.5 km to the north-east of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 8240 Limestone pavements <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 15 Apr 2019) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 11.5km north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Tamur Bog SAC (site code 001992) c. 12.7 km to the north-east of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ■ 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 29 May 2017) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 12.7km north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC (site code 002164) c. 7.84km north-east to the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 29 May 2017) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 7.8km north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC (site code 002303) c. 1.8 km to the north of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs* <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 22 Jan 2021) for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 1.8km north of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Streedagh Point Dunes SAC (site code 001680)	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
c.4.8km to the north-west of the study area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1014 Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) ■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 19 Mar 2015) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 4.8km north-west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (site code 000627) c.	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1014 Marsh snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
8.8 km west of the study area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1095 Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) ■ 1099 River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) ■ 1130 Estuaries ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1365 Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) ■ 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)* ■ 5130 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) ■ 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)* 	<p>permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 8.8km to the west of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via Lough Gill, Garavoge River and Willsborough Stream all of which flows into the Garavoge Estuary and also via Glencar Lough and Drumcliff River which flows into the Drumcliff Estuary. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 02 July 2024) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>		
<p>Ballysadare Bay SAC (site code 000622) c. 11.2 km west of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1014 Narrow-mouthed Whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) ■ 1365 Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) ■ 1130 Estuaries ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1365 Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) ■ 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes ■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) ■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) ■ 2190 Humid dune slacks <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 20 Nov 2013) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 11.2km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.		
Union Wood SAC (site code 000638) c. 9.0 km to the west of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 11 Jan 2021) for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 9.0km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Unshin River SAC (site code 001898) c. 8.1 km west of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) ■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) ■ 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 8.1km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) ■ 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 15 Dec 2021) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Bricklieve Mountains and Keishcorran SAC (site code 001656) c. 3.3 km west of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1065 Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) ■ 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) ■ 3180 Turloughs* ■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 3.3km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6510 Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) ■ 8120 Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>) <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 17 Dec 2021) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC (site code 000636) c. 15.2 km west of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. ■ 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 21 Oct 2021)</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 15.2km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out	objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Ox Mountains Bogs SAC (site code 002006) c. 17 km north-west of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1013 Geyer's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) ■ 1528 Marsh Saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>) ■ 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) ■ 3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds ■ 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ■ 4030 European dry heaths ■ 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) ■ 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 11 Aug 2016)</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 17km north-west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.		
Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog SAC (site code 000634) c. 17.7 km west of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 26 Mar 2019) for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 17.7km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Lough Hoe Bog SAC (site code 000633) c. 19.33 km north-west of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1013 Geyer's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) ■ 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) ■ 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 19.33 km north-west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog) <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 31 Aug 2017) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Turloughmore (Sligo) SAC (site code 000637) c. 10.1 km west of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs* <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 15 Jan 2021) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 10.1 km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Doocastle Turlough SAC (site code 000492) c. 6.8 km west of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs* <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 16 Dec 2020) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 6.8km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Flughany Bog SAC (site code 000497) c. 5.3 km west of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 18 Jan 2016) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 5.3km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Cloonakillina Lough SAC (site code 001899) c. 5.1 km west of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 17 Jul 2019) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 5.1km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Kilglassan/ Caheravoostia Turlough Complex SAC (site code 000504) c. 18.7 km west of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs* <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 15 Jan 2021) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 18.7km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Greaghans Turlough SAC (site code 000503) c. 17.7 km west of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs* <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 11 Jan 2021) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 17.7km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
Ardkill Turlough SAC (site code 000461) c. 15.6 km west of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs* <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 16 December 2020) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 15.6km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Skealaghan Turlough SAC (site code 000541) c. 15 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs* <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 15 January 2021) for the listed QIs, the Conservation</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 15.0km west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
Levally Lough SAC (site code 000295) c. 15 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs* <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 16 Dec 2020) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 15.0km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Derrinlough (Cloonkeenleananode) Bog SAC (site code 002197) c. 16.7 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 19 Jul 2023) for</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 16.7km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Shankill West Bog SAC (site code 000326) c. 19.2 km south-west of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 09 Nov 2015) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 19.2km south-west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Carrownagappul Bog SAC (site code 001242) c. 18.4km south-west of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 02 Nov 2015) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 18.4km south-west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Curraghleanagh Bog SAC (site code 002350) c. 15.5 km south-west of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 30 Nov 2015) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 15.5km south-west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Camderry Bog SAC (site code 002347) c. 10.9 km</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
south-west of the study area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 24 Nov 2015) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 10.9km south-west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
Lough Lurgeen Bog/ Glenamaddy Turlough SAC (site code 000301) c. 11.2 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs ■ 3270 Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidention</i> p.p. vegetation ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 04 Apr 2016) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 11.2km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out		
Lisnageeragh Bog and Ballinastack Turlough SAC (site code 000296) c. 9.8 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 22 Mar 2016) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore or maintain the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 9.8km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Kilsallagh Bog SAC (site code 000285) c. 4.7 km south-west of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 12 Nov 2015)</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 4.7km south-west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.	there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Williamstown Turloughs SAC (site code 002296) c. 450m south-west of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 31 Jan 2018) for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 450m south-west of the study area. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes
Croaghill Turlough SAC (site code 000255) c. 1.8 km south-west of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 20 Nov 2017) for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 1.8km south-west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
		objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Ballinturly Turlough SAC (site code 000588) c. 4.4 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 29 Jan 2018) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 4.4km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Aughrim (Aghrane) Bog SAC (site code 002200) c. 9.9 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 13 Jun 2023) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 9.9km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
		objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Lisduff Turlough SAC (site code 000609) c. 8.6 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 15 Jan 2018) for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 8.6km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Ballygar (Aghrane) Bog SAC (site code 002199) c. 11.7 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs* ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 13 Jun 2023) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 11.7km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
		objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Four Roads Turlough SAC (site code 001637) c. 12.8 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 09 Feb 2018) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 12.8km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Lough Croan Turlough SAC (site code 000610) c. 14.4km south of the area of study	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 12 Jan 2018) for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 14.4km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
		objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Lough Funshinagh SAC (site code 000611) c. 12.6 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs ■ 3270 Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidention</i> p.p. vegetation <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 19 Feb 2018) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 12.6km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Mount Jessop Bog SAC (site code 002202) c. 11.6 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 91D0 Bog woodland* <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 13 June 2023) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 11.6km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
		objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Brown Bog SAC (sitecode 002346) c. 3.7 km south-west of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 18 Feb 2016) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 3.7 km south-west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Clooneen Bog SAC (sitecode 002348) c. 200m to the south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs* ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion ■ 91D0 Bog woodland* <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 09 Aug 2016),</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 200m south of the study area. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.	objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Fortwilliam Turlough SAC (site code 000448) c. 5.0 km south-west of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 08 Feb 2018) for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 5.0 km south-west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Ardagullion Bog SAC (site code 002341) c. 9.2 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 06 Nov 2015)</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 9.2 km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.	objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Garriskil Bog SAC (site code 000679) c.13.5 km south to the area of study	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration ■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 02 Nov 2015) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 13.5 km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Lough Owel SAC (site code 000688) c. 19.3 km south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1092 White-clawed Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ■ 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. 	Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs ■ 7230 Alkaline fens <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 03 May 2018) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 19.3km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Derragh Bog SAC (site code 002201) c. 900m south of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7110 Active raised bogs* ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 19 Jul 2023) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 900m to the south of the study area and there is a hydrological connectivity via Lough Kinale. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo SAC (site</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
code 001810) c. 6.5km south of the study area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 21 Oct 2021) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.6.5km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
Lough Bane and Lough Glass SAC (site code 002120) c. 11.2 km to the south of the study area	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) ■ 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 21 Oct 2021) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 11.2km to the south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
<p>Lough Lene SAC (site code 002121) c. 11.4 km south of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) ■ 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 21 Oct 2021) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore or maintain the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 11.4km south of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Girley (Drewstown) Bog SAC (site code 002203) c. 10.7 km to the south-east of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 19 Jul 2023) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 10.7km south-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
<p>Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC (site code 001786) c. 8.90 km to the east of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) ■ 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. ■ 7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davalliana</i>* ■ 7230 Alkaline fens <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 16 Dec 2021) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore or maintain the favourable conservation condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 8.9km to the east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Carrowkeel Turlough SAC (site code 000475) c. 16km south-west of the study area</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3180 Turloughs* <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 11 Jan 2021) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable condition, as</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 16km south-west of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.	there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Transboundary European sites potentially within the potential Zone of Influence of the USSEB DEDP			
Upper Lough Erne SPA (site code UK9020071), immediately adjacent to the area of study to the north	<p>The SPA selection feature of this site is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) <p>According to the Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 01 April 2015), for the listed features, the Conservation Objective is to maintain each feature in favourable condition.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is adjacent to USSEB DEDP study area and there is hydrological connectivity via Erne (Lough) Upper. Therefore there is potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes
Pettigoe Plateau SPA (site code UK9020051) c. 8.8 km to the north-east of the study area	<p>The SPA selection feature of this site is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) <p>According to the Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 01 April 2015), for the listed features, the Conservation Objective is to maintain each feature in favourable condition.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 8.8km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
		pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA (site code UK9020302) c. 10.0 km to the north-east of the study area	<p>The SPA selection feature of this site is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) <p>According to the Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 01 April 2015), for the listed features, the Conservation Objective is to maintain each feature in favourable condition.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 10.0km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No
Upper Lough Erne SAC (site code UK0016614) adjacent to the east of the study area	<p>The SAC selection features of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> type vegetation ■ Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles ■ Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion alvae</i>) 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is adjacent to USSEB DEDP study area and there is hydrological connectivity via Erne (Lough) Upper. Therefore there is potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives,</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) <p>According to the Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 01 April 2015) for the listed features, the Conservation Objective is to maintain (or restore where appropriate) the favourable condition.</p>	<p>destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River SAC (site code UK0030116) adjacent to the east of the study area</p>	<p>The SAC selection features of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) ■ Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation <p>According to the Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 01 April 2015) for the listed features, the Conservation Objective is to maintain (or restore where appropriate) the favourable condition.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is adjacent to USSEB DEDP study area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Cuilcagh Mountain SAC (site code UK0016603) adjacent to the east of the study area</p>	<p>The SAC selection features of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active Blanket Bog ■ Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds ■ Northern Atlantic wet heath with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ■ European dry heaths 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Alpine and Boreal heaths ■ Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Caleopsietalia ladani</i>) ■ Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation <p>According to the Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 11 October 2017) for the listed features, the Conservation Objective is to maintain (or restore where appropriate) the favourable condition.</p>	<p>This Natura 2000 Site is adjacent to USSEB DEDP study area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Lough Melvin SAC (UK0030047) adjacent to the north-east of the study area</p>	<p>The SAC selection features of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflora</i> and/or of the <i>Isoet-Nanojuncetea</i> ■ Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caeruleae</i>) ■ Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles ■ Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> <p>According to the Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 01 April 2015) for the listed</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is adjacent to USSEB DEDP study area and there is hydrological connectivity via Lough Melvin. Therefore there is potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	features, the Conservation Objective is to maintain (or restore where appropriate) the favourable condition.		
Moninea Bog SAC (site code UK0030212) c. 600m to the north of the study area	<p>The SAC selection features of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active Raised Bog <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 01 April 2015) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain (or restore where appropriate) the favourable condition.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site c. 600m to the north of the USSEB DEDP study area. Therefore, there is potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	Yes
Pettigoe Plateau SAC (site code UK0016607) c. 8.9km north-east of the study area	<p>The SAC selection features of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active blanket bog ■ Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds ■ European dry heath ■ Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ■ Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing water with vegetation belonging to <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>IsoUto-Nanojuncetea</i> 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 10.0km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 13 October 2017) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain (or restore where appropriate) the favourable condition.	strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.	
West Fermanagh Scarplands SAC (site code UK0030300) c. 4.8 km north-east of the study area	<p>The SAC selection features of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Limestone Pavements ■ Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) ■ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) ■ Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines ■ Alkaline Fens ■ Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> – type vegetation ■ Blanket bog (active only) ■ Northern Atlantic wet heath with <i>Erica tetralix</i> 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 4.8km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneuron</i>) <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 01 April 2015) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain (or restore where appropriate) the favourable condition.</p>		
<p>Monawilkin SAC (site code UK0016619) c. 11.0 km north-east of the study area</p>	<p>The SAC selection features of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) ■ Old Sessile Oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles. <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 01 April 2015) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain (or restore where appropriate) the favourable condition.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 11.0km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Largalunny SAC (site code UK0030045) c. 9.4 km north-east of the study area</p>	<p>The SAC selection features of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 01 April 2015) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain (or restore where appropriate) the favourable condition.</p>	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 9.4km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	
<p>Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs SAC (site code UK0030068) c. 14.8 km north-east of the study area</p>	<p>The SAC selection features of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Turloughs <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 01 April 2015) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain (or restore where appropriate) the favourable condition.</p>	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 14.8km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC (site code UK0016621) c. 9.0 km north-east of the study area</p>	<p>The SAC selection features of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> formations 	<p>Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the USSEB DEDP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via construction works, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potential</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of December 2024) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) ■ Alkaline fens ■ Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 01 April 2015) for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain (or restore where appropriate) the favourable condition.</p>	<p>disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 9.0km to the north-east of the study area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the strategic objectives, destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives proposed under the USSEB DEDP.</p>	

3.4 Screening for Appropriate Assessment – Summary

According to the Guidance published by the European Commission (*Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*, European Commission, 2018) the “*integrity of a site*” relates to the site’s conservation objectives. For example, it is possible that a plan or project will adversely affect the site only in a visual sense or only affect habitat types or species other than those listed in Annex I or Annex II. In such cases, the effects do not amount to an adverse effect for the purposes of Article 6(3). If none of the habitat types or species for which the site has been designated is significantly affected then the site’s integrity cannot be considered to be adversely affected.

In addition, plans or projects or applications for developments which have “*no appreciable effect*” on the protected site are excluded from the requirement to proceed to appropriate assessment⁷ (Opinion of Advocate General Sharpston in *Sweetman*, para. 48).

In other words, if, following Screening, there is a possibility of there being a significant effect on a European site, this will generate the need for an appropriate assessment for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

European sites with no connection/pathway to the USSEB DEDP area can be screened out (Appropriate Assessment Screening) and they are not considered any further in this report. By virtue of their locations, and the presence of potential pathways, of the 137no. European sites there is the possibility of there being a significant effect on a total of 58no. sites (these are listed in **Table 3.7**), and this results in a requirement for an appropriate assessment for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

There is potential for significant effects (at least, the potential for significant effects cannot be excluded) as a result of:

- Habitat loss and/or fragmentation;
- Impacts to habitat structure;
- Disturbance to species of conservation concern;
- Mortality to species (such as roadkill);
- Noise pollution;
- Emissions to air;
- Emissions to water.

Despite its positive intent there is the possibility that the implementation of certain of the actions listed in the USSEB DEDP could result in significant effects on 58no. European sites. Applying the precautionary principle therefore, and in accordance with Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive, Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required.

⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A62011CC0258>

4 Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

4.1 Introduction

As set out in Section 3.4 the implementation of the USSEB DEDP has the potential to impact on up to 58no. European sites. Given this conclusion, which is based on the Precautionary Principle, it is necessary to undertake Appropriate Assessment.

At this stage it is necessary to determine whether the USSEB DEDP would result in *significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any European site* with respect to the site's structure, function, and/or conservation objectives.

These potential adverse effects may arise either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

The USSEB DEDP, once implemented, will support the development of unique and compelling destination experiences focused on a number of immediate and strategic objectives and destinations catalysts in Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon. It is driven by local, regional, national, European and International plans and policy.

Nevertheless, as set out in the preceding sections, there is the potential that the implementation of certain elements of the USSEB DEDP could lead to impacts on these European sites. This is particularly the case for actions that will result in construction or other development, and/or their ancillary infrastructure.

Albeit unlikely, there is the possibility of a reduction of habitat area, or a loss of habitat within European sites in the potential Zone of Influence as a result of the implementation of certain actions within the USSEB DEDP. Any development works, no matter how minor, adjacent to watercourses have the potential to cause habitat loss or a reduction in habitat / water quality, with indirect effects on the European sites themselves. Similarly works within any European sites could lead to fragmentation (breakup) of habitats, resulting in impacts on site integrity or cause degradation to, any habitats associated with any European site.

There is the possibility of disturbance to key species arising as a result of the implementation of certain actions within the USSEB DEDP. The Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European sites are sensitive to disturbance from noise, light, vibration and other construction activities including inappropriately timed works, as well as from recreational and amenity activity (human disturbance). Rivers, lakes and coastal sites are prone to contamination risk due to surface water runoff during construction. Any works near or within these sensitive sites could lead to disturbance of these species.

There is the possibility of changes to key indicators of conservation value arising as a result of the implementation of the USSEB DEDP. This could arise via pollution, siltation or other run-off to watercourses that could ultimately discharge to the European sites. Any pollution-related impacts on the QIs/SCIs of any European site could adversely affect the integrity of the sites.

4.2 Potential impacts from the USSEB DEDP, including in-combination effects

4.2.1 Is the USSEB DEDP necessary for the management of European sites?

As set out in the Habitats Directive (Article 6(3)), plans that are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site do not require Appropriate Assessment. Management in this context means management for nature conservation and the qualifying interests of the European site, specifically the conservation objectives – to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the habitats and species for which the site has been selected.

While the USSEB DEDP has been developed with sustainability as core elements its purpose is to deliver and promote enhanced tourism experience within the Counties of Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon. Therefore, the USSEB DEDP is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

4.2.2 Are there elements of the USSEB DEDP with potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites

The elements/actions of the USSEB DEDP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites during the construction and operational phases. Any development of existing and new infrastructure located within the potential zone of influence of any European site has the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, for example via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water and, potentially, disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites. During the operational phase, there is potential for uncertain effects due to the new developments and their ancillary infrastructure and increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.

The USSEB DEDP, once implemented, is expected to enhance the visitor experience, promote tourism and support economic growth. Despite its positive intent, the USSEB DEDP has the potential to give rise to effects on European sites within its potential zone of influence under the following scenarios:

- Any Action that could directly or indirectly affect water quality, flow and/or morphology and potentially affect the European sites, protected habitats and species;
- Any Action that could directly or indirectly increase risk of flooding and potentially affect the European sites, protected habitats and species;
- Any Action that could directly or indirectly affect groundwater quality or supply and potentially affect the European sites, protected habitats and species;
- Any Action that could directly or indirectly affect air quality due to emissions and affect the European sites, protected habitats and species;
- Any risk of habitat loss, fragmentation or degradation to European sites or network supporting European sites, protected habitats and species, including via increased visitor numbers and human activity;
- Any potential for a risk of direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species, e.g. development at coastal sites /along rivers/within bogs, noise disturbance due to construction, light pollution etc.;

- Any Action that could risk a reduction in ecological connectivity between European sites and/or the ecological networks supporting them.

4.2.3 Appraisal of the of the Strategic Objectives of the Upper Shannon, Shannon-Erne and Border Destination & Experience Development Plan

The finding of the environmental assessment of the overall Vision and Strategic Objectives of the USSEB DEDP is presented in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1 Appraisal of the Strategic Objectives of the USSEB DEDP

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
<p>Vision</p> <p>The vision for the USSEB DEDP states that:</p> <p><i>“Nature is at the heart of an inspiring sustainable tourism destination, where tourism delivers net positive outcomes to communities and the environment. Ecotourism and slow adventure are the hallmarks of the destination delivered through best in class on and off the water experiences. The visitor hubs of Carrick-on-Shannon, Cavan and Roscommon Town have developed a year round appeal for tourism. Signature attractions such as the Beara Breifne Way, Shannon Erne Blueway, National Famine Way, Forests Parks and Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark inspire new levels of community and visitor engagement with slow tourism. Best in class water activities from Cruising on the Shannon to exploring our heritage through on water experiences provide inspiring visitor moments. A growing network of accredited Greenways, Blueways and trails have become the catalysts for regenerative tourism and the platform for visitors to connect with our local community delivering a year round economic impact.”</i></p>	<p>This vision statement sets an overall context for destination experience and tourism in USSEB. This will support and underpin the local tourism economy, industry and associated workers. No specific projects are associated with the statement, and therefore no negative or uncertain environmental effects arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Strategic Objective 1 : Development of a destination based on regenerative tourism principle</p> <p><i>Following regenerative tourism principles, establish the Upper Shannon, Shannon Erne and Border region as a destination with high standards in sustainable tourism development and a reduced carbon footprint.</i></p>		

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
<p>1.1 Maximise the potential of the Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark to grow community-based tourism opportunities and demonstrate how visitors can engage with place-based eco-tourism experiences.</p>	<p>This objective will result in positive effects on population and human health by provision of enhanced visitor experience. The development of eco-tourism has the potential to contribute to better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, the objective could have the potential to result in uncertain environmental effect for biodiversity and Natura 2000 Sites. Increased tourism in these sensitive locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management. The development could also potentially result in disturbance due to an increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>1.2 Develop the capability of the tourism industry and community tourism groups to develop new regenerative and ecotourism experiences for visitors, profiling the Destination’s commitment to sustainability and embracing the principle of regeneration as a platform for innovation.</p>	<p>The development of eco-tourism has the potential to contribute to better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, both the construction and operation of new experiences could have the potential to result in uncertain environmental effect for biodiversity and Natura 2000 Sites. Increased tourism in these sensitive locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>1.3 Enable responsible visitor engagement with nature through sustainable in nature amenities such as the boardwalk at Acres Lake and developing viewing points and other appropriate interventions that highlight water and nature assets and the unique geology of Leitrim, Cavan and Roscommon.</p>	<p>This objective will result in positive effects on population and human health by provision of enhanced visitor experience.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, both the construction and operation of new interventions could have the potential to result in negative or uncertain environmental effect for biodiversity and Natura 2000 Sites.. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these sensitive locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
<p>1.4 Optimise the opportunities presented by the Just Transition Fund and, in particular, the Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme 2023-2027, to deliver new sustainable visitor experiences within communities in Roscommon.</p>	<p>This objective will result in positive effects on population and human health by provision of sustainable visitor experience.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, both the construction and operation of new experiences could have the potential to result in uncertain environmental effect for biodiversity and Natura 2000 Sites. Increased tourism in these sensitive locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>1.5 Collectively achieve a reduction in carbon emissions in line with the targets set out in the National Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>This objective will result in overall positive effects on the environment.</p> <p>However, any new development or infrastructure upgrade in line with the targets set out in the National Climate Action Plan presents potential uncertain environmental effects for biodiversity and Natura 2000 Sites that have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>1.6 Seek opportunities to support the development of a national EV charging infrastructure, especially at visitor attractions and activity provider sites across the Destination.</p>	<p>This objective will support energy efficiency and reduction of GHG emissions reduction and will have positive effect on climate.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, works involved in provision of new infrastructure can have the potential to result in uncertain environmental effects on biodiversity and Natura 2000 Sites.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>1.7 Align with the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 in ensuring that the tourism activity in Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon ‘acts for nature’ in the development of awareness of biodiversity and its importance, and in the implementation of measures to enhance biosecurity measures throughout the Destination.</p>	<p>This objective will have overall positive effects on the environment.</p> <p>No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.</p>	<p>No</p>

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
1.8 Grow national and international recognition for how the Destination facilitates the protection and enhancement of the environment as the fundamental asset of the visitor experience in counties Leitrim, Cavan and Roscommon.	No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
<p>Strategic Objective 2 : Growth in Destination Awareness</p> <p><i>Grow the profile of the Destination through collectively growing awareness, locally and in the domestic and international markets of Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon as great places to visit, where the visitor is assured of an authentic, place-based experience and which also delivers net positive benefits for the community, the environment, and the tourism industry.</i></p>		
2.1 Grow the demand generation capabilities of the tourism industry based on understanding visitor needs and motivations, and how to attract domestic and international visitors on a year-round basis aligned with the Fáilte Ireland Visitor Motivations Framework and the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Brand Toolkit.	<p>This objective will enhance tourism opportunities for the counties and have positive effect on population and human health.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, both the construction and operation of any new infrastructure could have the potential to result in uncertain environmental effect on Natura 2000 sites and biodiversity. Increased tourism in these sensitive locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>	Yes
2.2 Employ a visitor-centric approach to the development of interpretation and orientation throughout the Destination that is aligned with the Fáilte Ireland Visitor Motivations Framework and the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Brand Toolkit.	<p>This objective will support in raising awareness regarding tourism opportunities throughout the Destination.</p> <p>No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.</p>	No
2.3 Develop and strengthen the capacity and capability of tourism industry networks and tourism clusters to establish new ways of working together and collectively grow	This objective will enhance tourism opportunities for the study area and have positive effect on population and human health.	Yes

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
local awareness of existing and newly developed products and experiences.	However, the new development presents potential uncertain environmental effects that have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.	
2.4 Increase the tourism industry's engagement with the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands brand to collectively grow awareness and recognition of the regional experience brand to increase the share of the domestic and international market.	This objective will support in raising awareness regarding tourism opportunities and promote collaboration for effective working. No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
2.5 Elevate the profile of the Destination as a regenerative tourism destination characterised by a) visitors' ability to access quality and diverse eco-tourism and slow adventure tourism experiences and b) community pride in, and stewardship of, their cultural and natural environment and c) industry /stakeholders' respect for the environment as fundamental to the destination offering.	This objective will enhance tourism opportunities for the counties and have positive effect on population and human health. The development of new and existing experiences might give rise to uncertain environmental effects on European sites within the potential Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. This could also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management which has potential to effect the receiving environment.	Yes
2.6 Grow the digital capabilities of the tourism industry to collectively grow destination visibility and sustained marketing of new experiences and motivational itineraries to encourage visitor dispersion into and across the area.	No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
2.7 Increase the destination profile as a family and multi-generational holiday destination.	<p>This objective will enhance tourism opportunities for families and will have positive effect on population and human health.</p> <p>However, the new development presents potential uncertain environmental effects on all European sites within the potential Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. This could also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management which has potential to effect the receiving environment.</p>	Yes
2.8 Grow awareness within the domestic market of signature destination experiences such as cruising.	<p>This objective will result in positive effects on population and human health by growing awareness.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, this objective could have the potential to result in uncertain environmental effect on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence due to increased visitor numbers. Increased tourism in these sensitive locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management. The development could also potentially result in disturbance due to an increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	Yes
<p>Strategic Objective 3: Connection and integration of land and water-based trails</p> <p><i>Deliver new levels of connectivity between new and existing trails, land-based and water-based, across the Destination to create an enhanced and integrated scale of outdoor activity provision and development of best-in-class slow tourism hubs.</i></p>		
3.1 Deliver the Beara Breifne Way to become an internationally recognised way-marked walking trail and focal point for communities in the Destination to engage with the emerging tourism opportunities.	<p>This objective will provide enhanced visitor experience and have positive effect to population and human health.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on biodiversity and Natura 2000 sites to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments</p>	Yes

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
	and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These works could also potentially result in disturbance due to an increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.	
<p>3.2 Develop the network of nationally accredited greenways, blueways and trails within the Destination and, where feasible and viable, connect with trails that facilitate and encourage visitor flow within the wider Hidden Heartlands region, and to and from adjoining destinations; e.g. Ulster Way, Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway.</p>	<p>The development of new and existing greenways, blueways and trails, including those within and between existing destinations, has the potential to contribute to sustainable mobility, reduction in emissions and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations.</p> <p>The development of these projects, however, may result in uncertain effects on all European sites within the potential Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>3.3 Integrate signature trails with other outdoor activities featured within the Tourism Masterplan for the Shannon; e.g. development, extension and accreditation of the Shannon and Shannon-Erne Blueways.</p>	<p>This objective will result in positive effects on population and human health and on material assets by promoting sustainable transportation.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially negative or uncertain environmental effects on all European sites within the potential Zone of Influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
<p>3.4 Develop links between trails, attractions and activities to facilitate new ways for visitors to access and interact with local experiences; e.g. the National Famine Way and the National Famine Museum Strokestown Park, Arigna Mining Experience and the Miners’ Way, Lough Key Forest and Activity Park and the Boyle – Carrick-on-Shannon Greenway, The Shed Distillery and Electric Bike Trails, Dún an Rí Forest Park and the Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway, and to and through the Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, e.g. Killykeen Forest Park and the Killykeen Way.</p>	<p>The development of new and existing trails and links, including those within and between existing destinations, has the potential to contribute to sustainable mobility, reduction in emissions and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations.</p> <p>The development of these projects, however, may result in uncertain effects on all European sites within the potential Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>3.5 Identify means and on-water routes that facilitate slow exploration of the Destination by water; e.g. through day-boat hire, small e-powered vessels, and/or water taxis.</p>	<p>The development of on-water routes, has the potential to contribute to better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing transport route, presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>3.6 Link existing and new land- and water-based trails to build a new scale of integrated trails and opportunities to enable visitors to engage with mix of eco-tourism and ‘off the</p>	<p>The development of new and existing trails, including those within and between existing destinations, has the potential to contribute to sustainable mobility, reduction in emissions and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
<p>beaten track' opportunities that tap into the heritage and living culture of the local area.</p>	<p>The development of these projects, however, may result in uncertain effects on all European sites within the potential Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	
<p>3.7 Revitalise existing trails to become more place-based and experiential, based on their capacity to orientate the visitor to established or emerging destination experiences e.g. Táin Trail, Lough Allen Drive, Miners Way, Ulster Way.</p>	<p>The development of existing trails has the potential to contribute to sustainable mobility, reduction in emissions and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations.</p> <p>The development of these projects, however, may result in uncertain effects on all European sites within the potential Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>3.8 Create a best-in-class approach to developing walking trail heads to grow the Destination profile as a centre of excellence for outdoor activity. This will be supported by a commitment to maintaining the quality of trails and maintenance plan to ensure the sustainable management of the trails experience.</p>	<p>The development of new and existing walking trails has the potential to contribute to sustainable mobility, reduction in emissions and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations.</p> <p>The development of these projects, however, may result in uncertain effects on all European sites within the potential Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
	ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	
<p>Strategic Objective 4: Development of Place-based, Ecotourism Experiences</p> <p><i>Develop the range and quality of visitor experiences across the Destination drawing on the natural, community and cultural heritage, with a focus on ecotourism</i></p>		
<p>4.1 Develop new visitor experiences linked to eco-tourism and slow adventure leveraging the core destination assets such as the River Shannon, Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Geopark, Shannon Erne Waterway, established and emerging national trails, forest parks and water amenities, whose core objective is the protection of the natural and/or cultural heritage.</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>Increased tourism in these sensitive locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>4.2 Create compelling in nature visitor experience moments blended with local heritage, culture and activities that utilise the on land and water trail network of greenways and blueways.</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>Increased tourism in these sensitive locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
4.3 Expand the opportunities for community tourism groups to enable visitors to immerse themselves in local culture through the development of new experiences linking agri-tourism, local heritage, food, and culture.	This objective will enhance visitor experience and promote tourism resulting in overall positive or neutral effects on the environment. No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
4.4 Develop eco-tourism experiences linked to water across, e.g. paddling, cruising, cycling, angling, identified through the Lough Tapestry plan (see section 4.2.7 of the DEDP).	In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	Yes
4.5 Create new cross-border and cross regional experiences to introduce new visitor flows into the Destination, e.g. from/to the Wild Atlantic Way, Fermanagh Lakelands and Omagh and the Sperrins VEDP, and Ireland's Ancient East.	In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects (including transboundary effects) on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	Yes
4.6 Maximise the opportunity provided by the National Famine Museum and the National Famine Way to connect businesses and communities with the diaspora market.	No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
4.7 Build the capability of existing visitor attractions, cultural hubs (e.g. The Dock Art Gallery, Carrick on Shannon; King House, Boyle; Ramor Theatre, Virginia, among others) and	In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.	Yes

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
activity providers to develop innovative visitor experiences to grow the range of things to do in the day and evening time.		
4.8 Develop a number of signature climate neutral and sustainable destination experiences linked to the natural and cultural heritage and showcase the role of water in shaping the landscape and communities.	In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.	Yes
4.9 Develop the capability of the tourism industry to deliver new forms of nature-based wellbeing experiences and work with strategic partners to develop nature-based wellness opportunities in forest parks, on trails and on and beside water access points.	In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	Yes
4.10 Develop angling across the Destination given its potential to support both geographic and seasonal dispersal.	In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.	Yes
4.11 Capitalise on the growing momentum signified by the development of the Hidden Heartlands' Golf Association and the existing high-quality (e.g. Slieve Russell PGA status) and extensive offering to develop the Destination's profile for international golfers.	In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.	Yes

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
<p>Strategic Objective 5: Growth in Sustainable Economic Impact</p> <p><i>Grow the economic impact of tourism and create high quality jobs in the Destination by supporting the industry to enhance its capacity and capability and by developing and enhancing the visitor services' provision.</i></p>		
<p>5.1 Support tourism businesses to improve their capacity and capability through a range of support programmes, such as the Digital that Delivers Programme and the Employer Excellence Programme, as well as other more tailored training supports.</p>	<p>This objective will support in raising awareness regarding tourism and also provide economic benefits to the study area population. No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>5.2 Develop the opportunity identified in the Tourism Masterplan for the Shannon and Discovery Zones to grow the ability of the main visitor hubs and towns such as Carrick on Shannon, Cavan and Roscommon Towns to disperse visitors across the wider Destination.</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>5.3 Build the profile of the Destination as a host for niche business tourism activity linking the tourism hubs of Carrick-on-Shannon, and Cavan and Roscommon Towns, as sustainable business tourism host venues.</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>5.4 Develop smaller towns across the Destination such as Manorhamilton, Drumshanbo, Boyle, Bailieborough, and Virginia as key service hubs from a daytime and evening-time visitor economy perspective and enhance their ability to act as gateways to and from neighbouring regions.</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>5.5 Grow the level of available accommodation stock in our rural and urban areas to include hotel accommodation with</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing accommodation presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
alternative forms of accommodation linked to the outdoors. New accommodation development should strive for net-zero status.	potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.	
5.6 Support the industry in developing saleable experiences for individual experience providers as well as bundled saleable experiences for clusters of experience providers where appropriate.	This objective will enhance visitor experience and promote tourism. No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
5.7 Deliver a range of developmental and promotional initiatives that are aimed at lengthening the visitor season by growing revenue during the shoulder season; e.g. targeted cruise-hire promotion during the shoulder season and the development of new festivals and events across the Destination during the shoulder season.	In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	Yes
5.8 Deliver on the recommendations arising from the recently published <i>Feasibility Study for the Sustainable Development and Greening of the Cruise Hire Sector</i> , to ensure that the sector grows its capacity and diversifies its offering in a sustainable manner.	In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	Yes
5.9 Work with education and training agencies in Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon to align investment in building	This objective will promote collaboration with education and training agencies, support efficient delivery of tourism experiences across a range of sites	No

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
capabilities and capacity with existing and new tourism enterprises.	No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	
5.10 Develop a community tourism training programme to build the capabilities of the community tourism enterprise sector to realise the social and economic potential of tourism for their locality.	This objective will support in raising awareness regarding tourism and also provide economic benefits to the study area population. No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
5.11 Establish new sustainable transport options working with existing providers such as Local Link to enhance visitor access to local attractions, communities and activities, and support the night-time economy in key locations.	In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing transport options presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such options and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	Yes
5.12 Maximise the visibility of the Destination, and access routes to the Destination at ferry ports, airports, in particular regional airports such as Ireland West (Knock) and Shannon Airports. Chart the visitor journey from the point of access to the Destination, in terms of all forms of transport, but particularly all the sustainable forms of transport, including 'the last mile'.	No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
5.13 Improve the signage to attract visitors off bypasses (e.g., the new N5 bypass currently under construction) and Motorways, in order to grow the visitor footfall in the smaller towns.	This objective will enhance visitor experience and promote tourism by improving signage. No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
<p>Strategic Objective 6: Development of New Levels of Collaboration</p> <p><i>Build new levels of tourism industry and stakeholder collaboration through the strengthening of existing and the creation of new tourism networks and clusters.</i></p>		
<p>6.1 Develop a network of geographic and themed clusters of visitor experiences rooted in regenerative tourism principles across the Destination to facilitate collaboration between the industry.</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing transport options presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such options and/or their ancillary infrastructure.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>6.2 Engender a pan-agency focus on tourism clusters and networks for tourism investment and collectively grow local community and business engagement to stimulate new tourism opportunities; e.g. the Geopark Sustainable Business network. Support networks which foster community level engagement in order to share learnings, mentoring opportunities and develop new community tourism experiences- e.g. Community Wetlands Forum.</p>	<p>No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>6.3 Grow the capabilities of the Destination’s visitor attractions and cultural hubs to work together, cross promote and collaborate, and with those in the neighbouring regional experience brands of the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland’s Ancient East.</p>	<p>No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required..</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>6.4 Deliver on the sustainable tourism objectives of the <i>Shannon Tourism Masterplan 2020-2030</i> in partnership with all agencies and stakeholders.</p>	<p>No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>6.5 Grow cross border destination collaboration by working on collective initiatives such as Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects (including transboundary effects)</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Strategic Objectives	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the potential Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
Geopark, and Fermanagh Lakelands and Omagh and the Sperrins VEDP.	on Natura 2000 sites within the potential zone of influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites.	
6.6 Ensure tourism is integrated as a key element of future placemaking activity; e.g. public realm projects, town and village enhancements.	No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
6.7 Develop a collective tourism impact measurement system for the DEDP adopting a current situation baseline model to align stakeholder activity, programming and investment with the target outcomes of the plan underwritten by the VICE model as the basis for how success is measured.	This objective would result in positive effects for promoting tourism and investment. No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
6.8 Leverage partnering initiatives as collaborative platforms to drive regenerative tourism and the adoption of appropriate accreditation systems.	This objective will promote collaboration and support efficient delivery of tourism experiences across a range of sites. No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No

4.2.4 Appraisal of the Upper Shannon, Shannon-Erne and Border (USSEB) Destination & Experience Development Plan Action Plan

The USSEB DEDP includes a list of destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives which will be delivered to support the above strategic objectives of the DEDP. The environmental assessment of the effects of the destination catalysts and destination enabling initiatives is detailed in **Table 4.2** below.

There are 8no. destination catalysts initiatives and 8no. destination enabling initiatives in total. Projects where there is a requirement for development of existing and new infrastructure might give rise to uncertain effects on European sites within the potential Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.

Where potential negative or uncertain effects on European sites have been identified appropriate mitigation has been provided. See **Section 4.4** of this Report.

Table 4.2 Appraisal of the USSEB DEDP Action Plan

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
Strategic Objective 1 - Following regenerative tourism principles, establish the Upper Shannon, Shannon Erne and Border region as a destination with high standards in sustainable tourism development and a reduced carbon footprint.				
1	Catalyst Initiatives		<p>These projects and actions will enhance tourism opportunities for the study area and have positive effect on population and human health.</p> <p>In the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potential uncertain effects on European sites within the potential Zone of Influence to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast and could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in the vicinity of European sites. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>	Yes
1.1	Catalyst Initiative 1: Embed Regenerative Tourism as fundamental principle			
1.1.1	Immersed in Nature / Destination Stewardship	<p>Undertake a scoping and feasibility study (including innovation screener) of developing high quality, compelling free and paid for visitor experiences at suitable locations that focus on 'Immersed in Nature' / 'Nature Stewardship', informed by principles of best practice and current guidance.</p> <p>This will underpin the regenerative ethos of the DEDP Vision as regards nature and the environment through showcasing how tourism can play a positive role in the protection and appreciation of the natural environment.</p>		
1.1.2	Regenerative Tourism Experience Development	<p>Deliver an annual visitor experience development programme based on a defined and agreed set of regenerative tourism principles as relevant to Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and aligned to DEDP Vision. This will</p> <p>a) build the tourism industry's understanding of regenerative tourism as an opportunity for development</p> <p>b) build on and enhance the Destination's status and credentials as a regenerative tourism destination by increasing the number of regenerative tourism saleable experiences, relating for example to regenerative and social farming, local culture, heritage, in-nature and Slow Adventure experiences</p>		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		c) underpin the authenticity of the visitor offer by enhancing the place-based resonance of the visitor experience		
1.1.3	Alignment of existing Visitor Experiences with regenerative tourism principles	Augment the scope of Fáilte Ireland audits of the existing onsite visitor experience at visitor attractions and activity providers on a case by case basis to include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evaluation of financial sustainability and development of a structured commercial framework. • evaluation of their alignment with the place-based, in-nature approach as set out in the USSEB DEDP Vision • identification and evaluation of regenerative tourism outcomes 		
1.1.4	Rathcroghan Place Partnership	Develop the Rathcroghan Place Partnership, embracing a regenerative approach to tourism development.		
1.1.5	DEDP Monitoring Programme	Develop a DEDP Monitoring Programme to ensure effective management of the environment, including natural, cultural and heritage assets and incorporating measurement of regenerative tourism outcomes		
1.2	Climate Action and , Sustainable Tourism Development			
1.2.1	Fáilte Ireland Climate Action Programme	Promote participation in Fáilte Ireland Climate Action Programme by hotels and visitor attractions as relevant, in order to collectively align with the national Climate Action Plan.		
1.2.2	Sustainable Tourism Certification	Encourage businesses to pursue sustainable tourism certification.		
1.2.3	Business Sustainability Training	Deliver annual sustainability training to grow the number and capability of tourism businesses within the Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark to become more sustainable and act as regenerative tourism ambassadors within and for the Destination.		
1.2.4	Carbon Emissions Reduction	Link to Fáilte Ireland carbon emissions baseline data to measure the reduction in carbon emissions from the tourism sector over the period of the DEDP.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
Destination Enabling Initiatives				
1.3	Just Transition Fund Roscommon	Deliver and support the development of Just Transition-funded regenerative tourism projects in Roscommon.		
1.4	Strokestown Park Sustainability Project	Undertake a scoping study and associated feasibility assessment for a sustainability project of scale to be developed at Strokestown Park.		
1.5	Biodiversity Programme	Work collectively to implement the National Biodiversity Plan, and provide biosecurity facilities at Designated Entry Points for craft entering the Shannon, lakes and rivers, and at key angling locations throughout the Destination.		
1.6	Sustainable Transport			
1.6.1	USSEB Sustainable Transport Network	Seek opportunities to maximise the tourism potential of TII's national sustainable travel development plans across the Destination so that they will serve the visitor, communities, industry and the environment, and help deliver the DEDP Vision.		
1.6.2	E-Charging Network	Grow the network of e-charging points for bicycles and cars so that they will serve the visitor, communities, industry and the environment.		
1.6.3	Active Travel	Harness Active Travel investment in the key gateways and visitor hubs to grow the sustainable travel connectivity across the Destination.		
1.6.4	Shannon Region Discovery Bus (SMP)	Support the recommendations of the Shannon Masterplan Shannon Region Discovery Bus Route feasibility study.		
1.6.5	Local Link	Enhance existing- and/or create new- Local Link routes and schedules from and to accommodation hubs, that enable visitors to visit key attractions and engage in a range of tourism activities during the day and in the evening.		
1.6.6	Green Travel Itineraries	Create and promote a range of day- and multi-day itineraries within and across the wider USSEB destination that use sustainable transport in order to maximise the tourism potential of existing		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		sustainable transport hubs, infrastructure and services, including Active Travel hubs, Local Link services, accommodation hubs, and facilities by integrating them with the development of tourism business- and visitor experience- clusters.		
2.	Strategic Objective 2 - Grow the profile of the Destination through collectively growing awareness, locally and in the domestic and international markets of Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon as great places to visit, where the visitor is assured of an authentic, place-based experience and which also delivers net positive benefits for the community, the environment, and the tourism industry			
	Destination Enabling Initiatives		No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
2.1	Brand Awareness and Adoption	Deliver an Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands brand adoption and education programme among our tourism industry partners to ensure a collective understanding of the regional brand opportunity and how to leverage it for sustained tourism growth.		
2.2	In the Community Tourism Awareness Development Programme	Deliver a regenerative tourism awareness programme with existing and emerging community groups to enable them to contribute to and leverage the Hidden Heartlands regional brand opportunity for the benefit of their communities, and their local environment. Deliver Local Experts Champions programmes at key visitor hub locations across the Destination.		
2.3	Demand Generation	Grow the number of destination tourism industry participating in Fáilte Ireland’s scheduled B2C training programmes. With the Fáilte Ireland Commercial Development Division, build capacity of tourism industry to implement a commercial approach to marketing and sales generation for their business and collectively grow the recognition of the Destination in the domestic market		
2.4	Digital Profile of the Destination	Maximise the number of local tourism industry representatives participating in the 'Digital that Delivers' programme with the goal of developing tourism businesses' digital capability to increase the visibility of local tourism experiences and the wider destination online.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
2.5	International sales development	Grow the number of destination stakeholders participating in Fáilte Ireland’s annual B2B training programmes in order to enable the tourism industry to develop and implement a commercial approach to marketing and sales generation for their business and collectively grow the recognition of the Destination overseas		
2.6	A Nature-First Destination	Work with Marketing, International Publicity teams and Tourism Ireland on raising the profile of the Destination in how it facilitates the protection and enhancement of the environment as the fundamental asset of the visitor experience in Counties Leitrim, Cavan and Roscommon.		
2.7	Marketing alignment across the Destination	Hold annual marketing meetings between Fáilte Ireland and the Local Authorities to align and maximise marketing campaign investment.		
2.8	Family and multi-generational itineraries	With all tourism businesses and stakeholders, collectively create and promote bundles and itineraries showcasing the range of things to do and see for family and multigenerational travel.		
2.9	Other itineraries	Collectively create a range of itineraries that illustrate the variety of experiences to be had: focusing on Music, Food, Art, Literature		
2.10	Capability building programmes and tourism industry stakeholders	Build on Fáilte Ireland partnerships with County Local Development Companies and Local Enterprise offices (LEOs) to align and maximise training programmes and opportunities for local tourism businesses.		
2.11	River cruising as signature visitor experience	Implement the marketing recommendations in the Feasibility Study for the Sustainable Development and Greening of the Cruise Hire Sector		
3.	Strategic Objective 3 -<i>Deliver new levels of connectivity between new and existing trails, both land-based and water-based, across the Destination to create an enhanced and integrated scale of outdoor activity provision and development of best-in-class slow tourism hubs.</i>			
	Catalyst Initiatives			Yes
3.1	Catalyst Initiative 3: The North Shannon, and Shannon Erne Waterway			

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
3.1.1	Shannon Pot Discovery Centre	Deliver the new 'Discovery Centre' at the Shannon Pot – Cavan Burren as a key tourism product under the Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth capital investment programme supported by a comprehensive commercial plan.	The development of new and existing trails, blueways, greenways, has the potential to contribute to sustainable mobility, reduction in emissions and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations. The development of these projects, however, may result in uncertain effects on biodiversity and Natura 2000 sites that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have the potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. These works could also potentially result in disturbance due to an increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.	
3.1.2	Shannon Master Plan	Implement the actions set out in the Shannon Master plan that are relevant to the Destination (i.e. Discovery Zone DZ 1).		
3.1.3	The 3 B's Integrated Tourism Development Plan	Enhance the appeal and profile of the Shannon Erne Waterway as a cruising sub-destination within Ireland's Hidden Heartlands by implementing the actions and projects from the '3Bs' Tourism Development Plan for Belturbet and Ballyconnell in County Cavan and Ballinamore in County Leitrim.		
3.2	Catalyst Initiative 4: Accredited Blueways and Greenways			
3.2.1	Greenway & Blueway Masterplan	Develop a Greenways & Blueways Master Plan for the Destination to a) identify current and planned Greenways and Blueways projects and possible linkages between them b) map schedule of completion and accreditation as currently known and agree priority projects with stakeholders c) set out future maintenance requirements in an associated Trails Management Plan		
3.2.2	Shannon and Shannon-Erne Blueways	Develop accredited blueways on the Shannon and Shannon-Erne Waterway in accordance with the blueways proposition based on user experience potential and needs		
3.2.3	Blueways Hubs and Trails Opportunity Training Programmes	Deliver a comprehensive industry and community activation programme for the accredited Blueways, including community and local enterprise training to maximise the opportunities they present.		
3.2.4	Carrick on Shannon to Battlebridge Blueway	Complete the Carrick on Shannon to Battlebridge Blueway, connecting Acres Lake and the Shannon Blueway with the Shannon Erne Blueway.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
3.2.5	Cavan Greenway and Cavan-Leitrim Railway Greenway	Progress the Cavan and Cavan Leitrim Railway Greenways, connecting the towns of Cavan, Ballyconnell, Belturbet with the Shannon-Erne Blueway and the Ulster Canal Greenway and develop a greenway hub at Ballyconnell.		
3.2.6	Lough Ree Greenway	Progress the Lough Ree Greenway		
3.2.7	Carrick on Shannon to Boyle Greenway	Progress the Boyle – Lough Key – Carrick on Shannon Greenway		
3.2.8	Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway Greenway	Progress the Navan – Kingscourt section of the Boyle Valley to Lakelands Greenway		
3.2.9	Sligo Leitrim and Northern Counties Greenway (SLNCR)	Progress the SLNCR Greenway		
3.2.10	Sligo Leitrim and Northern Counties Greenway (SLNCR)	Undertake Naming and Proposition development for the SLNCR		
3.2.11	Greenway Hubs and Trails Activation Programmes	Deliver a comprehensive industry and community activation programme for the accredited Greenways, including community and local enterprise training to maximise the opportunities presented by investments in them.		
3.3	Catalyst Initiative 5: Beara Breifne Way			
3.3.1	Beara Breifne Way	Complete the delivery of the Beara Breifne Way Masterplan, including the development of the identified trail heads, governance and management structure and supporting services.		
3.3.2	Beara Breifne Way Activation Programme	Deliver a comprehensive industry and community activation programme for the Beara Breifne Way, including community and local enterprise training to maximise the opportunities presented by investments in the Beara Breifne Way.		
	Destination Enabling Initiatives			

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
3.4	Lough Allen Masterplan	Build on the Shannon Masterplan by undertaking a Lough Allen Masterplan. This will include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examination of opportunities to orientate visitors in and around Lough Allen both on land and water integrating the existing harbours, nearby towns and existing trails such as the Leitrim Way and Miners Way. • analysis of the opportunity for Spencer Docks, Cleighan Mór Docks and Conmorgan Pier to become catalysts for water-based activities around Lough Allen. 		
3.5	Community Hub Dowra	Develop a community tourism hub in Dowra to facilitate better links and visitor orientation to and between Lough Allen and Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark.		
3.6	Trails around Lough Allen	Investigate the feasibility and requirements to connect Dowra to Lough Allen via a multi-use trail, providing visitor connection to the lake and enhanced opportunities to create experiences for visitors to Drumkeeran, Cleighan Mór and Drumshanbo.		
3.7	The Táin Trail	Implement the findings of the Táin Trail product analysis and the regeneration of the Táin Trail as a visitor experience linking to clusters of community experiences.		
3.8	Pilgrim Way (Shannon and Shannon-Erne)	Support the development of the emergent spiritual Pilgrim Way along the Shannon and Shannon-Erne, and align it with the regenerative tourism ethos of the Destination.		
3.9	National Famine Way Trail and Experience	Examine the potential of a compelling Famine Way experience to connect with the Irish Diaspora market, linking with the National Famine Museum at Strokestown Park.		
3.10	Community Recreational Trails – Arigna	Create a heritage trail from Arigna Mining Experience, via Arigna Village to Drumshanbo, connecting visitors with local community experiences and attractions as well as both the Miner's Way and the Beara Breifne Way (Leitrim Way).		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
3.11	Green links between Geopark sites	Enhance the green links (i.e. pathways / trails) between Geopark sites in the Cavan and adjacent Fermanagh parts of the Geopark in order to grow visitor dwell time and visitor experiences across the Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark.		
3.12	Columban Way	Deliver the Cavan element of the Columban Way, and align it with the regenerative tourism ethos of Destination.		
3.13	Other Destination Trails Development Training Programmes	Deliver tourism industry, community and local enterprise training to maximise the opportunities presented by the future development of trails such as the Táin Trail, Pilgrim Way, National Famine Way.		
4.	Strategic Objective 4 - Develop the range and quality of the visitor experiences across the Destination drawing on the natural, community and cultural heritage with a focus on ecotourism.			
4.1	Catalyst Initiative 6: Develop Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark as hero site		The development of these projects might result in negative environmental effects on all European sites within the potential Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the coastal and transitional waters. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management. The development of these projects could also potentially result in disturbance due to an increase in human activity	Yes
4.1.1	Geopark-themed Visitor Experience Development Programme	Develop a series of visitor experiences based on signature aspects of the Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark that will contribute to growing awareness of the Geopark and attract visitors on a year-round basis.		
4.1.2	Geopark Awareness	Deliver a Geopark Community Ambassador Programme to grow awareness of the Geopark to empower individuals to act as ambassadors and champions of the Geopark, both within their local communities and with visitors.		
4.1.3	Geopark Gateway facility, Glangevlin	Develop a Geopark Gateway facility at Glangevlin		
4.1.4	Geopark Gateway facility, Blacklion	Develop a Geopark Gateway facility at Blacklion		
4.2	Catalyst Initiative 7: Loughs Tapestry			
4.2.1	Loughs Tapestry Experience Network	Create a network (tapestry) of regenerative tourism experiences drawing on the Destination's lakeland topography and its associated 'hidden' natural and cultural heritage that creates a sense of scale and		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		<p>connectivity, encouraging visitors to explore further and to visit and return at different times of the year.</p> <p>Key actions</p> <p>The initial step in the creation of the Loughs Tapestry is to undertake an audit</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List/Map the loughs/lakes with nature designations where there is or could be public access, identify any significant seasonal phenomena and the timeframe within which they occur, and note any existing or recommended restrictions on access (e.g. during nesting season) and the implications for visitor management (e.g. carrying capacity, stakeholder engagement, experience development and nature stewardship); 2. List/Map the loughs/lakes with sites of historical, cultural or archaeological interest where there is or could be public access and note any existing or recommended restrictions on access (e.g. flooding, livestock grazing) and the implications for visitor management (e.g. carrying capacity, stakeholder engagement, experience development and nature stewardship) 3. List/map active community groups and landownership in the proximity of the above sites. 4. Create a composite map, with layers illustrating the location, type of heritage, season/time-frame, type of access (restricted to open), type and focus of community groups, type/theme of potential visitor experience amongst other aspects 	<p>and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		<p>The next step is to develop ‘threads’ of visitor experiences across the Destination</p> <p>5. Taking the map (step 3 above) work with the Local Authorities, community tourism groups, and tourism businesses to create clusters of visitor experiences (saleable and free) that are grouped spatially and/or thematically, representing ‘threads’ for visitors to follow.</p> <p>6. Facilitate and motivate visitors to uncover the Lough’s Tapestry by</p> <p>(a) developing the capabilities of local community groups and tourism enterprises and industry to render the ‘threads’ into appropriate media and itineraries</p> <p>(b) assisting in the co-creation of a series of motivating itineraries focused on Yours to Uncover experiences, Immersed in Nature / Nature Stewardship portals, Active in Nature water-activity hubs, Tranquillity Zones, Wellness in Nature</p>		
4.3	Catalyst Initiative 8: Forest Adventure			
4.3.1	Forest Based Experience	Scope and assess the feasibility of creating a (range of) linked forest-themed visitor experience(s) that draw on the outcomes of the master planning of current key forest amenities at Lough Key, Dún an Rí, Glenfarne, and Killykeen.		
4.3.2	Lough Key Forest Park Masterplan	Implement the recommendations of the Masterplan for Lough Key Forest and Activity Park.		
4.3.3	Killykeen Forest Park Masterplan	Undertake a Masterplan for Killykeen Forest Park and the wider Upper Lough Erne area (including for example Rann Point) to inform the appropriate development and enhancement of domestic and international visitor experiences that deliver on the Vision for the USSEB destination.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
4.3.4	Dún an Rí Forest Park Masterplan	Implement the Dún an Rí Forest Park Masterplan and the priority projects that will contribute to the Destinations profile for in-nature Forest Adventure experiences.		
4.3.5	Glenfarne Wood Strategic Plan	Deliver the Glenfarne Wood Recreation and Tourism Development Strategic Plan.		
4.3.6	Loughanleagh Experience Development	Review the Loughanleagh Masterplan with a focus on sustainability, dwell-time, and commercial return following recent investment in the forest visitor facilities.		
	Destination Enabling Initiatives			
4.4	Kayaking Camino	Undertake a feasibility analysis of creating a kayaking 'Camino' along the River Shannon, potentially taking visitors from the Shannon Pot to the Shannon Estuary.		
4.5	Sliabh an Iarainn National Park Feasibility	Explore the feasibility of designating Sliabh an Iarainn and its hinterland as a National Park / Recreational Area.		
4.6	River Cruising Development	Develop the cruise opportunity for the Destination by implementing the USSEB-relevant recommendations of the Feasibility Study for the Sustainable Development and Greening of the Cruise Hire Sector		
4.7	Angling Tourism	Establish a USSEB destination subgroup to identify the key actions required to develop USSEB as a sustainable Angling Tourism destination that is aligned with the USSEB Vision and Objectives. Undertake an audit of current product and market potential in line with how it can deliver under regenerative tourism principles.		
4.8	Angling Tourism	Continue to support the promotion of USSEB as a sustainable angling tourism destination and continue to build awareness within the international marketplace of local angling experiences.		
4.9	Lough Rinn Water Sports Hub	Further develop and promote Lough Rinn as a national and international Water Sports Hub, hosting regular sport tourism events.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
4.10	Ballyconnell White Water Rafting	Scope requirements for development /enhancement of user and visitor facilities for white water kayaking and rafting along the Woodford River at Ballyconnell.		
4.11	Lough MacNeaen cross-border canoe trail	Develop a cross-border canoeing trail with associated leisure activities on the Arney River.		
4.12	Saleable Experience Development Programmes focusing on In-nature Wellbeing In-nature Immersion	Deliver saleable experience training programmes to grow the number of B2B and B2C saleable experiences focused on the day and evening time economies across the USSEB destination. This will include the following: a) As part of the Forest Experience theme and Loughs Tapestry, grow the number of destination experiences aligned with wellbeing and nature to develop a network of saleable wellbeing experiences and grow the profile of the Destination for wellness tourism. b) As part of the Forest Experience theme and Loughs Tapestry, grow the number of destination experiences that integrate activities with nature and heritage. Develop a network of saleable in-nature experiences and grow the profile of the Destination for immersed in nature experiences.		
4.13	Green Experience Hubs	Drawing on the Forest Experience theme and Loughs Tapestry, test the concept of developing a series of unique green visitor experiences located within a number of 'green tourism hubs'.		
4.14	Destination Cycling Trail	Map the existing off and on road cycling trails and loops, and assess the feasibility of developing a network of linked cycle trails and/or an extended USSEB cycling trail.		
4.15	Accessible Tourism Experiences	Engage tourism providers in a destination wide programme for Accessible Tourism that is a) is informed by the Failte Ireland's accessible tourism guidelines b) is linked to Active in Nature and Yours to Uncover experiences		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		c) provides for industry development in order to maximise the accessible tourism opportunity for USSEB.		
4.16	Inter-regional Experiences and Bundling	Work across the wider Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands region to develop bundling and itinerary development to influence visitor flows and create reasons to stay longer in the region as a whole		
4.17	Cross Border Experiences and Bundling	Leverage cross-border opportunities re: bundling and itinerary development to influence visitor flows and create reasons to stay longer in the USSEB and border areas.		
4.18	Fermanagh Lakelands, Omagh and the Sperrins (FLOS)	Align relevant actions and projects in the FLOS VEDP and USSEB DEDP in order to encourage visitor flow and longer dwell time in and between the two destinations		
4.19	Shared Island and Peace Plus Opportunities - Review and Project Prioritisation	Identify potential experience development opportunities under Shared Island and Peace Plus arising from existing and future plans that have the ability to attract visitors into the USSEB destination and wider North West. Existing plans include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Shared Island Cuilcagh Masterplan • the Castlesaunderson Shared Island Masterplan. 		
4.20	Food Tourism Development Strategy	Develop a destination-wide Food Tourism Strategy in order to grow the number and range of food experiences (e.g. Meet the Maker), supported by a strong inter-county network(s). Strength of food provenance, food network and opportunity to link food with agri and regenerative farming experiences. Creation of destination linked trails based on thematic opportunities e.g. Food Trail linked to the green / eco theme and food provenance.		
4.21	Music Heritage Experience Development	Assess the feasibility of creating a destination-wide network of experiences that enhance visitor engagement with the music heritage – past and current – of the Destination		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
4.22	Golf Tourism	Support the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Golf Association in their experience development and promotional activities		
4.23	National Famine Museum / Strokestown House: Experience development	Implement the saleable experience-related actions set out in the Commercial Plan. Continue to develop Strokestown Park and The National Famine Museum, creating new immersive visitors experience in the surrounding woodlands, meadows and walled gardens that emphasise biodiversity and natural heritage. Restore the original connection between Strokestown Park and the town to enhance and open up and deepen the connection between the property and the community and create greater connectivity between The National Famine Museum and The National Famine Way. Focus on development of an external learning zone, to complement the existing built heritage on site, developing immersive educational and visitor experiences, with a focus on the diaspora		
4.24	Visitor Attraction at Arigna Mining Experience	Enhance the overall tourism offer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope the requirements, and undertake a feasibility study, for an enhanced, future-proofed visitor experience at Arigna Mining Experience, e.g. through the development of an A.I. miner guided tour • Record and curate miner memorabilia • Further develop the Arigna Mountain Walking trails • Assess the feasibility of reinstating the Arigna Cable Car to transport people from AME to Arigna Village. 		
4.25	OPW Heritage Attractions	Work with the regional managers of the OPW Heritage Ireland attractions to enhance their role in developing the Destination offer and appeal.		
4.26	Castle Saunderson Visitor Experience	Review the visitor experience development requirements to maximise the potential of the Castle Saunderson site as regards the		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		onsite experience and how it links to existing and potential trails on land and on water.		
4.27	Big Houses	Develop a network of Big House visitor experiences across the Destination.		
4.28	County Museums Experience Development	Undertake a pilot programme for County Museum development at Cavan County Museum, scoping development requirements and assessing feasibility of an enhanced visitor experience proposition, including a review of the proposal to establish it as the National Story Telling Centre.		
4.29	Small Scale Attractions and Heritage Centres	<p>Develop a programme to enable small scale and community-run attractions and heritage centres to review the sustainability of their commercial approach and governance, their potential to deliver regenerative tourism experiences and their role in visitor orientation to and within the USSEB Destination. Potential participating attractions include the following, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belturbet Heritage Railway Complex • John McGahern Museum at The Barracks Cootehall • The Rainbow Ballroom of Romance • Glenview Folk Museum • Roscommon County Museum • Margaret of New Orleans Birthplace • St George’s Heritage Centre • St Kilian’s Heritage Centre, Mullagh • The Markethouse, Blacklion 		
4.30	Bailieborough Community Hub	Support the visitor experience element of the Bailieborough Courthouse and Community Hub development project.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
4.31	Ballyjamesduff Community and Tourism Hub	Support the visitor experience development requirements in the conversion of the old Percy French Hotel in Ballyjamesduff into a community and tourism hub.		
4.32	Rathcroghan Visitor Experience Development	Support the visitor experience development at Rathcroghan with respect to the Táin Trail.		
4.33	Rathcroghan World Heritage Site Designation	Progress the UNESCO World Heritage Site designation of Rathcroghan as one of the six Royal Sites in Ireland		
4.34	Rathcroghan Archaeology Trail	Develop the Rathcroghan Archaeological Looped Trails ORIS project		
4.35	The Courthouse in Ballinamore	Explore the possibilities for developing a centre that highlights the work of writer John McGahern		
5.	<i>Strategic Objective 5 - Grow the economic impact of tourism and create high quality jobs in the Destination by supporting the industry to enhance its capacity and capability and by developing and enhancing the visitor services' provision.</i>			
	Destination Enabling Initiatives			
5.1	Gateway Towns and visitor service hubs	<p>Complete the key projects outlined by the Shannon Tourism Masterplan to strengthen year-round appeal of the main visitor hubs of Cavan and Carrick on Shannon. Undertake the same for the Gateway Town of Roscommon.</p> <p>Review the requirements to develop the towns of Boyle, Blacklion, Drumshanbo, Manorhamilton, Ballyconnell and Virginia as key service hubs from a daytime and evening time visitor economy perspective, and to enhance their ability to act as gateways to and from neighbouring regions of the Wild Atlantic Way / Ireland's Ancient East / Fermanagh Lakelands, Omagh and the Sperrins.</p>	The development of these projects might result in negative environmental effects on all European sites within the potential Zone of Influence that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the coastal and transitional waters. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste	Yes
5.2	Evening Economy Experience development	Develop a number of evening time activity pilot programmes at and around the key accommodation hubs of Cavan Town, Carrick on Shannon and Roscommon Town. Support the activities such as Open		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		House and Culture Night and the innovative use of cultural/heritage buildings for evening time provision. Build the capability of existing visitor attractions, cultural hubs (e.g. The Dock Art Gallery, Carrick on Shannon; King House, Boyle; Ramor Theatre, Virginia, among others) and activity providers to innovate in how they develop new visitor experiences to grow the range of things to do in the day and evening time.	management. The development of these projects could also potentially result in disturbance due to an increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.	
5.3	Campervan/RV Audit	Identify suitable sites across the USSEB to provide infrastructure for campervans and recreational vehicles that will enable local communities benefit economically and complement existing facilities. The audit should include sites and types of facilities under consideration by Waterways Ireland.		
5.4	Community Tourism Enterprises Experience Development	Draw on the Community Tourism Toolkit to deliver a community tourism programme with existing and emerging community tourism groups as the basis for developing future community tourism training. This will a) Deliver a regenerative approach among local community groups interested in pursuing tourism opportunities. b) Ensure that new and existing community tourism enterprises are equipped with knowledge and capabilities around commerciality, effective governance and succession planning. .		
5.5	Capability building programmes and tourism industry stakeholders	Build on Fáilte Ireland partnerships with Local Development Companies and Local Enterprise offices (LEOs) to align and maximise training programmes and opportunities for local tourism businesses.		
5.6	Festivals and events strategy	Undertake a USSEB wide analysis of festivals and events to establish current gaps and where growth potential exists, place particular focus on programming in the outdoors, community and relevant themed opportunities along the lines of: a) Active in Nature experiences,		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		b) Link in with/leverage county and regional diaspora initiatives.		
5.7	Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Walking Festival Series	Ensure that all walking festivals are aware of and included in the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Walking Festivals series		
5.8	Capacity of the Cruise Hire sector	Work across the relevant agencies and bodies to grow the capacity and capabilities of the cruise hire sector in line with the Feasibility Study for the Sustainable Development and Greening of the Cruise Hire Sector as it relates to the Destination		
5.9	Marketing strategy	Collaborate with businesses and marketing partners in the USSEB area to develop a marketing strategy to extend the season.		
5.10	Tourism signage	Undertake a cross county, destination-wide audit of existing signage in terms of effective visitor orientation and highlighting local attractions, in order to inform any future signage projects in the Destination. Work with relevant bodies on improving the visibility of the Destination and its attractions through appropriate signage. Pay particular attention to signage that functions to attract visitors off bypasses and National Routes (e.g., the new N5 bypass currently under construction), in order to grow the visitor footfall in the smaller towns.		
5.11	Regional Airports and Ports	Seek ways to grow the potential for regional ferry ports and airports to act as access portals to the Destination.		
5.12	Visitor journey	Work with the relevant agencies and existing sources of information to develop a better understanding of the visitor journey, from the point of entry to the Destination, including 'the last mile'. Include all forms of transport, including sustainable forms of transport. Use this as a starting point to inform relevant actions that are focused on maximising visitor access to the Destination.		

No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
6. Strategic Objective 6 - Build new levels of tourism industry and stakeholder collaboration by strengthening of existing tourism networks and clusters and creating new ones where necessary				
6.1	Catalyst Initiative #1 ctd: Embed Regenerative Tourism through collaboration		No negative or uncertain environmental effects on European Sites arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.	No
6.1.1	USSEB Regenerative Tourism Experience Clusters	Motivate collaboration and innovation between the industry, communities and agencies on regenerative tourism outcomes through the development of a number of thematic and geographically-focused clusters of visitor experiences that are firmly rooted in regenerative tourism principles		
6.1.2	Annual Regenerative Tourism Conference - Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and the Upper Shannon, Shannon-Erne and Border DEDP area.	Host/organise a yearly USSEB regenerative tourism seminar/conference/workshop for businesses and agencies to share experiences and learning, and inspire more businesses to implement, showcase and collaborate on regenerative tourism practices and outcomes across a range of aspects of their tourism enterprises.		
Destination Enabling Initiatives				
6.2	Agency Training & Investment Alignment	Implement a strategic cross-agency approach to tourism-related training and enterprise development that ensures alignment with the Vision for the USSEB Destination.		
6.3	Cross-border collaboration	Identify and develop shared approaches and projects that facilitate and grow cross-border tourism activity aligned with regenerative and sustainable tourism.		
6.4	Collaboration across regional experience brands WAW and IAE	Collaborate with colleagues in the Wild Atlantic Way, and Ireland's Ancient East teams to develop and implement a cross-regional approach to networking and tourism development		

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No.	Project	Action	Potential to negatively impact on any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
6.5	Collaborate across IHH	Collaborate with colleagues within Ireland's Hidden Heartlands to develop and implement an inter-regional approach to networking and tourism development		
6.6	Implementation Partnerships	Form the required project implementation partnerships between the Local Authorities and all other strategic partners to effect the delivery of the projects within the DEDP.		
6.7	Place-making and public realm	Work with relevant agencies to ensure that tourism is considered in all elements of place-making / public realm projects in the Destination		
6.8	DEDP Communications Strategy	Develop a communications plan for disseminating progress on the Plan to communities, industry and stakeholder agencies.		

4.2.5 Direct, indirect or secondary effects?

None of the Actions of the USSEB DEDP have any resource requirements from any European site as a result of any of the actions contained therein.

Any pollution could adversely affect the habitats and species listed as qualifying interests in any of the European sites, many of which rely on good water quality. Also, during construction works there is potential for an increase in run-off, for example due to compaction of the soil which will in turn reduce the infiltration capacity and increase the rate and volume of surface water run-off. This can increase surface water run-off and sediment loading which has potential to impact the local drainage and in turn on the European sites.

In addition to the habitats and species associated with the European sites, bird species may be sensitive to disturbances arising as a result of any proposed development. Construction works have the potential for indirect impacts on the Natura 2000 sites and their qualifying features of interest. Potential impacts include habitat degradation as well as disturbance to habitats, species and ecosystem dynamics due to noise, vibration, air quality, and disturbance due to human activities. In addition there is a potential risk to flora and fauna arising from dust deposition, which in extreme cases can inhibit photosynthesis in plants and can increase turbidity in watercourses.

During the operational phase, there is potential for uncertain effects due to any new development and its ancillary infrastructure and increase in human activity and visitor numbers in the vicinity of European sites.

4.2.6 In-combination / Cumulative effects with other plans and programmes

It is a requirement of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that when considering whether a plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of a European site the assessment must take into account in-combination effects with other current or reasonably foreseeable plans and projects.

If it can be clearly demonstrated that the plan or project will not result in any impact on the integrity of a European site then the plan or project should proceed without considering the in-combination test; further, if there are identified effects arising from the plan or project even if they are perceived as minor and not likely to have an impact on the integrity of a European site alone, then any such impacts must be considered 'in-combination' with the effects arising from other plans and projects.

The Actions listed within the USSEB DEDP will be required to comply with the relevant international, national and regional policies, plans and programmes and also undertaken individual environmental assessments for Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and any other relevant processes as appropriate.

The USSEB DEDP could have a relationship with other plans and programmes. However, these plans and programmes will also be subject to environmental assessment, including SEA and AA, for the purpose of preventing and mitigating potential negative environmental effects. **Table 4.3** lists the relevant plans and programmes that have potential for cumulative effects with the USSEB DEDP.

The assessment of cumulative effects above focused on national, regional and local plans, programmes, strategy and policy documents that have the potential to affect the same receiving environment that could be affected by the USSEB DEDP.

The Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 sets out policies and objectives for land use, settlement strategy, sustainable development, transport, infrastructure, environmental protection, and management, cultural heritage, climate change, etc. for the counties. Other higher-level international, national and regional plans are integrated within the County Development Plans and have been assessed as such. The USSEB DEDP will comply with the provisions set within the aforementioned County Development Plans which themselves have been subject to standalone environmental assessment (SEA, NIR, etc.).

This assessment also considered the potential for transboundary effects of the USSEB DEDP within Northern Ireland. Where such effects arise, they will be appropriately mitigated at the source by the measures as set out in Section 4.4 for areas within the DEDP area. Proposed monitoring will be in consultation with Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA) and Department for Communities (DfC).

The assessment of cumulative effects concludes that the implementation of the USSEB DEDP will not result in direct, indirect or cumulative impacts which would have the potential to adversely affect the environment. Indeed the implementation of the USSEB DEDP has the potential for positive cumulative interactions in delivering on policies and objectives of higher level plans in relation to increased economic activity and employment and greater appreciation and understanding of natural heritage, cultural heritage and landscape.

Table 4.3 Potential Cumulative Effects with other Plans and Programmes

Plan, Programme etc.	Potential Cumulative effect	Likely Cumulative Effect
National Planning Framework (NPF) Project 2040 National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2030 (<i>As part of Project Ireland 2040 the National Development Plan sets out the Government's over-arching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030</i>)	The SEA and AA processes carried out during the preparation of the National Planning Framework have ensured that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the plan have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	No
Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy	The SEA and AA processes carried out during the preparation of the RSES have ensured that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the RSES have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	No
National CFRAMS Programme Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study	Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Studies and their product – Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) – are at the core of national policy for flood risk management and the strategy for its implementation. These studies are	No

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Plan, Programme etc.	Potential Cumulative effect	Likely Cumulative Effect
	required by The Floods Directive [2007/60/EC], which is being implemented in Ireland through the European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010 [S.I.122/2010]. Each FRMP is accompanied by an associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement. The SEA and AA processes carried out during the preparation of the FRMP have ensured that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the FRMP have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	
National 4 th Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030	The Biodiversity Action notes the requirements and purposes of AA and SEA and the vision of the plan to conserve and restored for the benefit of all sectors of society.	No
National Sustainable Mobility Policy (2022)	The policy sets a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel and public transport to support Ireland's overall requirement to achieve a 51% reduction in carbon emissions by the end of this decade. The projects which will be implemented as a result of this national policy will be subject to their individual environmental impact assessment and appropriate assessment processes (as appropriate) and hence there would be no potential adverse effects on the overall receiving environment.	No
River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for Ireland 2022-2027	The SEA and AA processes carried out during the preparation of the RBMP have ensured that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Plan have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	No
County Development Plans (Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025, Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027, Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027, Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027, Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030, Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028,	The County Development Plan (CDP) provides the principal planning strategy document for the development of a local authority area over the statutory time period of the plan. Each of the CDP with potential Zone of Influence of the study area has been subject to SEA and AA processes to ensure that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Plan have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	No
Transboundary County Development Plan (Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Local	The Plan Strategy is the first of two development plan documents which will comprise the Local Development Plan. A Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (HRA) and	No

Plan, Programme etc.	Potential Cumulative effect	Likely Cumulative Effect
Development Plan 2030: Plan Strategy)	a Sustainability Appraisal which incorporates the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been prepared for the Plan Strategy to ensure that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Plan have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	
Regional Tourism Development Strategies 2023-2027 – Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027	The SEA and AA processes carried out during the preparation of the Strategy have ensured that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Strategy have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	No

4.3 Conservation objectives, threats and vulnerabilities of the European Sites

A key aim of the Habitats Directive is to ‘*maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest*’. Site-specific conservation objectives aim to define favourable conservation condition for particular habitats or species within a European site. In the case of European sites for which site-specific conservation objectives have not yet been prepared, generic conservation objectives have been provided by NPWS.

The integrity of a site is 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.

Site specific conservation objectives for each of the 58 European sites under appraisal in the NIS have been published by NPWS for Ireland and by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural affairs for Northern Ireland. For every SAC the conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of each of the Qualifying Interests (habitats), as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out. For every SPA the conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of each of the Special Conservation Interests (the bird species and the wetland habitat), as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.

4.4 Mitigation measures

The findings set out in **Section 4.2** of this Natura Impact Report confirm that, if unmitigated, a number of the actions of the USSEB DEDP have potential for adverse effects on the integrity of a total of 58 no. European sites.

This Plan (the USSEB DEDP) sits at the lower level of the hierarchy and must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions / plans. These documents include plans and programmes, which have also been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant.

The projects included in this Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with the various provisions of 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 this Plan is not part and does not contribute towards. The Plan includes requirements for environmental protection and management including the ones set out in the *Regional Tourism Development Strategies 2023-2027* especially the *Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027*. As stated in the USSEB DEDP these include:

- **Infrastructure Management** - *With respect to infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, surface water, waste and transport) consideration must be given to the available capacity and the potential impact on existing infrastructure, as well as the potential environmental effects arising from the provision of new infrastructure and / or from a likely increase in tourism-related pressures. Any such environmental effects will be appropriately mitigated. The promotion of developing visitor friendly infrastructure where it is required is encouraged.*
- **Visitor Management** - *Those receiving funding will be requested 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 located at a suitable setback from ecological sensitivities.*
Research by Fáilte Ireland has shown improved environmental outcomes (including improved attainment of conservation objectives) in areas operating appropriate 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; the enhancement, protection and management of biodiversity; protection of cultural heritage; and protection of landscape sensitivities.*
Consideration and implementation for all environmental mitigation measures as set out in Irelands Hidden Heartlands Regional Tourism Development Strategy will also be considered a requirement as appropriate.

The majority of the mitigation measures are achieved through the detailed environmental protective policies and objectives as set out in the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028. The Development Plans provides for sustainable planning and management control of all development in the study area– including the delivery of Destination & Experience Development Plans through continued collaboration with Fáilte Ireland.

Proposals for development within the USSEB DEDP area must comply as appropriate with the relevant provisions included within the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028. Given that the USSEB DEDP sits within and at a lower level in the planning hierarchy, the measures contained within the Development Plans, and in their Natura Impact Report (NIR), SEA Environmental Report / SEA Statement and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) are applicable to the USSEB DEDP.

Therefore, the key environmental protection measures included in the *Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028*, *Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029* and *Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028*, provide for appropriate and detailed mitigation of potential uncertain environmental effects of the USSEB DEDP. These measures include the following selected policies / objectives as detailed below.

Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028 protective policies/ objectives are as follows:

- **CSD 05** - *In the assessment of development proposals, to take account of transport corridors, environmental carrying capacity, availability and/or capacity to provide waste water and water supply services, potential to conflict with Water Framework Directive objectives, potential to impact on the integrity of European sites and Annexed Habitats and species, features of biodiversity value including ecological networks, impact on landscape and visual characteristics, education and other socioeconomic objectives. Development proposals may require screening for Appropriate Assessment and there shall be no net loss in Biodiversity from development proposals in the lifetime of the plan.*
- **CTH 01** - *Protect, enhance, create and connect natural heritage, green spaces and high quality amenity spaces throughout Cavan for biodiversity and recreation whilst ensuring the design and operation of routes respond to the ecological protection and needs of each site.*
- **STH 05** - *Prohibit any development that would result in a significant deterioration of habitats and or disturbance of species in any SPA, SAC, NHA.*
- **GR 08** - *Development of road projects will be subject to the outcome of the Appropriate Assessment process in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive.*
- **LP 03** - *Ornamental lighting of public buildings, bridges, monuments and public spaces must not fall beyond the area intended or directed skywards. Architecturally sensitive tones such as passive, warm coloured lights should be considered before blue or rich white lights and only used where necessary in accordance with Eurobats and Darksky Circular.*
- **NH 1** - *Conserve, protect and manage the County's natural heritage assets for future generations while encouraging appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the amenity value for the present generation.*
- **NH 6** - *Ensure the protection of species of flora and fauna afforded legal protection under Irish and European Legislation.*
- **NH 8** - *Promote the conservation of biodiversity outside of designated areas, including features such as wetlands, woodlands, hedgerows and uplands.*
- **NHDS 1** - *Protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas.*
- **NHDS2** - *Ensure an Appropriate Assessment is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European Site(s), either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, in view of the site's conservation objectives.*
- **NHDS3** - *Ensure that any plan or project that could have an adverse impact on a NHA, pNHA, SAC, SPA (either by themselves or in combination with other plans and projects) or upon the conservation objectives of the site or would result in the deterioration of any habitat or any species reliant on that habitat will be subject to the requirements of Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.*

- **NHDS4** - Ensure an Appropriate Assessment (AA) in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, and in accordance with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009 and relevant EPA and European Commission guidance documents, is carried out in respect of any Plan or Project likely to have significant effect on a Natura 2000 site(s), either individually or in combination.
- **NHDS 5** - Require an ecological appraisal for development not directly connected with or necessary to the management of Natura Sites, or a proposed Natura Site and which are likely to have significant effects on that site either individually or cumulatively.
- **NHDS 7** - Promote the maintenance and as appropriate, achievement of favourable conservation status of habitats and species and to improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, by maintaining and where appropriate, developing features in the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.
- **NHDS 14** - Contribute towards the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones.
- **NHND1** - Support the protection of non-designated sites and acknowledge the need to protect non-designated habitats and landscapes and to conserve biological diversity.
- **NHHD2** - Conserve the existing wide range of flora, fauna and wildlife habitats in the county through the preservation of ecological corridors and networks vital to the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. To designate County Biodiversity Sites within the lifetime of this plan and to protect the ecological integrity of these sites.
- **NHND5** - Require an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) for any proposed development which have a significant impact on rare, threatened and or protected species and non-designated habitats of biodiversity value.
- **IN 3** - Prevent the spread of invasive species within the plan area, including requiring landowners and developers to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species.
- **WL 4** - Protect wetlands, floodplains and watercourses for biodiversity and flood protection value.
- **WTHS2** - Promote awareness, understanding and best practice in the management of Cavan's woodland, tree, hedgerow and stone wall resource.
- **WTHS 7** - Encourage the retention of hedgerows and stonewalls and other distinctive boundary treatments in rural areas and prevent loss and fragmentation, where possible. Where removal of a hedgerow or stone wall is unavoidable, mitigation by provision of the same type of boundary will be required and where removal is proposed which may affect bat species it shall be subject to regime of protection under the EC (Birds and Habitats) Regulations, 2011, as amended.
- **GW 03** - Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures outlined in the relevant River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027, and associated Programme of Measures, or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan. Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on water quality, the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands, species and wetlands, in County Cavan and in any areas that are hydrologically or hydro geologically linked, including areas in Northern Ireland.

- **CTH 08** - Protect environmental quality in Cavan through the implementation of European, National and Regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, climate change, light pollution, noise pollution and waste management.
- **IW 1** - Protect and enhance the natural heritage and landscape character of the County's Waterways and maintain them free from inappropriate development and provide for public access, where feasible, acknowledging the existence of contiguous Natura 2000 sites.

Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 protective policies/ objectives are as follows:

- **TOUR POL 5** Appropriate Assessments for lower-tier recreation projects shall demonstrate that potential direct, indirect and cumulative effects including in relation to the following issues, have been adequately mitigated, where they exist:
 - Hard infrastructure in riparian zones;
 - Increased recreational access;
 - Species and populations of conservation concern where relevant; and
 - Water quality.
- **TOUR POL 6** To seek to sustainably manage any increase in visitor numbers in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance, including ensuring that any new projects, such as blueways and greenways, are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities, such as riparian zones.
- **TOUR POL 7** Where relevant, the Council and those receiving consent for development shall seek to sustainably manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects to sensitive habitats, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.
- **PL POL 1** - To support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.
- **NH POL 1** - To retain and protect significant stands / lengths of existing trees/hedgerows/woodlands, and seek increased planting of native trees, where appropriate, in new developments.
- **NH POL 2** - To implement Article 6(3) and where necessary Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, to ensure that Appropriate Assessment is carried out in relation to works, plans and projects with the potential to impact European sites (SACs and SPAs), whether directly or indirectly or in combination with any other plan(s) or project(s). All assessments must be in compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, and the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended as relevant.
- **NH POL 3** - To protect designated Natural Heritage Area (NHA) sites, including proposed Natural Heritage Area sites (pNHA) and seek to develop linkages between designated sites and other non-designated sites of ecological importance, where feasible and as resources permit.
- **NH POL 5** - To ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on plant, animal or bird species or habitats protected by law, subject to satisfactory mitigation measures.
- **NH OBJ 1** - To ensure that no project or programme giving rise to significant adverse, direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site(s), having regard to their qualifying interests and conservation objectives, arising from their size, scale, area

or land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).

- **NH OBJ 2** - To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) during the lifetime of this Plan.
- **NH OBJ 3** - To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Protection Areas during the lifetime of this Plan.
- **NH OBJ 4** - To protect and conserve Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) that become designated and notified to the Local Authority during the lifetime of this Plan.
- **NH POL 6** - To protect and where possible enhance wildlife habitats and landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows and road verges, and to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (such as ponds, wetlands and trees) which are not within designated sites.
- **NH POL 8** - To protect ecological networks linking protected and designated important sites within the county, in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.
- **NH POL 9** - To ensure that appropriate mitigation and/or compensation measures to conserve biodiversity, landscape character and 'Green Infrastructure' networks are required in developments where habitats are at risk or lost as part of a development.
- **NH POL 10** - To ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity of the county.
- **NH OBJ 9** - To support the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.
- **WET POL 1** - To have regard to the Co. Leitrim Wetlands Survey 2019 and subsequent wetland surveys that may be published during the lifetime of this Plan in assessing individual development management proposals. This will include the protection of surveyed wetland sites that have been rated as A (International), B (National) and C+ (County) importance.
- **IS POL 1** - To require relevant development proposals to address the presence or absence of invasive alien species on proposed development sites and (if necessary) require applicants to prepare and submit an Invasive Species Management Plan where such a species exists to comply with the provisions of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015 and the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species 1143/2014.
- **NBGI POL 1** - To actively promote and encourage nature-based approaches and 'Green Infrastructure' solutions as viable mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce GHG emissions, increase the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and optimise the multifaceted benefits through:
 - Conservation, promotion, and restoration of the natural environment;
 - Integrating an ecosystem services approach and promote healthy living environments through enhanced connection with nature and recreation/amenity;
 - Enhancing biodiversity in urban and rural settings;
 - Assist with water and flood risk management; and
 - Carbon storage or sequestration.
- **WI POL 5** - To ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure, in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that

supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment. Water abstractions should ensure appropriate levels of environmental management and protection, including ensuring compliance with the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive.

- **WQ POL 4** - *To ensure that the delivery and phasing of water services are subject to the required appraisal, planning and environmental assessment processes and avoid impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.*
- **AQ POL 1** - *To promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/5/0/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 201) (or any updated/superseding documents).*

Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 protective policies/ objectives are as follows:

- **CAEE 8.25** - *Protect and enhance the biodiversity and ecological value of wetlands and other landscape features such as semi-natural grasslands, rivers, streams and turloughs which support the ecological network throughout County Roscommon.*
- **CAEE 8.27** - *Ensure that peatland areas, including those designated or proposed for designation (including NHA, pNHA or Natura 2000 sites), are protected so as to allow their continued role as carbon sinks, which contribute towards reducing CO₂ emissions.*
- **NH 10.1** - *Ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity of the county.*
- **NH 10.4** - *Proposals where woodland, tree or hedgerow removal is proposed will be required to demonstrate a sufficient level of protection to Annex IV species, such as Bats and Otter, in accordance with the Habitats Directive.*
- **NH 10.5** - *Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) will be required for proposed developments likely to significantly impact on natural habitats and/or species, and which are not subject to Environmental Impact Assessment.*
- **NH 10.7** - *Implement Article 6(3) and where necessary Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and to ensure that Appropriate Assessment is carried out in relation to works, plans and projects likely to impact on European sites (SACs and SPAs), whether directly or indirectly or in combination with any other plan(s) or project(s). All assessments must be in compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.*
- **NH 10.8** - *Ensure that no plans, programmes, etc. or projects are permitted that give rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of European Sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects, (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects).*
- **NH 10.10** - *Actively promote the conservation and protection of areas designated as an NHA (including proposed sites) and to only consider proposals for development within or affecting an NHA where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposed development will not have a significant adverse effect on the NHA or pNHA.*
- **NH 10.13** - *Encourage the retention of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatments in rural areas and prevent loss and fragmentation, where practically possible. Where removal of a*

hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, mitigation by provision of the same type of boundary will be required.

- **NH 10.16** - *Protect and enhance the valuable peatland resource in County Roscommon whilst protecting the heritage and environmental value of these peatland areas. The aims of the National Peatlands Strategy and the implementation of the National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022 and the Enhanced Decommissioning Rehabilitation and Restoration Scheme will be supported.*
- **NH 10.18** - *Manage, enhance and protect the wetlands of the county having regard to the County Roscommon Wetland Survey (2017) and ensure that there is an appropriate level of assessment in relation to proposals which would involve draining, reclaiming or infilling of wetland habitats. The Council shall be available to engage with the NPWS with the objective of facilitating the monitoring and surveying of wetland sites in Roscommon.*
- **NH 10.19** - *Ensure that the county's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values and to conserve and enhance where possible, the wildlife habitats of the County's rivers and riparian zones, lakes, canals and streams which occur outside of designated areas to provide a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the county. The Council shall be available to engage with the NPWS with the objective of facilitating the monitoring and surveying of wetland sites in Roscommon.*
- **NH 10.20** - *Protect waterbodies and watercourses from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. To this effect, consideration should be given to Inland Fisheries Ireland's guidance document Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment (2020).*
- **NH 10.24** - *Ensure, where the presence of invasive species is identified on any proposed development site, that robust treatment measures are detailed to demonstrate how these species will be appropriately managed and controlled.*
- **NH 10.12** - *Promote and facilitate the development of geo-tourism in County Roscommon where it does not have a detrimental impact on designated sites or features of geological interest.*

4.5 Summary and Conclusion

This Natura Impact Statement has considered the potential impacts of the implementation of the Upper Shannon, Shannon-Erne and Border Destination & Experience Development Plan on the integrity of the relevant European sites.

This report concludes on the best scientific evidence that it can be clearly demonstrated that no elements of the USSEB DEDP will result in any impact on the integrity or Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests of any relevant European site, either on their own or in-combination with other plans or projects, in light of their conservation objectives, provided mitigation measures are implemented.

Refer to Appendix 1 for the Appropriate Assessment Determination.

Appendix 1– Appropriate Assessment Determinations

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended) for the Draft Upper Shannon, Shannon Erne, Border Destination and Experience Development Plan

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended (the Birds and Habitats Regulations), Failte Ireland undertook a screening for Appropriate Assessment to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the sites, if the Draft Plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on European Site(s).

The Draft Upper Shannon, Shannon-Erne and Border (USSEB) Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) is a five-year sustainable tourism plan for Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon north of, and including, Roscommon Town (the 'Destination').

Given the scale of the Draft Plan, the potential for significant effects on all European sites within the potential Zone of Influence of the Draft Plan, in Ireland and Northern Ireland, was appraised.

Following Screening, it was not possible to exclude, on the basis of objective scientific information, that the Draft Plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on any European Site. Under Regulation 42(6) of the Birds and Habitats Regulations, Failte Ireland has determined that an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required for the Draft Plan.

Under Regulation 42(9) of the Birds and Habitats Regulations, Failte Ireland has prepared a Natura Impact Statement and compiled the evidence required to inform the AA.

Date: October 2024

Signed: 
Approved Officer

**Appropriate Assessment Determination under the
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)
for the Upper Shannon, Shannon Erne, Border Destination and Experience Development Plan**

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination, pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Regulation 42 (11) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended), as to whether a plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European Site has been made by Fáilte Ireland.

In carrying out this AA, Fáilte Ireland is taking into account the relevant matters specified under Regulation 42 (12) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended). The AA Natura Impact Statement (which considers other relevant plans and projects) has been carefully considered and its reasoning and conclusion agreed with and adopted. All other relevant documents prepared and submitted during the preparation process for the Upper Shannon, Shannon Erne, Border Destination and Experience Development Plan were also considered in making this determination, including the Plan to be finalised and written submissions made on the Draft Plan and associated documents while they were on public display.

It is determined that the risks to the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites have been addressed by the inclusion of achievable mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of impacts in the first place and reliably mitigate these impacts where they cannot be avoided. Furthermore, in order to be realised, projects included in the Plan 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 Plan is not part and does not contribute towards.

Having incorporated these mitigation commitments; it is determined that implementation of the Upper Shannon, Shannon Erne, Border Destination and Experience Development Plan will not have a significant adverse effect on the ecological integrity of any European Site, either individually or in combination with any other plan or project¹. Therefore, no further assessment is required.

Date: December 2024

Signed:



Signatory
Approved Officer

¹ 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.

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