

**Upper Shannon, Shannon Erne,  
Border Destination & Experience  
Development Plan  
Strategic Environmental Assessment  
(SEA) Statement**

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**Environmental  
Assessment**

Client:

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## Glossary

### Appropriate Assessment

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

### Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

### Environmental Problems

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

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

### Environmental Vectors

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

### Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing a human action, be it a plan, programme or project. Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where there are significant negative effects, consideration should be given in the first instance to preventing such effects or, where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects.

### Protected Structure

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

### **Recorded Monument**

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

### **SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment)**

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

### **SEA Scoping**

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

### **Strategic Actions**

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

### **Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO)**

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

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Overview

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for the Upper Shannon, Shannon-Erne and Border (USSEB) Destination & Experience Development Plan (hereafter referred to the 'Plan' or the 'USSEB DEDP').

This SEA Statement, which should be read in conjunction with the USSEB DEDP, has been prepared by Brady Shipman Martin, environmental, planning and landscape consultants, on behalf of Fáilte Ireland, the National Tourism Development Authority.

The following report has been prepared to comply with the provisions of Article 16(2)(b) of S.I. 435 of 2004 – European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations – as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011 – European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

*Directive 2001/42/EC<sup>1</sup> on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment* (the 'SEA Directive') requires EU Member States to assess the 'likely significant environmental effects' of plans and programmes prior to their adoption. This provides for the assessment of strategic environmental considerations at an early stage in the decision-making process. SEA is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental quality and consequences of Plans or Programmes (P/Ps). The purpose is to ensure that the environmental consequences of P/Ps are assessed both during their preparation and prior to their adoption. The SEA process also gives specified environmental authorities, interested parties and the general public, an opportunity to comment on the environmental impacts of the proposed P/P and to be kept informed during the decision-making process.

Article 1 of the SEA Directive states that:

*"The objective of this directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment."*

The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish law through:

- Statutory Instrument (S.I.) No. 435 of 2004 (the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004), as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011); and
- S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2004), as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

The former regulations, (S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011), relate to SEA as it applies to plans or programmes prepared for "agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism and town and

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<sup>1</sup> SEA Directive: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042&from=EN>

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country planning or land use”, and these provisions are applicable to the USSEB DEDP as a tourism sector plan.

The latter regulations (S.I. No. 436 of 2004 as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011) relate to SEA as it applies to plans or programmes where the context requires, “a development plan, a variation of a development plan, a local area plan (or an amendment thereto), regional planning guidelines or a planning scheme”, and are not applicable to the USSEB DEDP.

This SEA Statement is a reflective document that looks back on the SEA process, what has been achieved and it also sets out what monitoring will be done in the future.

### 1.2 Destination & Experience Development Plans

A Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP) is a five year commercial destination and experience development plan prepared for an area.

The Plan has identified a range of key initiatives that are designed to raise awareness of the destination, increase the length of stay in the area, expand the range and quality of visitor experiences, strengthen the value of tourism to local communities and protect the quality, character and distinctiveness of the local environment, heritage and culture. The Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands *Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027* and the *Shannon Tourism Masterplan 2020-2030*, together provide an overarching strategic framework for USSEB DEDP.

### 1.3 Appropriate Assessment

The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires an Appropriate Assessment (AA) to be carried out where a plan or project is *likely to have a significant impact* on a Natura 2000 site. Natura 2000 sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA).

Stage 1 is to establish whether AA is required for the particular plan or project. This stage is referred to as ‘screening for the requirement for AA’, and its purpose is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, could have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site, in view of the site’s conservation objectives.

As set out in Department Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08<sup>2</sup> (15 February 2008), Screening for AA is of relevance to SEA screening in that “where following screening, it is found that the draft plan or amendment may have an impact on the conservation status of a Natura 2000 site or that such an impact cannot be ruled out, adopting the precautionary approach:

- An AA of the plan must be carried out, and
- In any case where SEA would not otherwise be required, it must also be carried out.”

Hence, where a plan requires AA, it shall also require SEA.

A Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) and the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the USSEB DEDP and the SEA Environmental Report.

The AA has concluded that the USSEB DEDP will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

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<sup>2</sup> NPWS SEA letter: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-sea-01-08.pdf>

## 1.4 Content of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

In accordance with Article 16(2)(b) of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, (as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011), the SEA Statement will summarise the following:

- (i) *how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme;*
- (ii) *how:*
  - (I) *the environmental report prepared pursuant to article 12,*
  - (II) *submissions and observations made to the competent authority in response to a notice under article 13, and*
  - (III) *any consultations under article 14.**have been taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme,*
- (iii) *the reasons for choosing the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and*
- (iv) *the measures decided upon to monitor, in accordance with article 17, the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan or programme or modification to a plan or programme.*

## 1.5 SEA Stages and Process

The key focus of SEA is to take environmental issues, and in particular ‘likely significant environmental effects’ of a P / P, into consideration during the plan or programme making process. The key stages in the SEA process as they relate to the USSEB DEDP are outlined in **Table 1.1** below.

**Table 1.1 Outline of the SEA Process**

Stage	Description	Status
1. Screening	<p>The requirement to undertake a SEA is mandatory for certain Plan / Programme (P / P). Where SEA is not a mandatory requirement, the P / Ps is subject to a ‘Screening process’, to consider if it is <i>likely to have significant effects</i> on the environment, and therefore, if SEA is required.</p> <p>The preparation of the <i>Draft USSEB DEDP</i> has been screened for Appropriate Assessment (AA) and it has been concluded that potential for effects on the integrity of European sites cannot be excluded beyond all reasonable scientific doubt and is required to undergo Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>Therefore, in accordance with <i>Circular Letter SEA 1/08 &amp; NPWS 1/08</i> the <i>Draft USSEB DEDP</i> was also required to undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with <i>Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment</i> (known as the SEA Directive).</p>	<p>Completed</p> 
2. Scoping	<p>Preparation of a SEA Scoping Report highlighting that the Environmental Report is required to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ methods of assessment;</li> <li>■ contents and level of detail in the Plan / Programme;</li> <li>■ the stage in the Plan or Programme-making process; and</li> </ul>	<p>Completed</p> 

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Stage	Description	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in the decision-making process in order to avoid duplication of environmental assessment.</li> </ul> <p>Scoping provides for consultation with the Environmental Authorities specified in Article 13 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by Regulations S.I. No. 200 of 2011, and the process allows for incorporation of the views of the environmental authorities within the P / P and the SEA Environmental Report.</p>	
<p><b>3. Environmental Report</b></p>	<p>Preparation of a systemic identification and evaluation of alternatives and assessment of the <i>likely significant environmental effects</i> of implementing the P / P.</p> <p>The findings of the assessment, which is carried out at various stages in the P / P making (<i>e.g.</i> Draft, Amended Draft <i>etc.</i>), are provided in the SEA Environmental Report in accordance with Article 12 (including Schedule 2) of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by Regulations S.I. No. 200 of 2011.</p> <p>The output from this stage is an Environmental Report which accompanied the draft P / P required on public display.</p>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> 
<p><b>4. SEA Statement</b></p>	<p>Completion / adoption of the Final USSEB DEDP, taking account of <i>likely significant environmental effects</i>, any submissions or observations received from consultations and integration of mitigation and monitoring measures within the Plan.</p> <p>The Environmental Report is concluded and an SEA Statement is prepared in accordance with Article 16(2)(b) of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by Regulations S.I. No. 200 of 2011, summarising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan / Programme;</li> <li>■ how the environmental report, and any submissions /observations or consultations have been taken into account in the preparation of the Plan / Programme;</li> <li>■ the reasons for choosing the Plan / Programme in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and</li> <li>■ the measures decided for monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan / Programme.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> 
<p><b>5. SEA Monitoring</b></p>	<p>The Plan is adopted and implemented, and the environmental effectiveness of the implementation of the Plan is monitored and reported on through the life of the Plan.</p>	<p><b>On-going</b></p>

## 2 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the Plan

### 2.1 Introduction

This section details how both the SEA Environmental Report and submissions and observations made to Fáilte Ireland on the Environmental Report and SEA process have been taken into account during the preparation of the USSEB DEDP.

The SEA and AA team worked with the Plan-preparation team at Fáilte Ireland in order to integrate requirements for environmental protection and management into the Plan. Consideration has been given to the requirement to undertake environmental assessment of this Plan in order to ensure full legal compliance and to further integrate protection, enhancement and promotion of the environment in developing and implementing the Plan. The key findings of the SEA and AA Process for the Plan and key requirements for Environmental Considerations are included in Appendix 1 of the USSEB DEDP.

### 2.2 SEA Consultation

A number of opportunities are integrated into the plan-making process to allow for consultation with the environmental authorities and the general public on the plan and SEA. Submissions and observations were made at each of these stages, and these informed the preparation and finalisation of the Plan and the SEA process.

#### 2.2.1 SEA Scoping Consultation

SEA Scoping (Stage 2) consultation with the Environmental Authorities specified in Article 9(5) of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by Regulations S.I. No. 200 of 2011 and for incorporation of the views of the Environmental Authorities within the Plan or Programme and the SEA Environmental Report.

The consultation was undertaken with the following Environmental Authorities specified in Article 9(5) of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended, on 10 October 2023:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications;
- The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media;
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Natural Ireland Environmental Agency).

Submissions / observations on the scoping of the Environmental Report were received from the environmental authorities and comments have been incorporated into the Plan and Environmental Report as set out in **Table 2.1**.

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Table 2.1 SEA Scoping Submissions / Observation from Environmental Authorities

Environmental Authority	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
<p><b>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</b></p>	<p>The submission from EPA includes the following comments and recommendations:</p> <p>Governance and implementation – The Plan should set out the implementation arrangements and governance structures including lines of responsibility for implementation, delivery, interim review and progress reporting. The Plan should address the relationship with the National Planning Framework, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, existing Local Authority plans/ programmes.</p>	<p>The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.</p>
	<p>Synergies with key national plan – EPA recommends that the Plan documents the synergies with the key national plans and programmes. The relevant actions of the Climate Action Plan 2023 (and Climate Action Plan 2024 under preparation) and the objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework, River Basin Management Plan, and the Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy should be aligned with and considered, as appropriate.</p>	
	<p>Integration of the SEA and the Plan – EPA highlights that the integration of the SEA process into the Plan should reflect the overall objective of the SEA Directive. It is essential for SEA to address climate and biodiversity issues and take account of the Ireland’s climate crisis and biodiversity emergency.</p> <p>Recommendations from the SEA &amp; AA including mitigation measures and monitoring proposals should be integrated into the Plan. SEA Environmental Report and the Plan should include a chapter on how the recommendations and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan.</p>	
	<p>EPA recommend that the SEA Environmental Report includes summary tables outlining the key findings of the SEA and linking the significant environmental effects identified to the proposed mitigation measures, monitoring programme and Plan policies/measures.</p>	
	<p>EPA highlight their recently published guidance note to help provide guidance and ideas on how to carry out strategic environmental assessments (SEA) of tourism sectoral plans and</p>	

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Environmental Authority	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p>programmes in Ireland - 'Good Practice Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Tourism Sector' (EPA, 2023).</p> <p>The submission describes the key findings and chapters of the 'State of the Environment Report- Ireland's Environment An Integrated Assessment 2020'. The report recognises the need for full implementation of existing environmental legislation and review of governance/coordination on environmental protection across public bodies.</p> <p>EPA highlights the requirement under the SEA Regulations to consult with Environmental Authorities (EPA, Minister of Housing, Local Government &amp; Heritage, Department of Environment, Climate &amp; Communications, Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)</p> <p>Appendix I to the EPA submission includes comments on the SEA Scoping Report - scope of the SEA, data and knowledge gaps, range of effects, monitoring, implementation &amp; reporting, SEA statement, integration with other key Plans and Programmes, available guidance &amp; resources, webtools.</p>	
<p><b>Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)</b></p>	<p>GSI encourage use of and reference to their datasets attached to their submission. These include geoheritage (county geological sites), culture &amp; tourism (Culcagh lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark, PROJECT Belturbet), Dimension Stone / Stone built Ireland, groundwater, geological mapping, geohazards, historic mines, marine and coastal unit, physiographic units. GSI also includes a list of publicly available datasets relevant to planning, EIA &amp; SEA processes.</p>	<p>The information and datasets provided have informed the preparation of the Environmental Report.</p>
<p><b>Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage</b></p>	<p>Department recommends to have regard to the following in the preparation of the SEA report – The National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014, Record of Monuments and Places, Sites and Monuments Record, Register of Historic Monuments (established under section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987), Planning and Development Act 2000 and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, International Conventions. The Department also includes a list of publicly available GIS datasets relevant to environmental assessments. This includes Historic Environment Viewer, Wreck Viewer, RMP, List of National Monuments in Ownership or Guardianship of the</p>	<p>The information and datasets provided have informed the preparation of the Environmental Report.</p>

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Environmental Authority	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	Minister, List of Preservation Orders, World Heritage in Ireland website and Irish excavation reports.	
<p><b>Department for Communities – Historic Environment Division (HED)</b></p>	<p>The submission from HED reference to transboundary effects and discusses inter-relationship of sites, buildings and places, potential effects with regard to impacts on their setting. The submission lists the following Northern Ireland (NI) legislation and national plans for consideration –</p> <p>National Legislation -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011</li> <li>• Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995</li> <li>• Protection of Wrecks Act 1973</li> </ul> <p>National / Plans Programmes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Development Strategy 2035 (infrastructure -ni.gov.uk)</li> <li>• Archaeology 2030 A strategic approach for Northern Ireland</li> <li>• Strategic Planning Policy Statement 2015</li> </ul> <p>The submission also lists GIS datasets for recorded, designated and non-designated heritage assets and also marine historic environment. Consideration of potential transboundary impacts in relation to cultural heritage should include consideration of impacts on setting, also considering potential impacts on intangible heritage, i.e. folklore, customs, beliefs, traditions and knowledge. Where appropriate the report should consider potential effects on non-designated heritage assets, such as vernacular and industrial heritage.</p>	<p>The information and datasets provided have informed the preparation of the Environmental Report.</p>
<p><b>Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)</b></p>	<p>The submission from DAERA recommends to include within the ER a dedicated section providing information on the background of the plan, environmental baseline of the geographical area, relationship between other plans and programs including appropriate objectives, indicators and targets. An appraisal of the Plan should be undertaken to include only those elements of it that are likely to have significant environmental effects should be included in the next stages of the ER.</p>	<p>The information and datasets provided have informed the preparation of the Environmental Report.</p>

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Environmental Authority	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p>Transboundary issues arising from this plan should be considered including the potential disturbance to/impact on NI/RoI migratory/mobile species. Cross border designated sites, European sites in Northern Ireland adjacent to or with pathways to/from the Republic of Ireland, priority habitats, river basins, and other landscape types also require special attention as ecological functionality and ‘views’ of landscape cross political boundaries. The SEA should consider all potential impacts including those which may impact Northern Ireland both directly and indirectly. Consideration should be given to all potential impacts on NI habitats (particularly designated sites, priority habitats and those important for migratory species and NI populations) including habitat quality and conservation status.</p> <p>NED notes that the plan boundary includes or is close proximity to Lough Melvin (designated as a Special Area of Conservation, SAC, and an Area of Special Scientific Interest, ASSI) and Upper Lough Erne (ASSI, SAC and Special Protection Area, SPA). The submission highlights that the collective term of “Natura 2000” sites, the network of European protected sites, are now known as “National Site Network” sites within the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The submission highlights the following useful information sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 (as amended)</li> <li>• Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011</li> <li>• The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended)</li> <li>• The Environment (NI) Order 2002</li> <li>• The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017</li> <li>• The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for Northern Ireland</li> <li>• Planning Policy Statements</li> <li>• Biodiversity Strategy for NI to 2020 <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/biodiversity-strategy-northern-ireland-2020-0">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/biodiversity-strategy-northern-ireland-2020-0</a></li> <li>• Draft Environment Strategy <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/esni-public-discussion-document">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/esni-public-discussion-document</a></li> </ul>	

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Environmental Authority	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Draft NI peatland policy: <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/ni-peatland-strategy-consultation">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/ni-peatland-strategy-consultation</a>.</li> <li>• The Draft Green Growth Strategy Consultation on the draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland   Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)</li> <li>• Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050 Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050   Department for the Economy (economy-ni.gov.uk)</li> <li>• Northern Ireland State of the Environment Reports: <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-environment-report-2013">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-environment-report-2013</a></li> <li>• Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Reports: <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report</a></li> <li>• Designated Scientific Sites: <a href="http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/protected-areas">www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/protected-areas</a></li> <li>• Regional Landscape Character Map viewer: <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/regional-landscape-character-areas-map-viewer">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/regional-landscape-character-areas-map-viewer</a></li> <li>• DAERA have a map browser for NI protected sites and known priority habitat: <a href="http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/natural-environment-map-viewer">www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/natural-environment-map-viewer</a></li> <li>• Our natural environment datasets are available at the link below: <a href="http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets">www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets</a></li> </ul> <p>The submission recommends that the Appropriate Assessment should refer to the status of habitats and species in the relevant reports available on the JNCC website as follows: UK Article 17 report for the Habitats Directive and the UK Article 12 report for the Birds Directive</p> <p>The submission recommends that the SEA should consider transboundary impacts on the Northern Ireland landscape, especially in relation to Landscape Character Areas and the Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark. The NIEA Map Viewer may be of use in identifying Landscape Character Assessment locations.</p> <p>The submission recommends that the SEA should consider all issues in relation to the aquatic environment impacts that should be considered include, those relating to water quality, water quantity, hydromorphology, and in addition any impact on NI/RoI migratory/mobile species such as salmon. Assessment should consider all potential impacts both direct and indirect. It</p>	

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### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

Environmental Authority	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p>is important that cross border river basins are given special attention as ecological functionality cross jurisdictional boundaries.</p> <p>The submission advises that the NI River Basin Management Plans must be considered during the SEA process. The submission further highlights and links several key pieces of environmental legislation relating to the Water Environment and its protection in NI.</p> <p>The submission highlights further useful information sources such as Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report the latest of which currently is dated May 2023, Significant Water Management Issues to inform the development of the third cycle River Basin Management Plan (2021-2027), Water Information Request Web Viewer and NIEA Catchment Data Map Viewer etc.</p> <p>The submission states that the mitigation measures and monitoring regimes should be clearly identified in the SEA ER.</p>	

### 2.2.2 Draft Plan Consultation

The Draft USSEB DEDP, together with the SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) were placed on public display and submissions received.

Consultation was also undertaken with the Environmental Authorities as specified in Article 13 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by Regulations S.I. No. 200 of 2011 and for incorporation of the views of the Environmental Authorities within the Plan or Programme and the SEA Environmental Report.

Submissions received are detailed in **Table 2.2** below.

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

### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

Table 2.2 SEA Consultation Response

Submission	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	The submission from EPA includes the following comments and recommendations:  Ensure the Plan aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, as appropriate.	The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.
	Visitor Numbers  EPA note that central to the Plan is the aim of increasing visitor numbers. This increase has the potential to disturb or damage the natural environment, if not carefully managed. Where the expected increase in tourist numbers materialises, there may be a need for additional or expanded tourism and tourism-related developments. Such developments may have implications for changes to land use, loss of green field sites, disturbance to natural or cultural heritage (including designated sites and protected species, etc.). It is important that tourism offerings are developed at suitable locations and in an environmentally sustainable manner, which minimises potential adverse environmental impacts.	The Plan and the Environmental Report take into account integrating requirements for environmental protection and management under Appendix 2 and is also considered throughout the Plan.
	Critical Infrastructure Provision  In the context of increased visitor numbers and any potential development, the Plan should recognise the need for adequate and appropriate wastewater and drinking water services to be put in place to service any infrastructural development associated with Plan-related projects, in the interests of protecting both the environment and public health. In this context, Fáilte Ireland should liaise with Uisce Éireann in terms of future needs for provision of adequate critical services.	This is already referenced in Section 6.2.6 of Appendix 2 – ‘Infrastructure Management’. As such this is already included and no further change is required.
	Ireland’s State of the Environment Report 2024  The Submission refers to the State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environment 2024, the last iteration of which was published in October 2024.	The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.
	Biodiversity Considerations  EPA state that it is important that the various important ecosystem services and designated sites / protected species within the Plan area are afforded significant protection. This should be considered carefully, to ensure that any additional tourism developments are sited,	The following reference has been added to the final Plan (Appendix 2):

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

### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

Submission	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p>designed, operated and maintained in an appropriate manner. In seeking to enhance tourism developments, the need to maintain and protect the significant environmental resources of the area should also be a clear objective.</p> <p>EPA suggest that it may be useful to include a map outlining the environmental sensitivities in the plan area that should be protected in implementing the Plan and in any developments arising out of the Plan.</p>	<p><i>“Identification and mapping of the key environmental sensitivities of relevance to the Plan are detailed in the SEA Environmental Report and in the AA Natura Impact Statement.”</i></p>
	<p>EPA note the commitment to working closely with stakeholders in delivering many of the projects included in the Plan. Those projects should take into account the requirements of the EIA, Birds and Habitats Directives, as appropriate. The potential for cumulative effects that may arise from multiple tourism initiatives needs to be a key consideration also. It will be important that environmental management plans are prepared as appropriate, to ensure that important environmental and cultural resources are afforded significant protection.</p>	<p>The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.</p>
	<p>EPA advise to refer to the following guidance document- <i>Good practice guidance on SEA for the tourism sector</i> (EPA, 2023), <i>Good practice guidance on SEA and landscape</i> (EPA, 2023), EPA Guidance on the <i>Tiering of environmental assessments – The influence of Strategic Environmental Assessment on Project level Environmental Impact Assessment</i> (EPA, 2021) and <i>Ireland’s Climate Change Assessment</i> (ICCA).</p>	<p>The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.</p>
	<p>The Monitoring Programme should be flexible to take account of specific environmental issues and unforeseen adverse impacts should they arise. It should consider and deal with the possibility of cumulative effects. Monitoring of both positive and negative effects should be considered. The monitoring programme should set out the various data sources, monitoring frequencies and responsibilities. Guidance on SEA-related monitoring is available on the EPA website.</p>	<p>The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.</p>
	<p>EPA advises on the preparation of the SEA statement and to send a copy of the SEA Statement with the above information to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.</p>	<p>The SEA statement has been prepared and will be forwarded to the EPA.</p>
<p><b>Development Applications Unit (DAU)</b></p>	<p>The response from the Department acknowledges the receipt of the draft Plan and environmental assessments. The submission notes that in the event of observation, a co-</p>	<p>The response has been noted.</p>

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### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

Submission	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p>ordinated heritage-related response shall be received by email from the DAU. No further comments received.</p>	
<p><b>Department for Communities – Historic Environment Division (HED)</b></p>	<p>The submission from HED notes that the statement in Table 3.1 of the draft SEA ER in relation to the responses provided at scoping stages. However, from the documentation provided, HED note that they cannot ascertain how the information and particularly the dataset evidence previously highlighted, have actually been used in informing the report. There is little clarity on how potential transboundary effects with respect to heritage, including for assets that actually traverse the border (e.g. assets in the UNESCO Geopark with interweaving views and settings or physical assets such as the Ulster Canal), might be considered.</p>	<p>The response received has been noted. The transboundary effects have been included under Section 8.1. Furthermore, the monitoring Section 10 and Table 10.1 has been updated to account for transboundary monitoring.</p>
	<p>HED advise that under Table 6.1, alongside the word ‘protect’ for the Cultural Heritage strategic environmental objective, the words ‘conserve’ and ‘enhance’ could appropriately be used - these allow for the management of change in such a way that the significance of an asset can be recognised and help inform appropriate change.</p>	<p>The information provided has informed the preparation of the final Environmental Report.</p> <p>The Table 6.1 has been updated to include the term ‘conserve’ under the SEOs - CH_1 &amp; CH_2. However, the term ‘enhance’ has been omitted as it is outside the scope of the DEDP to undertake enhancement measures.</p>
	<p>HED advise that under Table 8.2, Interrelationship with Environmental factors, the historic environment has a strong and demonstrable inter-relationship with biodiversity. This ranges from how it has influenced the character of our landscapes through, historic land husbandry, creation of hedges, boundaries and so on, to how many assets provide reservoirs of wild/semi wild refuge and habitat for wild species, in otherwise often cultivated and managed places.</p>	<p>The response received has been noted and the Table 8.2 under Section 8.4 has been updated and acknowledges the interaction between biodiversity and cultural heritage.</p>
<p><b>Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)</b></p>	<p>The submission comprises a collated response from The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA) and Department for Communities (DfC) Historic Environment Division (HED).</p> <p>The submission notes that the layout and content of the Environmental Report is well laid out and easy to follow. The environmental report and the process for consultation largely follow the SEA Directive.</p>	<p>The response received has been noted.</p>

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

### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

Submission	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p>The SEA ER and NIS for the plan have been made available to designated authorities, transboundary bodies, and the public. DAERA is content that previous consultations, including the SEA scoping have been considered as part of the Environmental Report (ER). A description of the current state of the environment and how this relates to the Draft Upper Shannon, Shannon Erne and Border Experience Development Plan (DEDP) is included within the environmental report. Appropriate environmental objectives / targets / indicators for each of the likely environmental receptors is addressed including an assessment of significant impacts mitigation and monitoring. DAERA request that should any changes which are likely to impact Northern Ireland be included, then DAERA should be reconsulted.</p> <p>Natural Environment Division (NED) Comments – SEA</p> <p>NED note that the Draft Upper Shannon, Shannon Erne and Border Experience Development Plan (DEDP) is limited to within Republic of Ireland and abuts the border with NI. The ER would benefit from specific consideration of transboundary issues within a specific section of the ER although we assume that the report has assessed transboundary issues within the assessment for the plan area and the same conclusions apply. However, if this is not the case then a clear assessment of transboundary issues is required. NED are content provided the overall assessment also applies to NI and that all relevant mitigations and monitoring are applied within NI as indicated in the report. We encourage continued engagement and co-ordination with NI.</p> <p>NED notes and welcomes the 20km Zone of Influence which has been included within the ER and includes assessment within Northern Ireland. NED advise that mitigation measures must include any locations which may result in significant environmental impacts. We welcome the recognition of the potential need for lower tier AA and environmental assessments as appropriate.</p> <p>NED are of the opinion that should there be any changes to the current plan which results in the potential for transboundary impacts then the relevant authorities in NI should be consulted.</p>	<p>The information provided has informed the preparation of the final Environmental Report. The transboundary effects have been included under Section 8.1. Furthermore, the monitoring Section 10 and Table 10.1 has been updated to account for transboundary monitoring.</p>

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Submission	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p>The submission notes that table 8.2 does not recognise an interrelationship with biodiversity and cultural heritage NED would be of the opinion that this should be noted e.g. bats, birds and other wildlife may use cultural heritage assets for roosting/nesting.</p>	<p>The response received has been noted and the Table 8.2 under Section 8.4 has been updated and acknowledges the interaction between biodiversity and cultural heritage.</p>
	<p>Natural Environment Division (NED) Comments – Natura Impact Report</p> <p>NED acknowledges the receipt of the NIS and welcomes the inclusion of UK National Site Network sites (formally known as European Designated Sites, or Natura sites) within NI in addition to other NI designations.</p> <p>NED are content that provided the mitigation contained within the NIS including that all lower tier plans and projects are subject to HRA considerations and AA as appropriate is applied to UK National Site Network sites.</p> <p>We welcome the recognition that Appropriate Assessment may be required at project level and advise continued and early engagement with the relevant bodies in NI as appropriate should there be any potential transboundary effects on NI. NED advises that should the NIS change in respect to impacts upon UK National Site Network sites then NED should be re-consulted.</p>	<p>The response received has been noted. The transboundary effects have been included under Section 8.1. Furthermore, the monitoring Section 10 and Table 10.1 has been updated to account for transboundary monitoring.</p>
	<p>Air Quality &amp; Biodiversity Unit</p> <p>The submission notes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consideration should be given to potential impacts of aerial emissions from the Plan to both the natural environment and human health.</li> <li>- Further information about the link between air quality and biodiversity loss can be found on the Air Pollution Information System (APIS) Air Pollution Information System   Air Pollution Information System (apis.ac.uk). This tool provides information on the impacts of air pollutants, such as NOx, ammonia emissions and the associated Nitrogen deposition on sensitive habitats and species. The map feature within APIS enables detailed information to be provided on the Critical Levels/Loads for each qualifying feature and</li> </ul>	<p>The response received has been noted. Under the scope of the DEDP higher level impacts arising as a result of implication of the objectives and actions within the Plan have been addressed. The quantitative and qualitative assessment of the impacts arising on the protected habitats as a result of the project specific aerial emissions will be addressed and mitigated within the project specific environmental assessments</p> <p>Furthermore, the monitoring Section 10 and Table 10.1 has been updated to account for</p>

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

### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

Submission	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p>background levels of these pollutants: APIS app   Air Pollution Information System. APIS now includes air quality information for Ireland’s protected sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aerial emissions from traffic/industrial/energy processes (NOx) and livestock developments (ammonia) contribute to nitrogen deposition on sensitive habitats. Consideration should be given to construction and traffic related activities associated with the delivery of projects within the Plan and if they might trigger a significant air quality effect on nearby sensitive habitats or species. Activities within 200m of sensitive habitats to air pollution should be assessed for potential effects from NOx and dust.</li> <li>- Further information regarding the location of protected sites in Northern Ireland can be found at Natural Environment Map Viewer   Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk).</li> </ul>	<p>transboundary monitoring. If the monitoring identifies any impacts post mitigation at the source, they shall be appropriately addressed.</p>
	<p>Water Management Unit</p> <p>Water Management Unit notes the conclusion of the Environmental Report that there is the potential for impacts relating to the water environment to arise due to implementation of Upper Shannon, Shannon Erne, Border Draft Destination &amp; Experience Development Plan (hereafter referred to as the plan). Water Management Unit notes and welcomes that their comments made in response to the scoping exercise have been considered.</p> <p>Water Management Unit notes and welcomes the inclusion of mitigation measures where the potential for adverse impacts on the aquatic environment have been identified. It is essential that all of those measures identified are fully implemented. It should be noted that the mitigation measures identified should not be considered as definitive but should be reviewed throughout the life of the plan and considering the data obtained from the monitoring proposed to ensure the effectiveness of those measures.</p> <p>Water Management Unit notes the monitoring regime proposed in relation to the aquatic environment. Monitoring must be subject to review at each reporting stage to reflect new data obtained. It is essential that interventions (including additional mitigation measures or</p>	<p>The response received has been noted. The transboundary effects have been included under Section 8.1. Furthermore, the monitoring Section 10 and Table 10.1 has been updated to account for transboundary monitoring.</p>

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

### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

Submission	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	plan revisions where required) are undertaken if any unforeseen or adverse environmental effects to the aquatic environment are identified during the monitoring regime.	
<b>Members of the public</b>		
<b>Ballinamore Development Co. Ltd.</b>	<p>The submission highlights the importance of completion of the 53km Shannon Erne connectivity trail. It states that the trail is strategic in that it connects the emerging infrastructure at the Shannon and the Erne/Ulster canal with the towns of Keshcarrigan, Balinamore, Ballyconnell and Belturbe. In addition, it adds value to the Shannon Erne waterway, the Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark and Castle Saunderson International Scouting Centre. These are all high-quality destinations with significant capacity for growth.</p> <p>The submission further elaborates that approx. 50 % of the Shannon-Erne connectivity trail between Leitrim village and Belturbet is already completed and requests that completion of the trail be prioritised and confirm that Ballinamore Development Co. would work with Leitrim County Council, Cavan Co Council and Waterways Ireland in whatever way we can to progress the project.</p>	The response received has been noted.
<b>Keshcarrigan Development Committee</b>	<p>The submission welcomes the plan and in particular the blueways and greenways. The submission sets the background for Keshcarrigan and highlights the importance for blueways/greenways. It states that to the west of the village the Blueway ends at Kilclare, c.4km away and to the east the blueway/greenway restarts at Ballyduff, c. 7km away. It further states that beyond Ballyduff, c. 10km of it is completed to Aughawillan beyond Ballinamore and beside the Co. Cavan boundary. Kesh is close to Acres Lake and the Drumshanbo boardwalk, the Shed Distillery, the Arigna Mining experience, Glenview Folk Museum Ballinamore and the future Shannon Blueway north of Carrick. Currently, the committee is undertaking works with Leitrim Co Co on refurbishing the old RIC/Garda station building into a suitable community amenity with a working hub located adjacent to the marina.</p>	The response received has been noted.
<b>Member of the public</b>	<p>The submission highlights the following key priorities and measures:</p> <p>1.Increase provision of open space and green infrastructure to improved health and well-being:</p>	The response received has been noted.

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

### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

Submission	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p>-Improve cycle and walking tourism/recreational infrastructure and connectivity to town centre, schools, train/bus stop,</p> <p>-Develop biodiversity ‘haven’ with greenway through flood zone along River Jiggy, etc.</p> <p>-Expand Loughnanene Park into ‘the lough’ and surrounding area</p> <p>-Develop cycle lanes/shared surfaces for tourism to Mote Park, Kiltveevan Walks, Portun Harbour, Lecarrow, Rindoon Abandoned Medieval Village aligned with CycleConnects, National Cycle Network (there appears to be contradiction in preferred routes between NTA Cycle Connects Plan (2022) and the Department of Transport National Cycle Network Plan (2023). It is critical that any cycle infrastructure goes through Roscommon Town.</p> <p>2. Develop Roscommon Town as a multi-sports and tourism destination:</p> <p>-Promote Roscommon Town as ‘The heart of undiscovered Ireland’</p> <p>-Promote wellbeing and slower pace of life in Roscommon ‘wander miles of woodland trails, explore our ancient past and just enjoy time together as a family’.</p> <p>-‘unlock the treasures of this land of castles and ancient kings, of stately homes and wonderful landscapes, where shimmering rivers, lakes and forest parks abound’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-‘access for all’ similar to Ballyleague facility – footpaths, cycle lanes around the town for physically challenged, elderly and young families with buggies, etc.</li> <li>-Cycle way to Mote Park to Portrun Harbour to Rindoon Medieval Village</li> <li>-Roscommon Castle – open up tower permanently, build café/tourism centre.</li> <li>-Tours to Strokestown Park House, Candidate UNESCO World Heritage Site of Rathcroghan Archaeological complex, Lough Ree Amenities</li> <li>-Sports Destination – build on recent and proposed infrastructure in the town</li> <li>-Festivals – Christmas Lights, Halloween (Rathcroghan/Owennagat Cave gateway to underworld, merge of Easter parade &amp; Lamb festival, country and western festival</li> </ul>	

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

### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

Submission	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
Member of the public	The submission highlights the tourism business in Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim. It further states that the key attraction in the area is angling with Garadice Lake outside Ballinamore is recognised as the top 3 angling waters in Ireland. The submission further highlights the greenway from Ballinamore to Corgar developed on the old Cavan Leitrim Narrow Gauge Railway line, the Shannon Erne Waterway and other tourist amenities in the area.	The response received has been noted.

### 3 SEA Environmental Report

The SEA Environmental Report has been prepared to comply with the provisions of Article 12 of S.I. 435 of 2004 – European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations – as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011 – European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

Article 5(1) and Annex I of the *SEA Directive* provides detail on the information to be included in an Environmental Report. **Table 3.1** provides a checklist of the information referred to in Article 5(1) with a confirmation of where the relevant information is contained within the SEA. Refer to the standalone SEA Environmental Report prepared for the USSEB DEDP.

**Table 3.1 Information required under Annex I of the SEA Directive**

Information referred to in Article 5(1)	Environmental Report Section
(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Section 2 & Section 4
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Section 5
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Section 5
(d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	Section 5
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	Section 6
(f) the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;	Section 8 and Appendix 1
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	Section 9
(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Section 7
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	Section 10
(j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Refer to Non-technical Summary Report

### 3.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

The SEA Directive requires that ‘*the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.*’ Given the position of the USSEB DEDP beneath the *Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028* in the land use planning hierarchy, the measures identified in the SEA for the Development Plans have also been considered in this assessment, with some modification where appropriate.

A series of Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) have been prepared in line with current guidance and also with specific reference to the SEA for the USSEB DEDP (refer to **Table 3.2**). The SEOs provide a basis for the assessment of the environmental effects of the USSEB DEDP and are framed in such a manner as to enable the USSEB DEDP to be fully assessed in environmental terms.

SEOs are distinct from the strategic objectives within the USSEB DEDP, although they often overlap and are developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives.

**Table 3.2 Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) for USSEB DEDP**

Theme	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective
Biodiversity (Flora & Fauna) (B)	B_1	Ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites (and transboundary National Site Network) and Annex habitats and species <sup>3</sup> and no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function.
	B_2	Preserve, protect, maintain and where appropriate enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, including internationally, EU and nationally designated sites, habitats and protected species.
	B_3	Ensure USSEB DEDP does not contradict biodiversity protection, restoration and rehabilitation objectives in the <i>Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028</i>
Population & Human Health (PHH)	PHH_1	Promote sustainable high-quality tourism within the County that supports economic development and maximises potential for employment and investment.
	PHH_2	Improve health and wellbeing by provision of recreational and tourism-related activities.
Land, Soils & Geology (LSG)	LSG_1	Minimise green field development and protect land and soil resources from pollution and degradation.
Water Quality (WQ)	WQ_1	Protect, maintain and where necessary improve water quality and the management of watercourses, groundwater and the marine environment, in compliance with the requirements of the WFD objectives and measures.
	WQ_2	Implement and comply with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management and Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidelines to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding.

<sup>3</sup> ‘Annexed habitats and species’ refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

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Theme	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective
Air Quality, Noise & Climate (ANC)	ANC_1	Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality and noise emissions through the reduction of emissions.
	ANC_2	Contribute towards climate adaptation and mitigation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with National targets, including Ireland's commitment to realising a climate neutral economy by 2050.
Material Assets (MA)	MA_1	To contribute towards the protection of public assets and infrastructure, ensure new developments are served with adequate and appropriate critical infrastructure with sufficient capacity (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) that does not present a danger to human health.
	MA_2	Promote sustainable waste management, minimisation and recovery.
	MA_3	Promote sustainable transportation including increased use of public transport and active travel measures.
Cultural Heritage (CH)	CH_1	Protect and avoid impact on places, features and landscapes of cultural and archaeological importance, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).
	CH_2	Protect and avoid impact on places, features, buildings and landscapes of architectural heritage, (including entries to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAHs)).
Landscape & Visual (LV)	LV_1	To protect landscape character, minimise the loss of historic landscape features such as mature trees and hedgerows and scenic views.
	LV_2	Avoid impacts on the statutory landscape & visual designations as identified in the <i>Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028</i> , <i>Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029</i> and <i>Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028</i> .

## 4 Assessment of Effects of the Upper Shannon, Shannon-Erne and Border (USSEB) Destination & Experience Development Plan

The USSEB DEDP has been subject to an assessment for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Plan on the baseline environment as characterised. The assessment was carried out having regard to the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) established for the aspects of the baseline environment which have potential to be impacted by the USSEB DEDP.

*Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028*<sup>4</sup>, *Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029*<sup>5</sup> and *Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028*<sup>6</sup> all support the delivery of Destination Experience Development Plans through continued collaboration with Fáilte Ireland. It is noted that during its preparation the aforementioned development plans, were subject to full SEA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cavancoco.ie/file-library/planning/development-plans/development-plan-2022-2028/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.leitrimcoco.ie/eng/services\\_a-z/planning-and-development/development-plans/leitrim-county-development-plan-2023-2029/](https://www.leitrimcoco.ie/eng/services_a-z/planning-and-development/development-plans/leitrim-county-development-plan-2023-2029/)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.rosdevplan.ie/>

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The environmental assessment of the ‘Strategic Objectives’ and of the ‘destination catalyst’ and ‘destination enabling’ initiatives of the USSEB DEDP are set out separately in the Environmental Report. The finding of the assessment is that 19no. strategic objectives/ initiatives will have either potential positive effects or no effects on the environment. The finding of the assessment is that 37no. strategic objectives/ initiatives will have potential for either negative effects or for uncertain effects on the environment.

There are 8no. destination catalysts initiatives and 8no. destination enabling initiatives in total. The projects where there is a requirement for development of existing and new infrastructure might also give rise to uncertain environmental effects on other environmental themes and SEOs that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. Refer to Appendix 1 of the SEA ER.

Where potential negative or uncertain environment effects have been identified appropriate mitigation has been provided as set out in **Section 3.3** of this Report.

In working with the SEA process, the Plan acknowledges the requirement for any development to adhere to best practice in terms of environmental governance. Indeed protection and enhancement of the environment is a critical pillar underpinning the core objectives and success of the USSEB DEDP. In this context any proposals for development arising from the USSEB DEDP must meet the proper planning and sustainable development policies, objectives and development management provisions of the statutory *Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028*<sup>7</sup>, *Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029*<sup>8</sup> and *Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028*<sup>9</sup>

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 4.1 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).

Following the consultation stage, a number of minor amendments were made to the USSEB DEDP. Refer to the Environmental Report.

### 4.1 Mitigation Measures

The finding of the environmental assessment in the Environmental Report is that, if unmitigated, a number of the actions of the USSEB DEDP have potential for uncertain or negative effects on aspects of the environment. These potential negative and / or uncertain effects, which derive from potential works resulting from the relevant action, focus primarily on biodiversity, water, cultural heritage, material assets and landscape. This section of the Environmental Report identifies measures for the mitigation and avoidance of potential uncertain or negative environmental effects.

This Plan 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

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cavancoco.ie/file-library/planning/development-plans/development-plan-2022-2028/>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.leitrimcoco.ie/eng/services\\_a-z/planning-and-development/development-plans/leitrim-county-development-plan-2023-2029/](https://www.leitrimcoco.ie/eng/services_a-z/planning-and-development/development-plans/leitrim-county-development-plan-2023-2029/)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.rosdevplan.ie/>

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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:

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Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028	Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029	Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028
<b>Protective Objectives / Policies</b>		
<b>Biodiversity</b>		
<p><b>CSD 05</b> - <i>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.</i></p>	<p><b>TOUR POL 5</b> <i>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:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hard infrastructure in riparian zones;</i></li> <li>• <i>Increased recreational access;</i></li> <li>• <i>Species and populations of conservation concern where relevant; and</i></li> <li>• <i>Water quality.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>CAEE 8.25</b> - <i>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.</i></p>
<p><b>CTH 01</b> - <i>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.</i></p>	<p><b>TOUR POL 6</b> <i>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.</i></p>	<p><b>CAEE 8.27</b> - <i>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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.</i></p>

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<p><b>STH 05</b> - Prohibit any development that would result in a significant deterioration of habitats and or disturbance of species in any SPA, SAC, NHA.</p>	<p><b>TOUR POL 7</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>NH 10.1</b> - Ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity of the county.</p>
<p><b>GR 08</b> - 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.</p>	<p><b>PL POL 1</b> - To support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.</p>	<p><b>NH 10.4</b> - 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.</p>
<p><b>LP 03</b> - 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.</p>	<p><b>NH POL 1</b> - To retain and protect significant stands / lengths of existing trees/hedgerows/woodlands, and seek increased planting of native trees, where appropriate, in new developments.</p>	<p><b>NH 10.5</b> - 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.</p>
<p><b>NH 1</b> - Conserve, protect and manage the County's natural heritage assets for future generations while encouraging appreciation,</p>	<p><b>NH POL 2</b> - 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</p>	<p><b>NH 10.7</b> - 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</p>

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Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028	Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029	Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028
<i>understanding and enjoyment of the amenity value for the present generation.</i>	<i>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 &amp; Development Act 2000, as amended as relevant.</i>	<i>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.</i>
<b>NH 6</b> - <i>Ensure the protection of species of flora and fauna afforded legal protection under Irish and European Legislation.</i>	<b>NH POL 3</b> - <i>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.</i>	<b>NH 10.8</b> - <i>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).</i>
<b>NH 8</b> - <i>Promote the conservation of biodiversity outside of designated areas, including features such as wetlands, woodlands, hedgerows and uplands.</i>	<b>NH POL 5</b> - <i>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.</i>	<b>NH 10.10</b> - <i>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.</i>
<b>NHDS 1</b> - <i>Protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural</i>	<b>NH OBJ 1</b> - <i>To ensure that no project or programme giving rise to significant adverse, direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative impacts on the integrity of</i>	<b>NH 10.13</b> - <i>Encourage the retention of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatments in rural areas and prevent loss and fragmentation, where</i>

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Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028	Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029	Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028
<p><i>Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas.</i></p>	<p><i>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).</i></p>	<p><i>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.</i></p>
<p><b>NHDS2</b> - <i>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.</i></p>	<p><b>NH OBJ 2</b> - <i>To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) during the lifetime of this Plan.</i></p>	<p><b>NH 10.16</b> - <i>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.</i></p>
<p><b>NHDS3</b> - <i>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.</i></p>	<p><b>NH OBJ 3</b> - <i>To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Protection Areas during the lifetime of this Plan.</i></p>	<p><b>NH 10.18</b> - <i>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.</i></p>

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<p><b>NHDS4</b> - <i>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.</i></p>	<p><b>NH OBJ 4</b> - <i>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.</i></p>	<p><b>NH 10.19</b> - <i>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.</i></p>
<p><b>NHDS 5</b> - <i>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.</i></p>	<p><b>NH OBJ 5</b> - <i>To protect the character, appearance and quality of the habitats and semi-natural features in Co. Leitrim such as woodlands, hedgerows, peatlands, wetlands and artificial waterways of historic or ecological importance.</i></p>	<p><b>NH 10.20</b> - <i>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).</i></p>
<p><b>NHDS 7</b> - <i>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.</i></p>	<p><b>NH POL 6</b> - <i>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.</i></p>	<p><b>NH 10.24</b> - <i>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.</i></p>
<p><b>NHDS 14</b> - <i>Contribute towards the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological</i></p>	<p><b>NH POL 8</b> - <i>To protect ecological networks linking protected and designated important sites within</i></p>	

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<i>connectivity where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones.</i>	<i>the county, in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</i>	
<b>NHND1</b> - <i>Support the protection of non-designated sites and acknowledge the need to protect non-designated habitats and landscapes and to conserve biological diversity.</i>	<b>NH POL 9</b> - <i>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.</i>	
<b>NHHD2</b> - <i>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.</i>	<b>NH POL 10</b> - <i>To ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity of the county.</i>	
<b>NHND5</b> - <i>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.</i>	<b>NH OBJ 9</b> - <i>To support the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.</i>	
<b>IN 3</b> - <i>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.</i>	<b>WET POL 1</b> - <i>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</i>	

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	<p><i>protection of surveyed wetland sites that have been rated as A (International), B (National) and C+ (County) importance.</i></p>	
<p><b>WL 4</b> - <i>Protect wetlands, floodplains and watercourses for biodiversity and flood protection value.</i></p>	<p><b>IS POL 1</b> - <i>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.</i></p>	
<p><b>WTHS2</b> - <i>Promote awareness, understanding and best practice in the management of Cavan’s woodland, tree, hedgerow and stone wall resource.</i></p>	<p><b>NBGI POL 1</b> - <i>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:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Conservation, promotion, and restoration of the natural environment;</i></li> <li><i>• Integrating an ecosystem services approach and promote healthy living environments through enhanced connection with nature and recreation/amenity;</i></li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Enhancing biodiversity in urban and rural settings;</i></li> <li>• <i>Assist with water and flood risk management; and</i></li> <li>• <i>Carbon storage or sequestration.</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>WTHS 7</b> - <i>Encourage the retention of hedgerows and stone walls 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.</i></p>		
<b>Population and Human Health</b>		
<p><b>CTT 08</b> - <i>Develop activity-based tourism and use the marketing momentum behind Irelands Hidden Heartlands to integrate its tourism services into a strong and coherent offer that will build growing visitor numbers.</i></p>	<p><b>ADV TOUR OBJ 4</b> - <i>To prepare Habitat and Visitor Management Plans for the protection of areas which are particularly sensitive to visitors subject to the availability of funding. The first such plan will be developed for Sheemore.</i></p>	
<b>Land, Soils and Geology</b>		
<p><b>GH 1</b> - <i>Protect and enhance the County Geological Heritage Audit of Cavan.</i></p>	<p><b>AGI POL 1</b> - <i>To recognise the need to identify sites of geological interest in the county and to protect</i></p>	<p><b>NH 10.11</b> - <i>Preserve and protect sites of county geological importance from inappropriate</i></p>

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	<i>these sites in the interest of protecting our geological heritage.</i>	<i>development where they comprise designated sites or national heritage areas.</i>
<p><b>GH 5</b> - <i>Continue to promote the unique geological heritage of the Cuilcagh Lakelands Global Geopark (UNESCO Geopark). Individual notable sites within the Cuilcagh Lakelands Global Geopark include Cuilcagh Mountain and Mid-Cavan Drumlinised Ribbed Moraines. These sites should be valued for their scientific and educational value to the community.</i></p>		<p><b>NH 10.12</b> - <i>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.</i></p>
<p><b>GH 6</b> - <i>Have regard to the geological and geomorphological heritage values of County Cavan geological heritage sites and to avoid inappropriate development, through consultation with the Geological Survey Ireland.</i></p>		
<p><b>GP 1</b>- <i>Conserve and manage the geological resources of a discrete area to develop sustainable tourism, enterprise and community life.</i></p>		
<p><b>GP 6</b> - <i>Enhance the geodiversity, biodiversity and natural environments of the region including additional measures to conserve geosites and natural habitats where appropriate.</i></p>		
<b>Water Quality</b>		

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<p><b>CSD 02</b> - Restrict development in areas at risk of flooding in accordance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoECLG/OPW 2009).</p>	<p><b>ADV TOUR POL 3</b> - To maintain water quality and develop shared facilities at designated water bathing sites.</p>	<p><b>ITC 7.36</b> - Protect both ground and surface water resources including taking account of the impacts of climate change, support the implementation of the Rural Water Programme and to support Irish Water in the development and implementation of Drinking Water Safety Plans and the National Water Resources Plan.</p>
<p><b>GW 01</b> - Ensure that groundwater is protected by ensuring compliance with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The appropriate control of development in areas of high groundwater vulnerability.</li> <li>■ Implementation of the Programme of Measures as required in the River Basin Management Plans</li> <li>■ Licensing of discharges of effluent to groundwater, having particular regard to the requirements of the EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010)</li> <li>■ Implementation of the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations (S.I. No. 610 OF 2010, which give effect to several EU Directives including in relation to protection of waters against pollution from agricultural sources ('the Nitrates Directive'), dangerous substances in water and protection of groundwater.</li> </ul>	<p><b>WI POL 5</b> - 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.</p>	<p><b>ITC 7.37</b> - 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.</p>

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<p><b>GW 03</b> - 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.</p>	<p><b>WI OBJ 3</b> - To protect both ground and surface water resources including taking account of the impacts of climate change, and to support Irish Water in the development and implementation of Drinking Water Safety Plans and the National Water Resources Plan.</p>	<p><b>ITC 7.51</b> - Have regard to the EU Flood Risk Directive, the Flood Risk Regulations (S.I. No. 122 of 2010) and the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on the Planning System and Flood Risk Management and Circular PL2/2014, through the use of the sequential approach and application of the Justification Tests in Development Management.</p>
<p><b>GW 04</b> - Contribute towards, as appropriate, the protection of existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, including rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater and associated habitat and species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC). The European Union (Water policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended) and other relevant EU Directives, including</p>	<p><b>WQ POL 1</b> - To protect existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the county and to manage development in a manner consistent with the protection of these resources</p>	<p><b>ITC 7.53</b> - Protect and enhance the county's turloughs, lake/river floodplains and wetlands as strategically important green infrastructure which provides space for storage and conveyance of floodwater and enables flood risk to be more effectively managed, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria</p>

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<p><i>associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same, to have cognisance of, where relevant, the EUs Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and No. 36 which provide guidance on exceptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive).</i></p>		
<p><b>FDW 02</b> - <i>Ensure that development will only be permitted in instances where there is sufficient capacity for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) of wastewater.</i></p>	<p><b>WQ POL 4</b> - <i>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.</i></p>	
<p><b>W03</b> - <i>Ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands.</i></p>	<p><b>WQ POL 9</b> - <i>To permit new development only in instances where it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of Irish Water that there is sufficient capacity (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal of waste water to cater for the anticipated loading arising from the proposed development.</i></p>	
<p><b>FRM 02</b> - <i>Protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/land uses into the appropriate Flood Zone in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any superseding</i></p>	<p><b>WQ POL 10</b> - <i>To assess proposals for development in terms of their impact on human health to include, inter alia, the potential impact on existing adjacent developments, on existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape. Where proposed developments would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the</i></p>	

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<p>document) and the guidance contained in Development Management Chapter.</p>	<p>area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, mitigation measures shall be introduced in order to eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p>	
<p><b>FRM 07</b> - Protect water bodies and watercourses within the County from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include buffers in riverine and wetland areas as appropriate. Consult with the OPW in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and retain a strip on either side of such channels where required, to facilitate maintenance access thereto. In addition, promote the sustainable management and uses of water bodies and avoid culverting or realignment of these features.</p>	<p><b>WQ OBJ 1</b> - To promote public awareness of water quality issues and the measures required to protect surface water, coastal and transitional waters and groundwater bodies from inappropriate and damaging development.</p>	
	<p><b>WQ OBJ 2</b> - To achieve our targets of attaining and maintaining a minimum of 'good status' in all water bodies in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and to co-operate with the implementation of the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, and subsequent replacement plans. This includes contributing towards the protection of Blue Dot catchments and</p>	

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	<p><i>drinking water resources whilst having cognisance of the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Documents No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</i></p> <p><b>FRM POL 1</b> - <i>To adopt a comprehensive risk-based planning approach to flood management to prevent or minimise future flood risk. In accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, the avoidance of development in areas where flood risk has been identified shall be the primary response.</i></p> <p><b>FRM POL 4</b> - <i>To protect and enhance the county's floodplains and wetlands as 'Green Infrastructure' which provides space for storage and conveyance of floodwater, enabling flood risk to be more effectively managed and reducing the need to provide flood defences in the future, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria.</i></p> <p><b>SWM OBJ 1</b> - <i>To protect and enhance the county's floodplains and wetlands as 'Green Infrastructure' which provides space for storage and conveyance of floodwater, enabling flood risk to be more effectively managed and reducing the need to provide flood defences in the future, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria.</i></p>	

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<b>Air Quality, Noise and Climate</b>		
<p><b>CTH 08</b> - <i>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.</i></p>	<p><b>TOUR CLIM OBJ 1</b> <i>To encourage and support tourism providers, festival and event organisers to incorporate green initiatives and principles.</i></p>	<p><b>CAEE 8.1</b> - <i>Support European and national objectives for climate action, adaptation and mitigation which address land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage as detailed in the Climate Action Plan (2019), the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018) and The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009) and any subsequent versions of any of the aforementioned.</i></p>
<p><b>STH 06</b> - <i>Support the development of low carbon neighbourhood plans to mitigate against climate change and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change.</i></p>	<p><b>AQ POL 1</b> - <i>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).</i></p>	<p><b>CAEE 8.16</b> - <i>Support the ongoing preservation, maintenance and enhancement of green areas and green infrastructure within the built environment, to reduce carbon dioxide and mitigate against the risk of flooding.</i></p>
<p><b>CCP 01</b> - <i>Support the implementation and achievement of European, national, regional and local objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation.</i></p>	<p><b>NP POL 1</b> - <i>To support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.</i></p>	
<p><b>CC 01</b> - <i>Support the implementation and achievement of European, national, regional and</i></p>		

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<p><i>local objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation as detailed in the following documents, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage) and having regard to the Climate mitigation and adaptation measures which have been outlined through the policy objectives in this Development Plan:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Climate Action Plan (2019 and any subsequent versions.</i></li> <li>■ <i>National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions).</i></li> <li>■ <i>Any Regional Decarbonisation Plan prepared on foot of commitments included in the NWRA RSES;</i></li> <li>■ <i>Relevant provisions of any Sectoral Adaptation Plans prepared to comply the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, including those seeking to contribute towards the National Transition Objective, to pursue, and achieve, the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by the end of the year 2050; and</i></li> </ul>		

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<p>■ <i>Cavan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</i></p>		
<p><b>AQ 01</b> - <i>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 set out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 201) (or any updated/superseding documents).</i></p>		
<p><b>N 01</b> - <i>Support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and all associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.</i></p>		
<p><b>N 02</b> - <i>Require all developments to be designed and operated in a manner that will minimise and contain noise levels having regard to relevant national guidelines and in the absence of national guidelines, to relevant international standards, where appropriate. Seek identification and implementation of noise mitigation measures, where warranted, for developments proposed in the vicinity of existing or proposed national roads.</i></p>		
<p><b>Material Assets</b></p>		

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<b>LUR 06</b> - <i>Integrate the County's transport and tourism strategies to promote increasingly sustainable travel patterns and improved linkages between the towns and villages within the County, with the aim of developing a coherent network dedicated to sustainable transport modes across the County and to the wider region.</i>	<b>TOUR POL 8</b> - <i>To consider and mitigate, as appropriate, the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations and/or along particular routes in the assessment of development proposals. Such consideration shall include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</i>	<b>ITC 7.58</b> - <i>Encourage and support waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste.</i>
<b>GR 01</b> - <i>Planning for significant development proposals should be accompanied with a 'Traffic and Transport Assessment' (TTA) and a 'Road Safety Audit' (RSA) carried out by suitably competent persons, in accordance with the TII's Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines and which are assessed in association with their cumulative impact with other existing and committed developments on the road network.</i>	<b>TOUR POL 9</b> - <i>To protect, harness and develop the natural heritage assets of the town including the River Shannon, wetlands and other 'Green Infrastructure' for tourism and recreational purposes and to promote sustainable mobility.</i>	<b>ITC 7.60</b> - <i>Promote the principles of the circular economy in minimising waste going to landfill and maximise waste as a resource, with prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling and recovery prioritised in that order, over the disposal of waste.</i>
<b>GE 04</b> - <i>Ensure that energy transmissions infrastructure follows best practice with regard to siting, design and environmental impact and landscape protection.</i>	<b>ILU POL 2</b> <i>To support the development of a low carbon transport system by continuing to promote modal shift from private car use towards increased use of more sustainable forms of transport such as cycling, walking and public transport in circumstances where alternative options are available.</i>	
<b>EDO 01</b> - <i>Promote energy conservation, increased efficiency and growth of locally based renewable energy alternatives, in an environmentally and</i>	<b>ILU POL 6</b> - <i>New transport infrastructure projects, including blueways and greenways, that are not already provided for by existing</i>	

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<p><i>socially acceptable and sustainable manner and having particular regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</i></p>	<p><i>plans/programmes, which have been subject to environmental assessment, or are not already permitted, will be subject to feasibility assessment, considering need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report, and objectives relating to sustainable mobility. Where feasibility is established, a Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken, where appropriate, in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection; and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection. This Corridor and Route Selection Process will not be applicable to national roads schemes which are required to be progressed in accordance with statutory processes and TII Publications, including the Project Management Guidelines and Project Appraisal Guidelines.</i></p>	
<p><b>WM 02</b> - <i>Implement EU and national waste and related environmental policy, legislation, guidance and codes of practice to improve management of material resources and wastes.</i></p>	<p><b>MSSM POL 1</b> <i>To support sustainable mobility, enhanced regional accessibility and connectivity within Co. Leitrim in accordance with the National Policy Outcomes of the National Planning Framework 2040 and the National Development Plan.</i></p>	
<p><b>WM 05</b> - <i>Promote sustainable waste management treatment in keeping with the waste hierarchy and the move towards a circular economy and greater self sufficiency.</i></p>	<p><b>MSMM POL 2</b> <i>To promote the transition to a low carbon integrated transport system through the use of design solutions and innovative approaches with regards to the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets and the complementary publication</i></p>	

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	<p><i>'The Treatment of Transition Zones to Towns and Villages on National Roads' by Transport Infrastructure Ireland, and subsequently to shift to environmentally sustainable modes of transport.</i></p>	
<p><b>WM 06</b> - <i>Encourage and support waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste.</i></p>	<p><b>WM POL 2</b> - <i>To encourage and support waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste.</i></p>	
<p><b>EWC 01</b> - <i>Require in accordance with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects (2006), the submission of a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan (CDWMP) for any project in excess of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>aggregate floor area in excess of 1250 sq. m;</i></li> <li>■ <i>demolition or refurbishment of 100 m<sup>3</sup> of Construction or Demolition waste; or</i></li> <li>■ <i>civil engineering projects in excess of 500 m<sup>3</sup> of waste.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>WM POL 3</b> - <i>To facilitate the transition from a waste management economy to a green circular economy to increase the value recovery and recirculation of resources.</i></p>	
<p><b>TC 07</b> - <i>Support, implement and require best-practice environmental management and climate proofing of tourism related developments and activities, such as accommodation, restaurants, activity providers, festivals and events and tourism enterprises, to include zero climate</i></p>		

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<i>impact, energy efficiency, waste management, and recycling.</i>		
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>		
<p><b>CTH 09</b> - Conserve, protect and enhance the built heritage of Cavan including all Protected Structures and attendant grounds, Bridge Street ACA and Farnham Street ACA, Records of Monuments and Places in accordance with best conservation practice.</p>	<p><b>BH POL 1</b> - To protect the quality, character and distinctiveness of the landscapes of the county.</p>	<p><b>BH 9.1</b> - Ensure the protection of the architectural heritage of County Roscommon through the compilation of a Record of Protected Structures, the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas, the safeguarding of historic gardens, and the recognition of structures and elements that contribute positively to the vernacular and industrial heritage of the county.</p>
<p><b>CTH 13</b> - Ensure heritage assets which are the focus for heritage development in Cavan are appropriately managed and their special interest is conserved from potential adverse effects from visitors or development in general and that best practice in relation to the environmental management of tourism enterprises is adhered to.</p>	<p><b>BH POL 2</b> - To promote best conservation principles and practice with regard to protecting Leitrim's considerable architectural heritage.</p>	<p><b>BH 9.2</b> - Protect all structures included on the Record of Protected Structures and their settings, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest.</p>
<p><b>STH 08</b> - Conserve, protect and enhance the built heritage of our towns including all Protected Structures and attendant grounds, ACA's, Records of Monuments and Places in accordance with best conservation practice.</p>	<p><b>BH POL 5</b> - To have regard to the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (October 2011) or replacement Section 28 Guidelines as may be issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage when assessing proposals for development affecting a Protected Structure and buildings listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.</p>	<p><b>BH 9.6</b> - Protect existing buildings, structures, groups of structures, sites, landscapes and features such as street furniture, which are considered to be intrinsic elements of the special character of the ACA, from demolition or removal and non-sympathetic alterations.</p>

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<p><b>VDO 17</b> - <i>Protect and enhance the heritage and tourism offer in the villages throughout the County.</i></p>	<p><b>BH POL 6</b> - <i>To require the preparation of an Architectural Impact Assessment undertaken by an architect or other suitably qualified professional with conservation expertise, where appropriate, for developments which include or relate to a Protected Structure or their curtilage and attendant grounds.</i></p>	<p><b>BH 9.12</b> - <i>Encourage the protection and enhancement of heritage gardens and demesne landscapes, and to support, in consultation with the owners, the provision of public access to these sites as appropriate.</i></p>
<p><b>BCHPO 01</b> - <i>Undertake to preserve, conserve, enhance and promote understanding of the cultural heritage of County Cavan by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Making heritage more accessible to all citizens of Cavan</i></li> <li>• <i>Promoting heritage learning and its value as an educational resource</i></li> <li>• <i>Developing heritage-based tourism products by facilitating the development of infrastructure both hard and soft, heritage events and festivals</i></li> <li>• <i>Supporting the development and implementation of the forthcoming Cavan Heritage Plan (currently in development).</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The Built and Cultural Heritage of County Cavan namely our architectural and archaeological heritage assets form an intrinsic part of the county's heritage. This heritage has shaped our identity as a county as it is passed from one generation to another, our sense of belonging and essentially what makes Cavan unique as a</i></p>	<p><b>BH OBJ 1</b> - <i>To seek the protection of all structures within the county that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest as contained in the Record of Protected Structures.</i></p>	<p><b>BH 9.13</b> - <i>Secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in situ or, as a minimum, preservation by record) of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. In securing such preservation Roscommon County Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</i></p>

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<p>county. This tangible cultural heritage refers to archaeological sites, monuments, historic buildings and vernacular features. Intangible cultural heritage refers to the Irish Language, folklore, oral history, placenames, music, dance etc. Together, this tangible and intangible cultural heritage contribute to the distinctiveness of our county and its attractiveness as a place to live, work and visit</p>		
<p><b>RPS 1</b> - Protect, conserve and manage the built heritage of County Cavan and to encourage sensitive and sustainable development to ensure its preservation for future generations.</p>	<p><b>ACA POL 1</b> - To ensure the preservation of the special character of each Architectural Conservation Area listed in this Plan (See Table 11.9) by exercising specific design control with particular regard to building scale, proportions, historical plot sizes, building lines, height, general land use, fenestration, signage, and other appendages such as electrical wiring, building materials, historic street furniture, paving and shop fronts.</p>	
<p><b>ACA 3</b> - Ensure that Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), including any associated public realm area, are protected and ensure that any new development or alteration of a building within or adjoining an ACA positively enhances the character of the area and is appropriate in terms of plot size, proposed design, including: scale, mass, height, proportions, density, layout, materials, plot ratio and building lines. Planning</p>	<p><b>ACA POL 3</b> – To ensure the retention, repair and the regular maintenance, rather than replacement, of original/early features in buildings which contribute to the character of an Architectural Conservation Area such as chimney stacks, roof coverings, roof profiles, external wall treatments, doors and windows, shop fronts and pub fronts, while ensuring appropriate materials and repair</p>	

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<i>permission will not normally be approved for developments that are not consistent with and complementary to the character of the ACA.</i>	<i>techniques are used when repairs are being carried out.</i>	
<p><b>AH 2</b> - <i>Protect and enhance archaeological sites and monuments, their settings and zones of archaeological potential that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are the subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments. Ensure the protection of sites which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places.</i></p>	<p><b>ACA POL 7</b> - <i>To retain historic items of street furniture where they contribute to the character of the Architectural Conservation Area, such as, post boxes, benchmarks, gates, plaques, milestones, railings, etc.</i></p>	
	<p><b>ARCH POL 4</b> - <i>To protect, preserve and promote the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites and objects in rivers, lakes, intertidal and subtidal environments. In assessing proposals for development, the Council will take account of the archaeological potential of rivers, lakes, intertidal and sub-tidal environments. Where flood relief schemes are being undertaken, the Council will have regard to the ‘Archaeological Guidelines for Flood Relief Schemes’ (DHLGH and OPW 2021).</i></p>	
	<p><b>ARCH OBJ 2</b> - <i>To ensure that any development (above or below ground or underwater), within the vicinity of a site of archaeological interest or protected wreck or area of underwater archaeological heritage shall not be detrimental to</i></p>	

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	<i>the archaeological remains, character of the site or its setting.</i>	
	<b>ARCH OBJ 4</b> - <i>To protect the zones of archaeological potential, as identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, protected wrecks and underwater archaeological heritage.</i>	
	<b>ARCH OBJ 5</b> - <i>To protect archaeological sites, protected wrecks and underwater archaeological heritage discovered since the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places, which are recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record.</i>	
Landscape and Visual		
<b>CTH 05</b> - <i>Seek to preserve, protect and maintain trees of special amenity, conservation or landscape value in Cavan.</i>	<b>TREE POL 2</b> - <i>To retain and protect significant stands / lengths of existing trees/hedgerows/woodlands, and seek increased planting of native trees, where appropriate, in new developments.</i>	<b>NH 10.25</b> - <i>Minimise visual impacts on areas categorised within the County Roscommon Landscape Character Assessment including “moderate value”, “high value”, “very high value” and with special emphasis on areas classified as “exceptional value” and where deemed necessary, require the use of Visual Impact Assessment where proposed development may have significant effect on such designated areas.</i>
<b>NHP 01</b> - <i>Protect conserve and enhance biodiversity, natural heritage, amenity and landscape in order to provide economic, social and well-being benefits for current and future generations of Cavan’s citizens and its visitors.</i>	<b>PEAT POL 1</b> – <i>To conserve peatlands and protect peatland landscapes within the county.</i>	<b>NH 10.26</b> - <i>Protect important views and prospects in the rural landscape and visual linkage between established landmarks, landscape features and views in urban areas.</i>

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<p><b>LC 1</b> - Ensure the preservation of the unique landscape character type by having regard to the character, value and sensitivity of a landscape when determining a planning application.</p>	<p><b>TWH POL 4</b> - To protect and preserve existing hedgerows and minimise their removal. Where their removal is necessary, to seek their replacement with new hedgerow material native to the area.</p>	
<p><b>LC 4</b> - Ensure that new development does not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity and distinctiveness of highly sensitive areas and does not detract from the scenic value of the area such as visual harm, not in keeping elements of the landscape, causes loss or disturbance of the landscape elements contributing to the local distinctiveness, historic elements that contribute to landscape character and quality, vegetation which is characteristic of a particular landscape and visual conditions of a landscape.</p>	<p><b>LCA POL 1</b> - To conserve and enhance the high nature conservation value of the Landscape Character Areas in order to create/protect ecologically resilient and varied landscapes.</p>	
<p><b>SLPA 1</b> - Maintain the scenic and recreation value of these areas by restricting all adverse uses and negative visual impacts.</p>	<p><b>LCA POL 2</b> - To protect, enhance and contribute to the physical, visual and scenic character of Co. Leitrim and to preserve its unique landscape character.</p>	
<p><b>SR 2</b> - Maintain and protect the natural landscapes visual character which is recognised to be of an exceptional high amenity value.</p>	<p><b>LCA POL 4</b> - To seek to ensure that local landscape features, including historic features and buildings, hedgerows, shelter belts and stone walls, are retained, protected and enhanced where appropriate, so as to preserve the local landscape</p>	

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	<i>and character of an area, whilst providing for future development</i>	
<p><b>IW 1</b> - <i>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.</i></p>	<p><b>LCA OBJ 1</b> - <i>To protect and enhance the quality, character, and distinctiveness of the physical, visual and scenic character of landscapes of the county in accordance with national policy and guidelines and the recommendations of the Leitrim Landscape Character Assessment (2020) which forms Appendix VI of this Plan.</i></p>	
	<p><b>LD POL 2</b> - <i>To protect Areas of Outstanding Beauty and Areas of High Visual Amenity from inappropriate development and reinforce their character, distinctiveness and sense of place.</i></p> <p><b>LD POL 5</b> - <i>To ensure that development proposals have regard to the Landscape Character Assessment, the value of the landscape, its character, importance, sensitivity and capacity to absorb change.</i></p> <p><b>LD OBJ 1</b> - <i>To protect the quality, character and distinctiveness of the landscapes of the county.</i></p> <p><b>LD OBJ 4</b> - <i>To protect Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Areas of High Visual Amenity from inappropriate forms of development.</i></p>	

## 5 Assessment of Alternatives

### 5.1 Introduction

Article 5(1) of the SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to consider reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme and the significant environmental effects of the alternatives selected.

Alternatives put forward should be reasonable, realistic and capable of implementation. They should also be in line with the appropriate strategic level at which the plan will be implemented within the national planning hierarchy. As preparation of the USSEB DEDP is a non-statutory plan, the 'do-nothing' or 'do-minimum' scenarios are viable alternatives, as is the 'do-something' scenario.

### 5.2 Alternative 1: Do-nothing / Do-Minimum

Tourism operations in Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon would continue to operate as at present outside of a plan, whose objective is to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate the various stakeholders involved in tourism activities and interest.

### 5.3 Do-something (Alternatives 2A and 2B: Prepare a Plan)

The do-something scenario sees the preparation of a Plan that seeks to better manage tourism in Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon. The Plan will facilitate, promote, support and coordinate the various stakeholders (including local authorities, other government agencies, tourism operators, communities and visitors) in their activities in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging plans that have been subject to environmental assessment.

While the Plan would co-ordinate activities and stakeholders in the tourism area, it would not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent (such frameworks fall under the remit of other public authorities). Therefore, any projects arising from the Plan would be required to comply, as relevant, with the various provisions of documents that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

In essence the Plan would present a five-year sustainable tourism development plan for Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon. The key opportunities to consider for the Plan would be:

- *Raise awareness of the Destination by leading out with the signature experiences that make it distinctive.*
- *Build on destination leadership in eco-tourism activity and Slow Adventure by embracing sustainability and eco-tourism as the platform for experience innovation and new levels of collaboration.*
- *Expand the appeal of tourism hubs and gateways into the Destination such as Carrick on Shannon, Cavan and Roscommon Towns and other key towns and villages.*
- *Development of a signature water-based experience trail, rural and immersed in nature, that builds on work to date in linking water and community experiences and works together with centres of excellence for Slow Adventure to create a new level and scale of product.*
- *Encourage tours operators that are already programming the Destination to extend their dwell time by at least one night.*
- *Grow the appeal of cruising on the Shannon and the Shannon-Erne beyond the German-speaking and domestic markets, into southern Europe and other parts of northern Europe.*

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- *Development of cross border experiences linking heritage, culture and the outdoors to stimulate new levels of visitor flows across the Destination.*
- *Grow international recognition of the Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark and using it as the platform for eco-tourism excellence and community tourism experience development.*
- *Develop the Beara Breifne Way as a long-distance trail of international stature and the basis for immediate community engagement.*
- *Complete and connect greenways and blueways across the Destination to create integrated clusters of accredited trails.*
- *Expanding destination accommodation stock to include building on niche 'in nature' style accommodation already associated with the Destination.*
- *The opportunity to respond to the emerging tourism trends of off-the-beaten-track / in nature experiences through responsible tourism and new forms of wellbeing.*
- *Grow the multi-generational destination appeal due to the diversity of activities and attractions, particularly for the family market.*
- *Create niche destination festivals and events linked to the outdoors, in-nature activity and Slow Adventure.*
- *Strengthen the profile of local food provenance through food networks and link food tourism experiences with agri- and regenerative farming experiences.*
- *Create additional cruise boat hubs and facilities.*

There are two separate alternatives under the 'do-something' (prepare a Plan) scenario.

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

Fáilte Ireland provides funding for sustainable tourism projects including land use and infrastructural development and land use activities. In order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities, Alternative 2A would require stakeholders to demonstrate compliance with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the relevant Fáilte Ireland published guidance and documents.

In order to be realised, projects included in the Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) would have to demonstrate compliance, as relevant, with various provisions of legislation, policies, plans and programmes that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Plan is not part and does not contribute towards.

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

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

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

## **5.4 Assessment of Alternatives**

Three reasonable alternatives for the USSEB DEDP have been identified and assessed as set out in **Table 5.1**. The potential effects of the reasonable alternatives on the SEOs categorised as follows:

- Potential Positive Environmental Impact (indicated by '+')
- Potential Negative Environmental Impact (indicated by '-')

- Potential Positive and Negative Environmental Impacts (indicated by '+/-').
- Uncertain Environmental Impact ((indicated by '?').
- Neutral, No or Insignificant Environmental Impact (indicated by '0')

## 5.5 Reasoning for Selection of the Preferred Alternative

Whilst unlikely to have negative environmental effects, Alternative 1 does not deliver positive benefits for tourism in Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon.

Alternative 2A will deliver effective benefit and response for tourism in Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon, whilst at the same providing for sustainable development and environmental protection.

Alternative 2B will deliver effective benefit and response for tourism in Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon, but without ensuring environmental protection.

Given the tourism and environmental benefits, Alternative 2A is selected as the preferred approach.

Table 5.1 Assessment of Alternatives for the USSEB DEDP

Reasonable Alternative	Description	SEO	Environmental Assessment	Environmental Evaluation
<b>Alternative 1</b> Do-nothing / Do-Minimum	Tourism operations in Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon would continue to operate as at present outside of a plan, whose objective is to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate the various stakeholders involved in tourism activities and interest.	All SEOs	+/-	In comparison to other alternatives, this alternative could give rise to potential uncertain or unplanned environmental effects across all environmental factors.  It is likely that this alternative will not realise the wider stakeholder benefits that would be achieved with from a coordinated plan approach.  In comparison to other alternatives, this approach may generate uncertain or negative environmental effects, which would not be counterbalanced by the positive environmental effects associated with other alternatives.
<b>Alternative 2A</b> Do-something Prepare a Plan with Environmental Considerations	Tourism operations in Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon would be facilitated, promoted, supported and coordinated through the preparation of a Plan, with environmental considerations, that seeks to better manage tourism in Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon.	All SEOs	+	In comparison to other alternatives, this alternative could give rise to protection of the environment across all environmental factors.  At the same time this alternative will also realise the wider stakeholder benefits that would be achieved with from a coordinated plan approach.  In comparison to other alternatives, this approach would generate positive environmental effects.
<b>Alternative 2B</b> Do-something Prepare a Plan without Environmental Considerations	Tourism operations in Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon would be facilitated, promoted, supported and coordinated through the preparation of a Plan, without environmental considerations, that seeks to better manage tourism in Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon.	All SEOs	+/- or -	While it is likely that this alternative will realise the wider stakeholder benefits that would be achieved with from a coordinated plan approach, in comparison to other alternatives, this alternative could give rise to potential uncertain, unplanned or negative environmental effects across all environmental factors.  In comparison to other alternatives, this approach would generate negative environmental effects.

## 6 Monitoring

Monitoring of the USSEB DEDP and its implications on the environment is important to ensure that the environment is not adversely affected through the implementation of the Plan. In accordance with Article 10 of the SEA Directive, monitoring must be carried out of the significant environmental effects directly related to the implementation of the Plan *“in order to, inter alia, identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.”*

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives used in the assessment. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the targets. The monitoring programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues - including unforeseen effects - as they arise. Such issues may be identified by the Council or identified to the Council by other agencies.

Fáilte Ireland is responsible for monitoring and the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action. It is recommended that the monitoring for the USSEB DEDP and review is undertaken in parallel with monitoring and review of the *Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028* for efficiency and given that similar data sets will be used to measure the progress of each plan.

Environmental indicator assessment during monitoring can show positive / neutral impacts or negative impacts on the environment. Where an indicator value highlights a positive / neutral impact on the environment, it is likely that the objectives of the USSEB DEDP are well-defined with regard to the environment. Conversely where the objectives of the USSEB DEDP have a negative impact on the environment, it may be necessary to review the objectives of the USSEB DEDP or to take some other form of intervention. For example, if an objective is having a significant adverse impact, an amendment may be considered during the lifetime of the USSEB DEDP.

Refer to **Table 6.1** below for the monitoring programme set for the SEA which includes details on the indicators, targets and data sources to monitor the progress of the USSEB DEDP.

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Table 6.1 Environmental Monitoring Programme

SEO Ref.	SEO Description	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources and Monitoring Frequency
<b>Biodiversity (Flora &amp; Fauna) (B)</b>				
<b>B1</b>	Ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites (and transboundary National Site Network) and Annex habitats and species <sup>10</sup> and no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function.	Conservation status of habitats and species protected under European and International legislation.	Maintenance of favourable conservation status for habitats and species protected under European and International legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Plan.	<p>Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's National Monitoring Report for the Birds Directive under Article 12 (every 3 years)</p> <p>Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years)</p> <p>Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS) data.</p> <p>EPA State of the Environment reporting.</p> <p>Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.</p> <p>Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities.</p> <p>Liaison with Natural Environment Division and Air Quality &amp; Biodiversity Unit of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA) and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).</p>

<sup>10</sup> 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

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SEO Ref.	SEO Description	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources and Monitoring Frequency
<b>B2</b>	Preserve, protect, maintain and where appropriate enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, including internationally, EU and nationally designated sites, habitats and protected species.	Conservation status of habitats and species protected under International and National legislation.	Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under International and National legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Plan.	EPA State of the Environment reporting.  Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.  Liaison with Natural Environment Division and Air Quality & Biodiversity Unit of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA) and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).
<b>B3</b>	Ensure USSEB DEDP does not contradict biodiversity protection, restoration and rehabilitation objectives in the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028	To comply with the biodiversity policies and objectives of the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028	No contravention of the biodiversity policies and objectives of the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028	Cavan /Leitrim/ Roscommon County Council monitoring likely significant environmental effects of the developments and compliance with policies and objectives of the CDPs.
<b>Population &amp; Human Health (PHH)</b>				
<b>PHH1</b>	Promote sustainable high quality tourism within the County that supports economic development and maximises potential for employment and investment.	To comply with the tourism and economic development policies and objectives of the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028	No contravention of the tourism and economic development policies and objectives of the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028	Central Statistics Office (CSO) census data.  Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities.  Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.

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SEO Ref.	SEO Description	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources and Monitoring Frequency
PHH2	Improve health and wellbeing by provision of recreational and tourism-related activities.	Occurrence of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors resulting from the USSEB DEDP, as identified by the Health Service Executive (HSE) and / or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).	No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of the USSEB DEDP.	Publicly available data from HSE and EPA to be reviewed.  EPA State of the Environment reporting.  Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities.  Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.
<b>Land, Soils &amp; Geology (LSG)</b>				
LSG1	Minimise green field development and protect land and soil resources from pollution and degradation.	Extent of conversion of land cover / green field to developed / artificial surfaces.	Contribute towards the target of the SEA for the National Planning Framework's (2018) to <i>"Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4%."</i>	CORINE mapping surveys (every 5 years).  EPA State of the Environment reporting.  Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.  Liaison with Natural Environment Division of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA) and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).
<b>Water Quality (WQ)</b>				
WQ1	Protect, maintain and where necessary improve water quality and the management of watercourses, groundwater and the marine environment, in compliance with the requirements of the WFD objectives and measures.	Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 272 of 2009).	No deterioration in the status of any groundwater or surface water, or adverse effect upon the ability of any groundwater or surface water to achieve 'good status' as a result of the USSEB DEDP.	Information issued under the Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme for Ireland (multi-annual).  Review of WFD status of Bathing Waters, green flag / blue flag for beaches.  EPA State of the Environment reporting.

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SEO Ref.	SEO Description	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources and Monitoring Frequency
		<p>Groundwater compliance with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC, subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD.</p> <p>Reference to EPA WFD Monitoring programme and status of surface waterbodies, groundwater bodies reported.</p>		<p>Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.</p> <p>Liaison with Natural Environment Division and Water Management Unit of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA) and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).</p>
<b>WQ2</b>	Implement and comply with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management and Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidelines to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding.	Flood-related incidences related to the USSEB DEDP.	Compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and to ensure that any new developments granted planning permissions are on appropriately zoned lands.	<p>Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities.</p> <p>Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.</p> <p>Review of planning applications for any new infrastructure to be accompanied by standalone flood risk assessment report in sensitive areas.</p>
<b>Air Quality, Noise &amp; Climate (ANC)</b>				
<b>ANC1</b>	Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality and noise emissions through the reduction of emissions.	<p>Demonstration of compliance with air quality and noise provisions.</p> <p>Number of exceedances of ambient air quality standards in the study area, as monitored under the EPA's</p>	To maximise the amount of measures relating to air quality and noise minimisation being implemented.	<p>EPA State of the Environment reporting.</p> <p>Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.</p> <p>Review of Air Quality Dashboard for air quality monitoring data results and EPA data for air quality monitoring.</p>

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SEO Ref.	SEO Description	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources and Monitoring Frequency
		National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network.		Review of Air Pollution Information System (APIS) for information on impacts of air pollutants, such as NOx, ammonia emissions and the associated Nitrogen deposition on sensitive habitats and species.
<b>ANC2</b>	Contribute towards climate adaptation and mitigation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with National targets, including Ireland's commitment to realising a climate neutral economy by 2050.	Demonstration of compliance with provisions relating to climate adaptation and mitigation.	To maximise the amount of measures relating to climate adaptation and mitigation being implemented.	EPA State of the Environment reporting.  Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.
<b>Material Assets (MA)</b>				
<b>MA1</b>	To contribute towards the protection of public assets and infrastructure, ensure new developments are served with adequate and appropriate critical infrastructure with sufficient capacity (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) that does not present a danger to human health.	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned infrastructure, including water supply, wastewater management, energy and transport infrastructure.	No incompatible development (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned material assets infrastructure.	Review of Annual Environmental Reports prepared by Uisce Éireann.  Review of publicly available data from EPA monitoring.  EPA State of the Environment reporting.  Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.
<b>MA2</b>	Promote sustainable waste management, minimisation and recovery.	Tonnes of hazardous waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.  Tonnes of W.E.E.E. waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.  Tonnes of Bulky waste received at Council Waste	Increase waste recycling in the Counties.  Reduce waste generation in the Counties.	EPA State of the Environment reporting.  Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.

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SEO Ref.	SEO Description	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources and Monitoring Frequency
		Management Facilities annually. Tonnes of garden waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.		
<b>MA3</b>	Promote sustainable transportation including increased use of public transport and active travel measures.	% change in modal split. Kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Kilometres of permanent integrated cycling network. Number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the study area. Total Area of road reallocated for sustainable alternatives.	Percentage increase in the number of public transport users in the study area. Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Increase number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the study area. Increase Total Area of road reallocated for sustainable alternatives	Review delivery of sustainable transport projects via Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils / NTA. Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities. Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.
<b>Cultural Heritage (CH)</b>				
<b>CH1</b>	Protect and avoid impact on places, features and landscapes of cultural and archaeological importance, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).	Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places protected from significant adverse effects arising from the Plan.	No adverse effects on archaeological or cultural heritage resulting from implementation of the Plan.	Review of data available from National Monuments Section of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.
<b>CH2</b>	Protect and avoid impact on places, features, buildings and landscapes of architectural heritage, (including entries to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS)	Percentage of entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their	No adverse effects on architectural heritage resulting from implementation of the Plan.	Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities.

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SEO Ref.	SEO Description	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources and Monitoring Frequency
	and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAHs)).	context protected from significant adverse effects arising from the Plan.		Liaison with Department for Communities (DfC) Historic Environment Division (HED).
<b>Landscape &amp; Visual (LV)</b>				
<b>LV1</b>	To protect landscape character, minimise the loss of historic landscape features such as mature trees and hedgerows and scenic views.	Number of unmitigated conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in Development Plans and other statutory land-use plans.	No unmitigated conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in Development Plans and other statutory land-use plans.	Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.  Liaison with Department for Communities (DfC) Historic Environment Division (HED) and Natural Environment Division of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA) and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).
<b>LV2</b>	Avoid impacts on the statutory landscape & visual designations as identified in the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028.	Status of High Amenity Zones and Views and Prospects.  Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse impacts on High Amenity Zones and Views and Prospects.	All action and development proposals supported by the plan must comply with policy objectives relating to the protection of High Amenity Zone and Views and Prospects defined in the CDPs.  No development supported by the plan should have an adverse impact on High Amenity Zones and Views and Prospects.	Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.  Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities.

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