

NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT

IN SUPPORT OF THE
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

FOR THE

CLEW BAY DESTINATION AND EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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



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



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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

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

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

1.2 Legislative Context

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

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

1.3 Approach

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

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

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

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

Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

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

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2 Description of the Plan

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

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

- Position Clew Bay as a 'must do' destination and motivate visitors to stay overnight and spend more;
- Extend the length of the season;
- Improve the overall economy of communities through strengthening individual businesses, creating new entrepreneurial opportunities sustaining and increasing job creation and increasing the attractiveness of the area for other forms of economic growth;
- Align to the Wild Atlantic Way brand and target markets;
- Support community values and aspirations, and strengthen community appreciation of local culture and intangible heritage;
- Support sense of place enhancement;
- Promote collaboration and partnership, support engagement of businesses, and build lasting links between national and regional partners, local agencies and associations, and local tourism experiences;
- Protect the natural heritage and special environmental character of the region; and
- Protect and celebrate the region's cultural heritage.

Central to the DEDP is the Action Plan that Action Plan lists all the actions that are required to address the development of the potential HERO Experience themes and the associated priorities. The Plan is organised by HERO Theme, and outlines a range of initiatives that are designed to bring each theme to the fore. As the HERO Experience theme *Following Tracks and Trails* is a theme that integrates across all themes, elements of it are addressed in relation to each of the other four experience themes.

Initiatives that are likely to have a particular transformational impact are identified as **Catalyst Projects**:

- Complete the Clew Bay Trail by extending the Great Western Greenway to Roonagh and Keel
- Deliver the Western Way off road walking and cycling trail project connecting Newport to Ballycastle
- Develop the Planetarium and Observatory for Wild Nephin Ballycroy National Park
- Croagh Patrick improve the visitor experience through addressing path erosion and safety issues, and promoting a deeper understanding of the iconic significance of The Reek and the story of Saint Patrick
- Secure UNESCO Biosphere designation for the Clew Bay Area
- Develop a regional Granuaile Experience
- Deliver the Signature Discovery Point project at Keem on Achill Island
- Develop the interactive Slievemore Heritage Trail
- Advance the vision for a 100-berth marina at Westport

In addition, the Action Plan identifies 'enablers of success' a broad spectrum of destination development factors relating to governance, access, supporting infrastructure, capacity building, storytelling and sense of place.

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

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

In order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate

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

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

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

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

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

Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

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

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

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat² or species³ at that site have been considered.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European sites

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

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

- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC [IE0000278] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Lough Corrib SAC [IE0000297] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Tully Mountain SAC [IE0000330] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Bellacorick Iron Flush SAC [IE0000466] Version 1.
- NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives for Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC [IE0000470] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Brackloon Woods SAC [IE0000471] Version 7.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Carrowmore Lake Complex SAC [IE0000476] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Cross Lough (Killadoon) SAC [IE0000484] Version 7.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Corraun Plateau SAC [IE0000485] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Duvillaun Islands SAC [IE0000495] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Glenamoy Bog Complex SAC [IE0000500] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Inishkea Islands SAC [IE0000507] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Lough Gall Bog SAC [IE0000522] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Moore Hall (Lough Carra) SAC [IE0000527] Version 6.

² Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

³ The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Oldhead Wood SAC [IE0000532] Version 7.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC [IE0000534] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Slieve Fyagh Bog SAC [IE0000542] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Aghrusbeg Machair and Lake SAC [IE0001228] Version 7.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Omev Island Machair SAC [IE0001309] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Rusheenduff Lough SAC [IE0001311] Version 7.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Clew Bay Complex SAC [IE0001482] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Doogort Machair/Lough Doo SAC [IE0001497] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Keel Machair/Menaun Cliffs SAC [IE0001513] Version 6.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough SAC [IE0001529] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Lough Carra/Mask Complex SAC [IE0001774] Version 7.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC [IE0001922] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC [IE0001932] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Croaghau/Slievemore SAC [IE0001955] Version 7.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Bellacragher Saltmarsh SAC [IE0002005] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Maumturk Mountains SAC [IE0002008] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC [IE0002031] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Connemara Bog Complex SAC [IE0002034] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Ballinafad SAC [IE0002081] Version 6.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Tully Lough SAC [IE0002130] Version 7.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Newport River SAC [IE0002144] Version 6.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Lough Dahybaun SAC [IE0002177] Version 7.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Towerhill House SAC [IE0002179] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Clare Island Cliffs SAC [IE0002243] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Achill Head SAC [IE0002268] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for River Moy SAC [IE0002298] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for West Connacht Coast SAC [IE0002998] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Inishkea Islands SPA [IE0004004] Version 6.
- NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives for Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven SPA [IE0004037] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Lough Corrib SPA [IE0004042] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Lough Carra SPA [IE0004051] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Carrowmore Lake SPA [IE0004052] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Lough Mask SPA [IE0004062] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Owenduff/Nephin Complex SPA [IE0004098] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Duvillaun Islands SPA [IE0004111] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Clare Island SPA [IE0004136] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for High Island, Inishshark and Davillaun SPA [IE0004144] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Bills Rocks SPA [IE0004177] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Cross Lough (Killadoon) SPA [IE0004212] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Illaunnanoon SPA [IE0004221] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Mullet Peninsula SPA [IE0004227] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA [IE0004228] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Inishbofin, Omev Island and Turbot Island SPA [IE0004231] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Doogort Machair SPA [IE0004235] Version 7.

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

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Position Clew Bay as a 'must do' destination and motivate visitors to stay overnight and spend more;
- Extend the length of the season;
- Improve the overall economy of communities through strengthening individual businesses, creating new entrepreneurial opportunities sustaining and increasing job creation and increasing the attractiveness of the area for other forms of economic growth;
- Align to the Wild Atlantic Way brand and target markets;
- Support community values and aspirations, and strengthen community appreciation of local culture and intangible heritage;
- Support sense of place enhancement;
- Promote collaboration and partnership, support engagement of businesses, and build lasting links between national and regional partners, local agencies and associations, and local tourism experiences;
- Protect the natural heritage and special environmental character of the region; and
- Protect and celebrate the region's cultural heritage.

Central to the DEDP is the Action Plan that Action Plan lists all the actions that are required to address the development of the potential HERO Experience themes and the associated priorities. The Plan is organised by HERO Theme, and outlines a range of initiatives that are designed to bring each theme to the fore. As the HERO Experience theme *Following Tracks and Trails* is a theme that integrates across all themes, elements of it are addressed in relation to each of the other four experience themes.

Initiatives that are likely to have a particular transformational impact are identified as **Catalyst Projects**. There are nine Catalyst Projects provided for by the Plan:

1. Complete the Clew Bay Trail by extending the Great Western Greenway to Roonagh and Keel
2. Deliver the Western Way off road walking and cycling trail project connecting Newport to Ballycastle
3. Develop the Planetarium and Observatory for Wild Nephin Ballycroy National Park
4. Croagh Patrick improve the visitor experience through addressing path erosion and safety issues, and promoting a deeper understanding of the iconic significance of The Reek and the story of Saint Patrick
5. Secure UNESCO Biosphere designation for the Clew Bay Area
6. Develop a regional Granuaile Experience
7. Deliver the Signature Discovery Point project at Keem on Achill Island
8. Develop the interactive Slievemore Heritage Trail
9. Advance the vision for a 100-berth marina at Westport

In addition, the Action Plan identifies 'enablers of success' a broad spectrum of destination development factors relating to governance, access, supporting infrastructure, capacity building, storytelling and sense of place.

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

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

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

3.3.3 Characterising Visitor Interactions at Tourist Destinations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.3.4 Screening of Sites

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

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

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

| Site Code | European site | Distance (km) | Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests) | Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above) | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 000471 | Brackloon Woods SAC | 0 | Western acidic oak woodland (<i>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles</i>) [91A0] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, compaction of soil and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 000484 | Cross Lough (Killadoon) SAC | 0 | Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, erosion and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 000485 | Corraun Plateau SAC | 0 | Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], European dry heaths [4030], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, compaction of soil and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 000522 | Lough Gall Bog SAC | 0 | Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; | Yes | Yes |

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| | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | | |
| 000532 | Oldhead Wood SAC | 0 | European dry heaths [4030], Western acidic oak woodland (<i>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles</i>) [91A0] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, compaction of soil and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 000534 | Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC | 0 | Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Marsh saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>) [1528], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Slender green feather-moss (<i>Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus</i>) [1393], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 001482 | Clew Bay Complex SAC | 0 | Machair (<i>Machairs (* in Ireland)</i>) [21A0], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Geyer's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1013], Shifting dunes (<i>Embryonic shifting dunes</i>) [2110], Common seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365], Western acidic oak woodland (<i>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles</i>) [91A0], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes") [2120], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)</i>) [1330], Coastal lagoons [1150], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of</p> | Yes | Yes |

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| | | | | infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered. | | |
| 001497 | Doogort Machair/Lough Doo SAC | 0 | Machair (<i>Machairs (* in Ireland)</i>) [21A0], Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, compaction of soil and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 001513 | Keel Machair/Menaun Cliffs SAC | 0 | Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395], Machair (<i>Machairs (* in Ireland)</i>) [21A0], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, compaction of soil and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 001529 | Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough SAC | 0 | Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Coastal lagoons [1150], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (" <i>white dunes</i> ") [2120] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 001922 | Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC | 0 | Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Geyer`s whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1013], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Marsh saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>) [1528], Alkaline fens [7230], Blanket bogs (<i>* if active bog</i>) [7130] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; | Yes | Yes |

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| | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | | |
| 001932 | Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC | 0 | <p>Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395], Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Alkaline fens [7230], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes") [2120], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea [3130], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Shifting dunes (<i>Embryonic shifting dunes</i>) [2110], Machair (<i>Machairs (* in Ireland)</i>) [21A0], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], European dry heaths [4030], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], Coastal lagoons [1150], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Geyer's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1013], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima)</i>) [1330]</p> | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 001955 | Croaghau/Slievemore SAC | 0 | <p>European dry heaths [4030], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110]</p> | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, compaction of soil and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; | Yes | Yes |

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| | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | | |
| 002005 | Bellacragher Saltmarsh SAC | 0 | Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)</i>) [1330] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 002008 | Maumturk Mountains SAC | 0 | Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 002031 | The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC | 0 | Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833], Western acidic oak woodland (<i>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles</i>) [91A0], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea [3130], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae and</i> | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and | Yes | Yes |

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| | | | <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> [8110], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | | |
| 002144 | Newport River SAC | 0 | Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, sedimentation, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; Disturbance of wildlife; Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; Fishing activities; Removal and throwing of large rocks; and Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 002243 | Clare Island Cliffs SAC | 0 | Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, compaction of soil and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 002268 | Achill Head SAC | 0 | Reefs [1170], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; Disturbance of wildlife; Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; Fishing activities; Removal and throwing of large rocks; and Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 002298 | River Moy SAC | 0 | Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Depressions on peat substrates of the | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with</p> | Yes | Yes |

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| | | | Rhynchosporion [7150], Alkaline fens [7230], White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Active raised bogs [7110], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Western acidic oak woodland (<i>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles</i>) [91A0], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] | <p>trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | | |
| 002998 | West Connacht Coast SAC | 0 | Bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) [1349] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, vibration effects, vessel traffic, hydrological interaction and interactions with trophic structures and prey availability. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Fishing activities. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 004037 | Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven SPA | 0 | Great northern diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Common greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164], Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191], Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Common shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Black (common) scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>) [A466], Eurasian oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] | <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 004098 | Owenduff/Nepin Complex SPA | 0 | Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) | <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; | Yes | Yes |

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| | | | [A098], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | | |
| 004136 | Clare Island SPA | 0 | Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Common guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199], Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Black-legged kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188], Atlantic puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204], European shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018], Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200], Red-billed chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346], Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], Northern gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016] | <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 004212 | Cross Lough (Killadoon) SPA | 0 | Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] | <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 004235 | Doogort Machair SPA | 0 | Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>) [A466] | <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 000470 | Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC | 0.78 | Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130], Reefs [1170], Alkaline fens [7230], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120], Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395], Machair (<i>Machairs (* in Ireland)</i>) [21A0], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>In addition to these potential effects from the operational elements of the DEDP in-combination with the wider planning framework could result in construction/development of</p> | Yes | Yes |

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| | | | | infrastructure. Therefore, construction phase sources for effects such as noise, dust, hydrological interactions must be considered. | | |
| 002177 | Lough Dahybaun SAC | 3.09 | Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833] | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management, direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 000495 | Duvillaun Islands SAC | 3.68 | Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364] | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance, prey availability, water quality interactions and/or availability of breeding/resting sites. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 004111 | Duvillaun Islands SPA | 3.72 | Northern fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i> [Eastern Greenland/Scotland/Ireland]) [A045], Red-billed chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346], European storm-petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i> [Svalbard/Denmark/UK]) [A045], Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] | The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 000476 | Carrowmore Lake Complex SAC | 3.91 | Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Slender green feather-moss (<i>Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus</i>) [1393], Marsh saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>) [1528], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management, direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 004144 | High Island, Inishshark and Davillaun SPA | 4.98 | European shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Northern fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Manx shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i> [Eastern Greenland/Scotland/Ireland]) [A045], Black-legged kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i> [Svalbard/Denmark/UK]) [A045], Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management, direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 000278 | Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC | 4.99 | Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364], Coastal lagoons [1150], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], European dry heaths [4030] | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management, direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 001311 | Rusheenduff Lough SAC | 5 | Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea [3130], Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833] | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management, direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 004177 | Bills Rocks SPA | 5.62 | Black-legged kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188], European storm-petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014], European shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) | The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Clew Bay | No | No |

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| | | | [A018], Northern fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Atlantic puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204] | DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | | |
| 004227 | Mullet Peninsula SPA | 5.82 | Corn crake (<i>Crex crex</i>) [A122] | The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 002130 | Tully Lough SAC | 6.36 | Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833], Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea [3130] | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management, direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 004231 | Inishbofin, Omev Island and Turbot Island SPA | 6.82 | Corn crake (<i>Crex crex</i>) [A122] | The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 000330 | Tully Mountain SAC | 7.02 | European dry heaths [4030], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management, direct disturbance, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 004004 | Inishkea Islands SPA | 7.36 | Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i> [Eastern Greenland/Scotland/Ireland]) [A045], Common snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>) [A153], Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Northern fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045], Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195], Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], European storm-petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i> [Svalbard/Denmark/UK]) [A045], Purple sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) [A148], Eurasian oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] | The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 000507 | Inishkea Islands SAC | 7.39 | Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364], Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395], Machair (<i>Machairs (* in Ireland)</i>) [21A0] | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management, direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 004051 | Lough Carra SPA | 7.91 | Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Common pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059], Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], | The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |

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| | | | Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) [A051], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Northern shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] | | | |
| 000466 | Bellacorick Iron Flush SAC | 8.1 | Marsh saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>) [1528] | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management, trampling, and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 004052 | Carrowmore Lake SPA | 8.14 | Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Greater scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062], Common pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191] | The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 000542 | Slieve Fyagh Bog SAC | 8.26 | Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management, trampling, drainage interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 001774 | Lough Carra/Mask Complex SAC | 9.21 | European dry heaths [4030], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210], Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp [3140], Limestone pavements [8240], Alkaline fens [7230], Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea [3130], Slender green feather-moss (<i>Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus</i>) [1393], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i>) [3110] | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management, direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 004062 | Lough Mask SPA | 9.77 | Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Common pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059], Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Common coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Eurasian | The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |

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| | | | teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] | | | |
| 004221 | Illaunnaon SPA | 10.2 | Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] | The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 004228 | Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA | 10.4 | Common coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Black (common) scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Common pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] | The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 000500 | Glenamoy Bog Complex SAC | 10.59 | Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Machair (<i>Machairs (* in Ireland)</i>) [21A0], Slender green feather-moss (<i>Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus</i>) [1393], Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Marsh saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>) [1528], Blanket bogs (<i>* if active bog</i>) [7130], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management, direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 001228 | Aughrusbeg Machair and Lake SAC | 11.9 | Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management, direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 000297 | Lough Corrib SAC | 12.03 | Western acidic oak woodland (<i>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles</i>) [91A0], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp [3140], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Limestone pavements [8240], Active raised bogs [7110], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius</i> | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management, direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |

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|--------|------------------------------|-------|---|---|----|----|
| | | | <i>pallipes</i>) [1092], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caeruleae</i>) [6410], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], Slender green feather-moss (<i>Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus</i>) [1393], Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea [3130], Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303], Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Alkaline fens [7230], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Bog woodland (<i>Bog woodland</i>) [91D0] | | | |
| 000527 | Moore Hall (Lough Carra) SAC | 13.31 | Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303] | The lesser horseshoe bat is a vagile species that is known to have a home range of 4.2km around its roost site. Therefore, there is sufficient distance between the SAC and the DEDP boundary to remove potential pathways to affect the lesser horseshoe population of the SAC. | No | No |
| 004042 | Lough Corrib SPA | 13.56 | Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Common coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Northern shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) [A051], Common pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059], Black (common) scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] | The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the sourced for effects identified and the distances between the Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |
| 002179 | Towerhill House SAC | 13.73 | Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303] | The lesser horseshoe bat is a vagile species that is known to have a home range of 4.2km around its roost site. Therefore, there is sufficient distance between the SAC and the DEDP boundary to remove potential pathways to affect the lesser horseshoe population of the SAC. | No | No |
| 002081 | Ballinacorney SAC | 13.75 | Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303] | The lesser horseshoe bat is a vagile species that is known to have a home range of 4.2km around its roost site. Therefore, there is sufficient distance between the SAC and the DEDP boundary to remove potential pathways to affect the lesser horseshoe population of the SAC. | No | No |
| 002034 | Connemara Bog Complex SAC | 14.41 | Alkaline fens [7230], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caeruleae</i>) [6410], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833], Reefs [1170], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Marsh fritillary butterfly (<i>Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia</i>) [1065], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management, direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |

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| | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------|-------|--|--|----|----|
| | | | Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea [3130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], European dry heaths [4030], Western acidic oak woodland (<i>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles</i>) [91A0], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Coastal lagoons [1150] | | | |
| 001309 | Omev Island Machair SAC | 14.96 | Machair (<i>Machairs (* in Ireland)</i>) [21A0], Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp [3140] | The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance, trampling, water quality interactions and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Clew Bay DEDP and the SAC. Given the sources for effects identified, the distances between Clew Bay DEDP and the European site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required. | No | No |

3.4 Other Plans and Programmes

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

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

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

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

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

3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

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

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant adverse effects on 27 (no.) European sites.

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

Ancillary AA determination

further to the main AA Natura Impact Statement

under the
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)
for the
Draft Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening

This ancillary determination is ancillary to both:

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

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

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

Signatory:



Date: 17.11.20

Figure 3.2 Ancillary AA Determination

Section 4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the Plan alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse impacts on the integrity of the 27 European sites brought forward from screening (see Table 3.1), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified 27 European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the DEDP (see Section 2).

Appendix I characterises each of the qualifying features of the 27 European sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites' vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website⁵.

4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters are described when characterising impacts⁶:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁵ last accessed November 2020 at www.npws.ie

⁶ These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2016) "Guidelines for ecological impact assessment"; Environmental Protection Agency (2002) "Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements"; and National Roads Authority (2009) "Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes".

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

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

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

Generic Conservation Objective for SACs:

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

One generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:

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

4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects

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

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

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

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

4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

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

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

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

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the Plan (see Section 5), e.g. in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance⁷ with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

⁷ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.
CAAS for Fáilte Ireland

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

The DEDP is governed by 'enablers of success' parameters, enabler E.5.4 states:

Promote environmental enhancement. All actions resulting from this Plan will aspire to be planned, developed and implemented in an environmentally sustainable manner with environmental protection and promotion as fundamental to the process. This will be realised through the findings and outputs of the environmental assessment process and will include:

- Developing a suite of **mitigatory actions** to ensure that any negative environmental impacts are reduced or eliminated at plan implementation stage and where possible positive impacts are integrated and encouraged, and
- Developing and executing an **Environmental Monitoring Programme** for the Plan during implementation and operation.

Further details referenced in Appendix A5 (of the DEDP).

The implementation of this enabler of success will ensure that any habitat interactions that may arise due to the implementation of the plan will be identified and mitigated for during the implementation of the action and the monitoring programme will ensure the negative environmental impacts are identified which require additional mitigatory action.

Furthermore, where there is potential for impacts at specific sites, such as the Croagh Patrick Discovery Point, visitor management criteria will be developed for these sites (see Section 5). Implementation of the Keel Discovery Point Enabler will be subject to the preparation of a Masterplan that ensures consideration threats and pressures to the adjacent SACs are considered in the context of visitor management.

4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

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

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

Visitor interactions at tourism destinations that are not specifically identified as Discovery Points with in Clew Bay will be consistent with those identified above. These sources for effects are localised and small scale; however, if unmanaged, the provisions to increase tourist numbers to the Clew Bay area could result in habitat loss (as indicated above) which could affect the connectivity of habitats and species populations. This potential habitat loss could also influence the connectivity isolated resources for species such as otter and/or winter wading birds within the Clew Bay area. SCIs for the areas are identified under Appendix I.

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

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

⁸ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.
CAAS for Fáilte Ireland

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

The DEDP is governed by 'enablers of success' parameters, enabler E.5.4 states:

Promote environmental enhancement. All actions resulting from this Plan will aspire to be planned, developed and implemented in an environmentally sustainable manner with environmental protection and promotion as fundamental to the process. This will be realised through the findings and outputs of the environmental assessment process and will include:

- Developing a suite of **mitigatory actions** to ensure that any negative environmental impacts are reduced or eliminated at plan implementation stage and where possible positive impacts are integrated and encouraged, and
- Developing and executing an **Environmental Monitoring Programme** for the Plan during implementation and operation.

Further details referenced in Appendix A5 (of the DEDP).

The implementation of this enabler of success will ensure that any habitat interactions that may arise due to the implementation of the plan will be identified and mitigated for during the implementation of the action and the monitoring programme will ensure the negative environmental impacts are identified which require additional mitigatory action.

Furthermore, where there is potential for impacts at specific sites, such as the Croagh Patrick Discovery Point, visitor management criteria will be developed for these sites (see Section 5). Implementation of the Keel Discovery Point Enabler will be subject to the preparation of a Masterplan that ensures consideration threats and pressures to the adjacent SACs are considered in the context of visitor management.

4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

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

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

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

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

The DEDP is governed by 'enablers of success' parameters, enabler E.5.4 states:

Promote environmental enhancement. All actions resulting from this Plan will aspire to be planned, developed and implemented in an environmentally sustainable manner with environmental protection and promotion as fundamental to the process. This will be realised through the findings and outputs of the environmental assessment process and will include:

⁹ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.
CAAS for Fáilte Ireland

- Developing a suite of **mitigatory actions** to ensure that any negative environmental impacts are reduced or eliminated at plan implementation stage and where possible positive impacts are integrated and encouraged, and
- Developing and executing an **Environmental Monitoring Programme** for the Plan during implementation and operation.

Further details referenced in Appendix A5 (of the DEDP).

The implementation of this enabler of success will ensure that any habitat interactions that may arise due to the implementation of the plan will be identified and mitigated for during the implementation of the action and the monitoring programme will ensure the negative environmental impacts are identified which require additional mitigatory action.

Furthermore, where there is potential for impacts at specific sites, such as the Croagh Patrick Discovery Point, visitor management criteria will be developed for these sites (see Section 5). Implementation of the Keel Discovery Point Enabler will be subject to the preparation of a Masterplan that ensures consideration threats and pressures to the adjacent SACs are considered in the context of visitor management.

4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density

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

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

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

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

The DEDP is governed by 'enablers of success' parameters, enabler E.5.4 states:

Promote environmental enhancement. All actions resulting from this Plan will aspire to be planned, developed and implemented in an environmentally sustainable manner with environmental protection and promotion as fundamental to the process. This will be realised through the findings and outputs of the environmental assessment process and will include:

- Developing a suite of **mitigatory actions** to ensure that any negative environmental impacts are reduced or eliminated at plan implementation stage and where possible positive impacts are integrated and encouraged, and
- Developing and executing an **Environmental Monitoring Programme** for the Plan during implementation and operation.

Further details referenced in Appendix A5 (of the DEDP).

The implementation of this enabler of success will ensure that any habitat interactions that may arise due to the implementation of the plan will be identified and mitigated for during the implementation of the action and the monitoring programme will ensure the negative environmental impacts are identified which require additional mitigatory action.

¹⁰ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.
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Furthermore, where there is potential for impacts at specific sites, such as the Croagh Patrick Discovery Point, visitor management criteria will be developed for these sites (see Section 5). Implementation of the Keel Discovery Point Enabler will be subject to the preparation of a Masterplan that ensures consideration threats and pressures to the adjacent SACs are considered in the context of visitor management.

4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.3.1.6 Climate change

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

¹¹ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.
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Table 4.1 Characterisation of Potential Effects arising from the DEDP

| Site Code | Site Name ¹² | Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹³ |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---|
| 000471 | Brackloon Woods SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, compaction of soil and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 000484 | Cross Lough (Killadoon) SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, erosion and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 000485 | Corraun Plateau SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, compaction of soil and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 000522 | Lough Gall Bog SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 000532 | Oldhead Wood SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, compaction of soil and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; |

¹² For distance from Plan boundary and qualifying features for each European Site (QIs and SCIs), please refer to Table 3.1.

¹³ Informed by, inter alia, *The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland, Overview Volume 1* (NPWS, 2019)

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| Site Code | Site Name ¹² | Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹³ |
|-----------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 000534 | Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 001482 | Clew Bay Complex SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 001497 | Doogort Machair/Lough Doo SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, compaction of soil and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 001513 | Keel Machair/Menaun Cliffs SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, compaction of soil and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc.</p> |

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| Site Code | Site Name ¹² | Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹³ |
|-----------|---|---|
| | | Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5. |
| 001529 | Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 001922 | Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 001932 | Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 001955 | Croaghaun/Slievemore SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, compaction of soil and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |

| Site Code | Site Name ¹² | Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹³ |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 002005 | Bellacragher Saltmarsh SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 002008 | Maumturk Mountains SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 002031 | The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 002144 | Newport River SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, sedimentation, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |

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| Site Code | Site Name ¹² | Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹³ |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---|
| 002243 | Clare Island Cliffs SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct land use practices, compaction of soil and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Removal and throwing of large rocks. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 002268 | Achill Head SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 002298 | River Moy SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 002998 | West Connacht Coast SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, vibration effects, vessel traffic, hydrological interaction and interactions with trophic structures and prey availability. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; and • Fishing activities. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 004037 | Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven SPA | <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. |

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| Site Code | Site Name ¹² | Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹³ |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---|
| | | <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 004098 | Owenduff/Nephin Complex SPA | <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 004136 | Clare Island SPA | <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 004212 | Cross Lough (Killadoon) SPA | <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 004235 | Doogort Machair SPA | <p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |
| 000470 | Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC | <p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, land use management such as drainage, hydrological interaction, compaction of soil, interactions with trophic structures and prey availability and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through inappropriate lighting, mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the DEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the DEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p> |

Section 5 Mitigation Measures

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

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

In order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance¹⁴ with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

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

- Requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment, including EIA and AA;
- Statutory land use plans that form part of the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework (e.g. Development Plans, such as the Mayo County Development Plan, and Local Area Plans) and that have undergone environmental assessment, as appropriate, including various provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management¹⁵; and
- The Climate Action Plan 2019 and the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions)¹⁶.

The DEDP is governed by 'enablers of success' parameters, enabler E.5.4 states:

Promote environmental enhancement. All actions resulting from this Plan will aspire to be planned, developed and implemented in an environmentally sustainable manner with environmental protection and promotion as fundamental to the process. This will be realised through the findings and outputs of the environmental assessment process and will include:

- Developing a suite of **mitigatory actions** to ensure that any negative environmental impacts are reduced or eliminated at plan implementation stage and where possible positive impacts are integrated and encouraged, and
- Developing and executing an **Environmental Monitoring Programme** for the Plan during implementation and operation.

Further details referenced in Appendix A5 (of the DEDP).

The implementation of this enabler of success will ensure that any habitat interactions that may arise due to the implementation of the plan will be identified and mitigated for during the implementation of the action and the monitoring programme will ensure the negative environmental impacts are identified which require additional mitigatory action.

Furthermore, where there is potential for impacts at specific sites, such as the Croagh Patrick Discovery Point, visitor management criteria will be developed for these sites. Implementation of the Keel

¹⁴ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

¹⁵ For more information please refer to Appendix II of this report or the website of the relevant public authority.

¹⁶ For more information please refer to Section 4.10 and/or Appendix II of this report or the website of the relevant public authority.

Discovery Point Enabler will be subject to the preparation of a Masterplan that ensures consideration threats and pressures to the adjacent SACs are considered in the context of visitor management.

Infrastructure Capacity¹⁷

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

Visitor Management¹⁸

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

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

Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services¹⁹

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

¹⁷ This requirement has arisen through the SEA and/or AA processes.

¹⁸ This requirement has arisen through the SEA and/or AA processes.

¹⁹ This requirement has arisen through the SEA and/or AA processes.

Section 6 Conclusion

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

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

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the DEDP will not give rise to any effect on the ecological integrity of any European sites, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes or projects²⁰. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated.

²⁰ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:
a) no alternative solution available,
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Appendix I Background information on European sites

Description of the habitat quality and characteristics of European sites within 15 km of the DEDP boundary

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|-----------|------------------------------|--|--|
| 000330 | Tully Mountain SAC | The main interest in this site lies in the occurrence of alpine heath of the <i>Arctostaphylos-Juniperus</i> type a habitat now rare in western Ireland. Though it has suffered some disturbance it is still of generally good quality. The dry heath component of the site has been greatly damaged by over-grazing and is now of only moderate interest. | This for the most part is an upland site. The south-western boundary is the HWM along the coast. Heath in mosaic with rock bare soil and <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is the dominant habitat. Flushes and bog type vegetation occur in the wetter areas. Small upland lakes and streams are present. |
| 000466 | Bellacorick Iron Flush SAC | An historically important site as the only recorded station for the moss <i>Meesia triquetra</i> in Britain or Ireland now thought to be extinct here. Site is still valuable for one of only six populations of <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> in the Republic Ireland and for the presence of several more species including <i>Hammarbya paludosa</i> and <i>Homalothecium nitens</i> . | A small minerotrophic flush developed on glacial till overlying calcareous sandstone with some lowland blanket bog and some <i>Molinia/Angelica sylvestris</i> vegetation showing incipient scrub development. Site is entirely surrounded by extensive peat extraction works. |
| 000484 | Cross Lough (Killadoon) SAC | A high energy shoreline with a boulder-shingle ridge extending for almost 1 km. Considered typical of the type of perennial vegetation of stony bank habitat as found on the west coast of Ireland. No known rare or scarce species which are characteristic of the habitat. Site displays a fine gradation from sandy beach through shingle-boulder ridge dry grassland and freshwater coastal lake. Traditional site for breeding <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> with 70 pairs in 1995. | Situated near Killadoon village in south-west Mayo this relatively small coastal site has a good diversity of habitats. Cross Lough is a coastal freshwater lake which has a brackish character and may become lagoonal at times. The lake narrows in its southern part and there is dense swamp vegetation. Wet grassland occurs adjacent to the lake on the landward side. On the seaward side there is a band of dry grassland which has the character of machair in places. There is then a boulder beach a shingle beach and finally a sandy beach. The main landuse in the site is grazing by cattle and sheep. |
| 000495 | Duvillaun Islands SAC | The Duvillauns form part of a larger group of islands together with the Inishkeas and Inish Keeragh which hold c. 33% of the national population of <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> . They support a nationally important wintering population of <i>Branta leucopsis</i> and nationally important breeding populations of five seabird species notably <i>Larus marinus</i> and <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> . Small colonies of <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> and <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> also occur. The site also provides habitat for the Annex II cetacean species <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> . Boat use or marine tourism activity by the human population may cause disturbance to natural behaviours and impact negatively on the species within the site. | Site comprises a group of uninhabited islands rocks and reefs situated at the southern tip of the Mullet Peninsula. Duvillaun More and Duvillaun Beg are the main islands but Turduvillaun Gaghta Island Keely Island and Leamareha Island are included as well as the surrounding marine areas. Much of Duvillaun More is above the 30m contour and there are cliffs at the north-west west and south-west sides. About two-thirds of this island is covered by a grassy sward. Duvillaun Beg also has a grassy sward and an extensive intertidal shoreline. The other islets are mostly rocky knolls. |
| 000500 | Glenamoy Bog Complex SAC | The blanket bog is of international importance as a prime example of the extreme oceanic form of lowland blanket bog. Associated with the bog are other annexed habitats - transition mires <i>Rhynchosporion</i> vegetation dystrophic lakes and <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations. Vegetated sea cliffs extend for about 20km on the north fringe of the site while machair now badly degraded occurs to the west. A population of <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> occurs this is one of the most important stations in Ireland for this liverwort. Also present is a population of the rare moss <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> and recently discovered populations of <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> . The site is important for the conservation of <i>Salmo salar</i> the rivers functioning primarily as spate fisheries. Spawning habitat is good. Cliffs have important seabird colonies notably of <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> and <i>Fratercula arctica</i> . <i>Falco peregrinus</i> <i>Falco columbarius</i> and <i>Pyrhhorax pyrrhcorax</i> are other Annex I Birds Directive species which breed in the site. | An extensive site on the north Mayo coast underlain by metamorphic rocks mostly of schists and quartzites. Dominated by low-level undulating blanket bog rising to the peaks of Maumakeogh (379m) and Benmore (343m) to the East and a fringe of high sea cliffs (up to 275 m) on the North fringe. Area is drained by four rivers - Muingnabo Glenamoy Belderg and Glenglasra. Site includes one medium sized lake. Owing to its exposed position site receives rainfall with high concentrations of magnesium and potassium. In addition to the annexed habitats site has marine water estuarine system various types of heath and grassland and exposed rock. Much of the areas surrounding the site are now planted with conifers. |
| 000527 | Moore Hall (Lough Carra) SAC | As >200 Lesser Horseshoe Bats (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) use this site throughout the year as both a winter and summer site it is a site of international importance. This is the largest known site for this species at its northern distribution limit in Europe. | This site consists of three locations in a wood in Co. Mayo close to Lough Carra which are used throughout the year at various times by >200 Lesser Horseshoe Bats. One location a series of cellars and an underground passage in the ruins of Moore Hall House is used by >100 bats in winter; a second winter site -close to the ruins- consists of a drainage passage and is used by >50 bats; a third location -a two storey former dwelling in the grounds of the house- is used by >200 bats as a summer breeding site. The surrounding mixed woodland and lake shore provide ideal foraging habitat. |
| 000534 | Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC | Extensive tracts of deep blanket bog dominate most of this site. It occurs both on gently undulating terrain and mountain slopes and is rated as of International Importance. Other Annex I habitats occurring within the site are dystrophic lakes transition mires oligotrophic lakes Juniper scrub wet heath alpine heath and floating river vegetation. In addition to blanket bog of international importance the Owenduff River which drains most of the site is one of the best examples of a little-modified river system in western Europe. The site contains the EU Habitats Directive Annex II plant species <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> and <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> and the Annex II animals <i>Lutra lutra</i> and <i>Salmo salar</i> . Four Annex I Bird Directive species occur all typical bogland and upland species: <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> <i>Falco peregrinus</i> <i>Falco columbarius</i> and <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> . | This is a large inland site which is underlain by schists and gneisses in the west and quartzite in the east and south. A large proportion of the site (c.25%) lies above 200 m and these upland areas contain spectacular mountain cliffs and corrie lakes. Many of the mountain peaks reach altitudes of over 500 metres while 721 metres is the height of the tallest summit. Most of the site is drained by the Owenduff River and its complex network of tributaries and streams which generally flow in a south-east to north-west direction. Much of the land surrounding the site is afforested with conifers. |
| 000542 | Slieve Fyagh Bog SAC | This site contains one of the few relatively intact mountain blanket bogs in this region and is of value for its size and diversity of blanket bog types. Significant areas of intact blanket bog remain although parts of the site have been damaged by overgrazing and erosion. | An upland plateau underlain by a bedrock of shales and sandstones supporting a range of blanket bog types including mountain highland and lowland. A series of small oligotrophic lakes occur on the plateau (c.300m) and several streams descend from this area to the lowlands below. The steeply sloping plateau sides support acid grassland communities. |
| 001309 | Omey Island Machair SAC | The site is one of the few remaining machair sites in Co. Galway that has not experienced severe erosion by the sea. Because of this and despite its small size the machair is considered to be one of the best examples in the county. The presence of a shallow lake Fahy Lough adjacent to the machair adds to its overall value. Fahy Lough is a good example of a hard water lake. It has a diverse charophyte community including <i>Chara rudis</i> and a dwarf form of <i>C. contraria</i> . This combination of machair and lake is a relatively rare feature on small machair systems. The site has a recently discovered population of <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> . The site supports feeding <i>Pyrhhorax pyrrhcorax</i> while the intertidal sands provide habitat for a range of waterfowl notably <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> and <i>Calidris alba</i> both of which occur in nationally important numbers. <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> is a regular visitor in autumn and winter. | This small island site located off the west coast of Co. Galway is separated from the mainland by an area of intertidal sand flats approximately 300 m in width. The bedrock geology of the island consists of granite which frequently outcrops through the shallow sandy soil. The site is primarily of interest for the machair habitat present in the middle part of the island. Other habitats present include dune grassland on a shallow sandy substrate rocky shoreline intertidal sand flats a shallow freshwater lake which at times may be brackish and small areas of freshwater marsh <i>Plantago</i> grassland and sand dune. Grazing mainly by cattle is the predominant landuse over most of the island. The island is becoming increasingly popular with tourists and visitors. |
| 001482 | Clew Bay Complex SAC | The geomorphological structure of this bay is unique in Ireland. This site is important as it has a good range of representative shallow bay communities reflecting the range of sediment types from boulders and cobbles on mixed sediment to mud and maerl beds. A number of marine species were recorded from this bay that were not recorded at any other site during the BioMar survey. The site includes a | Clew Bay is a wide west facing bay on the west coast. It is open to the Atlantic westerly swells and winds with Clare Island giving only a small amount of protection. Geomorphologically the bay is a classic example of a drowned drumlin landscape with numerous small islands which have been created since the last glacial period. The geomorphology of the bay has also resulted in a complex series of interlocking bays creating a wide variety of marine and terrestrial habitats. The shores of the |

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|--------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | <p>large area of tidal mud/sand flats. Clew Bay has the most significant shingle reserves in the country and has the only examples of incipient gravel barriers in Ireland. Associated with the shingle (and dunes) are excellent examples of annual vegetation of drift lines. Atlantic salt meadows are very well represented throughout the site and two dune systems also occur. Lough Furnace is a good example (and one of the largest in the country) of a deep stratified saline lake lagoon in a natural state of which there are very few in Ireland. A fine stand of old oak woodland occurs within the site near Newport. The legally protected plant <i>Hammarbya paludosa</i> occurs within site and there is a large population of <i>Erica erigena</i> around Lough Furnace. The site has important resident populations of <i>Lutra lutra</i> and <i>Phoca vitulina</i>. The site also includes a population of <i>Vertigo geyeri</i>. The relict mysid <i>Neomysis integer</i> occurs in Lough Furnace. Clew Bay is a traditional breeding site for <i>Sterna hirundo</i> <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> and <i>Sterna albifrons</i> and has a breeding colony of <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>. The bay supports a range of wintering waterfowl with nationally important populations of <i>Branta leucopsis</i> <i>Mergus merganser</i> and <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>.</p> | <p>drumlin islands and the inner part of the bay are a mixture of boulders cobbles pebbles and gravel but there are extensive areas of intertidal sand and mud flats. Lough Furnace a large deep stratified saline lake lagoon is included in the site along with some of the surrounding area of bog and heath.</p> |
| 001497 | Doogort Machair/Lough Doo SAC | <p>This site is primarily of interest because of the presence of machair a priority Annex I habitat. The condition and representativity/diversity of this habitat is good especially when compared with other sites in Co. Mayo. A small population of the Annex II liverwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> occurs within the machair. The site is also important for a large number of nationally rare or scarce bryophyte species which include <i>Leiocolea gillmanii</i> (the only Irish site) <i>Pohlia walhenbergii</i> <i>Catocopium nigrum</i> and <i>Fossombronia incurva</i>. The site supports breeding <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> and <i>Calidris alpina</i> the latter a Red Data Book species.</p> | <p>This small coastal site is located along the northern coast of Achill Island Co. Mayo. The terrestrial areas of the site are covered by wind-blown sand which has led to the formation of machair surfaces on a number of different levels. These surfaces slope back to two freshwater lakes (Loughs Doo and Nambrack) which are themselves of considerable ecological interest. The main habitat within the site is machair grassland (both dry and damp) with small areas of sandy beach rocky/shingle shore lake and freshwater marsh. Grazing and recreational activities are the main land uses within the site and in surrounding areas. Unlike many areas of machair in Co. Mayo the site has not been damaged by the subdivision and subsequent fencing of the land.</p> |
| 001932 | Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC | <p>This is a large upland site of great scenic value which also contains a particularly good area of coastal habitat along its westernmost boundary. The upland areas contain extensive areas of blanket bog heath grassland cliff lake and river habitats. Blanket bog is also well developed in the lowland areas and here depressions on peat substrates (<i>Rhynchosporion</i>) is well represented. Some of the bog heath and grassland habitats are suffering from overgrazing at present. The coastal area of Doogahtry contains a range of different coastal habitats in a relatively small area - these include sand-dune machair lagoon calcareous fen heath and woodland. Overall the site has an outstandingly high number of habitats which are listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive. In addition there are seven Annex II species of flora and fauna and four Annex I Bird Directive species.</p> | <p>The geology of the site is dominated by sandstones shales and slates of Ordovician and Silurian age. Steep-sided mountains dominate most of the site and the tallest of these is Mweelrea which reaches an altitude of 814 m. Lowland blanket bog over flat ground occurs in patches along the northern and eastern sides of the site. Particularly fine examples of corrie lakes occur in this site. The site is drained by a number of well developed base poor river systems e.g. the Erriff the Glenumma and the Bundorragh. Some of the blanket bog adjacent to the site has been planted with coniferous trees.</p> |
| 002008 | Maumturk Mountains SAC | <p>This extensive upland site contains examples of the Annex I habitats active blanket bog depressions on peat substrates wet heath Alpine and sub-alpine heath lowland oligotrophic lakes and chasmophytic vegetation on siliceous rocky slopes. Although the quality of many of these habitats has been reduced somewhat by recent peat erosion the site still constitutes one of the best examples of an upland habitat system in the country and there are good prospects of recovery. These habitats support a range of plant and animal species which are rare in both an Irish and European context. It is notable for the conservation of <i>Salmo salar</i> with excellent spawning and nursery rivers and small lakes all being characterised as having high water quality. The site also supports <i>Salvelinus alpinus</i> and has breeding <i>Falco peregrinus</i>, <i>Najas flexilis</i> <i>Eriophorum gracile</i> and <i>Lycopodiella inundata</i> all legally protected plant species occur. The site is also one of the most scenic upland areas in the west of Ireland and thus is highly important from a general landscape point of view.</p> | <p>An extensive mountain range composed mostly of quartzite forming impressive peaks and inland cliffs in the south with shales and slates in the northern area and occasional bands of metamorphosed limestone. Heath and acid grassland dominate the mountain slopes with lowland blanket bogs and several oligotrophic lakes in the surrounding lowland areas. Several streams and rivers descend from the mountains notably the Bealanabrack River which flows into Lough Corrib. A series of small to medium sized lakes occur in the southern section of the site.</p> |
| 002081 | Ballinafad SAC | <p>Although this site contains a small number of Lesser Horseshoe Bats (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) in summer it is the most northerly point in Europe where this species is known to breed.</p> | <p>The site consists of a large former training college south-west of Castlebar in County Mayo which is used as a breeding site by approximately 40 Lesser Horseshoe Bats each summer. The bats gain access through broken doorways that lead directly into the extensive roof space and hang directly from the roof timbers in the darkest section of the roof. The building is now used only as a private dwelling resulting in certain unused areas falling into disrepair.</p> |
| 002243 | Clare Island Cliffs SAC | <p>The site holds fine examples of the Annex I Habitats vegetated sea cliffs siliceous rocky and calcareous rocky slopes. These habitats support interesting alpine vegetation communities and include a number of Red Data Book species. In addition <i>Falco peregrinus</i> a species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive occur on the site. The site supports important colonies of seabirds.</p> | <p>Clare Island lies 5km from the mainland. The geology of the site is diverse consisting of Dalradian sandstones and shore Carboniferous sandstones shales and conglomerates and a variety of silurian rocks. The dominant feature of the site is a high ridge that attains a height of 462km at Knockmore mountain and forms precipitous sea cliffs (400m high) along the northern side of the island. Vegetated sea cliff rocky slope and heathy vegetation dominate this area of the site. Elsewhere in the site areas of lower cliffs shingle and salt marsh are found.</p> |
| 002298 | River Moy SAC | <p>This extensive site contains good examples of the Annex 1 habitats active raised bog degraded raised bog <i>Rhynchosporion</i> vegetation alkaline fen alluvial woodland and old oak woodlands. The raised bog areas present constitute the most north-westerly examples of raised bog in Ireland with the most important examples occurring at Derrynabrock and Tawnaghbeg. Alkaline fen is particularly well developed at Mannin and Island Lakes an excellent example of old oak woodland is to be found just east of Pontoon along the shores of Loughs Conn and Cullin. This represents one of the largest stands of oak woodland in western Ireland. Water quality of the river channels is generally good and the majority is classified as unpolluted. The open waters of Loughs Conn and Cullin are moderately hard with relatively low colour and good transparency. Lough Conn with a surface of 50km² is classified as a mesotrophic system while Lough Cullin (surface of 11 km²) is classified as an oligotrophic system. The rivers and lakes support important populations of <i>Lutra lutra</i> <i>Austroptamobius pallipes</i> <i>Lampetra planeri</i> and <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>. The Moy system is one of the most important in Ireland for <i>Salmo salar</i> and is an internationally renowned fishery. It also has important stocks of <i>Salmo trutta</i>. Lough Conn supports a nationally important population of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> and has regionally important numbers of <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> and <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (all Annex I Bird Directive species). The lakes support a range of other wintering waterfowl notably nationally important populations of <i>Aythya fuligula</i> and <i>Bucephala clangula</i>. Lough Conn / Cullin represents one of only 4 breeding sites in Ireland for <i>Melanitta nigra</i> which in Ireland is at the south-west end of its European range. The population however has seriously declined in recent years. A range of mammals listed in the Red Data Book occur</p> | <p>This site comprises almost the entire freshwater element of the Moy and its tributaries including both Lough Conn and Lough Cullin. The system drains a catchment area of 805 km². Most of the site is in Co. Mayo though parts are in west Sligo and north Roscommon. The underlying geology is Carboniferous Limestone for the most part though Carboniferous Sandstone is present at the extreme west of the site with Dalradian Quartzites and schists at the south west. The river and its various tributaries rise in a number of locations some of which are upland areas dominated by blanket bog and heath. Throughout most of its course however the river flows through low-lying countryside where most of the adjoining land consists of agricultural grassland. The river eventually reaches the sea at Ballina where it flows into Killala Bay. To the west of Lough Cullin the river passes through areas where the bedrock is dominated by silicious rocks such as granite and here the character of the adjoining land changes to one where blanket bog and heath are important components of the landscape. In addition to river and lake habitats the site contains adjoining habitats of ecological interest such as raised bogs heath wet grassland and deciduous woodland. Small pockets of conifer plantations close to the lakes and along parts of the rivers are included. Improved grassland is also included where it occurs along the river channels.</p> |

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| | | within the site including <i>Martes martes</i> and <i>Myotis daubentoni</i> . At least five Red Data Book plant species occur including <i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i> and <i>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</i> . | |
| 004004 | Inishkea Islands SPA | The site is the main wintering ground for the largest population of <i>Branta leucopsis</i> in the country which is of international importance. A range of wintering waders associated with exposed shorelines occur notably <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> <i>Calidris alba</i> <i>Calidris maritima</i> and <i>Arenaria interpres</i> all of which have populations of national importance. A regionally important population of <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> also occurs. The Inishkeas is a traditional site for breeding terns with particularly important populations (i.e. >5% of national totals) for <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> and especially <i>Sterna albifrons</i> . Other seabirds which have important breeding populations are <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> <i>Larus canus</i> <i>Larus fuscus</i> <i>Larus argentatus</i> <i>Larus marinus</i> and <i>Cephus grylle</i> . A small colony of <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> occurs on Inishkea North. The islands hold important concentrations of breeding waders especially <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> and <i>Calidris alpina</i> . It is a breeding site for <i>Falco peregrinus</i> though birds do not nest in every year. <i>Crex crex</i> formerly were frequent and single pairs appeared from 1998-2000 but not since. The Inishkeas form part of a larger group of islands which hold one of the largest breeding populations of <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> in Ireland a species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. A further Annex II species the liverwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> is also found. The machair habitat which occurs on the two islands is considered an important example of the habitat. | The Inishkea Islands is a group of very exposed low-lying islands which lie approximately 5 km off the Mullet peninsula in north-west Mayo. In addition to the two main islands the site includes various smaller islands and islets (chiefly Carrickawilt Carrigee Carrickmoylenacurhoga Pluddany Rocks Carrickfad Carrickgormall Carrickklaur Carrickalaveen) and associated reefs. The surrounding seas to a distance of 200 m from the shoreline where seabirds forage bathe and socialise are included in the site. Inishkea North is a ridge of gneiss rising to 30 m on the western edge where there are cliffs. The island is dominated by machair and includes a small lake. The south island is higher (rising to 70 m) and has machair vegetation in the northern part and maritime heath on the higher ground in the south. Some of the smaller islands and islets have a permanent area with a grassy sward above the tide line. The islands were populated until 1932 and there remains the houses clustered in two villages. Today grazing is the main landuse on the islands. |
| 004051 | Lough Carra SPA | Lough Carra is an important site for wintering waterfowl with nationally important populations of <i>Anas strepera</i> and <i>Anas clypeata</i> occurring. A range of other species occur including diving duck though all are in relatively low numbers. The site supports important breeding colonies of <i>Larus canus</i> and <i>Larus ridibundus</i> representing over 6% and 2.5% of the respective national totals. However considerably higher numbers of both of these species have been recorded in the past. | Lough Carra which extends for over 9 km along its long axis lies to the north-east of Lough Mask in the Corrib catchment. It is one of the best examples in Ireland of a hard water marl lake. It is a shallow (mean depth 1.5 m max depth 18 m) predominantly spring-fed lake with only a few streams flowing into it. It is connected to Lough Mask via the Keel River. The water has an alkaline pH and negligible amounts of iron and manganese. Sodium and chloride are present in relatively high concentrations. Lough Carra is classified within the mesotrophic category. Its well-known pellucid green colour is due to calcareous encrustations. It has well-developed stonewort communities in the submerged zones. The lake has a highly indented shoreline (69 km total length) and is fringed by a diverse complex of limestone and wetland habitats. There is a good scattering of small islands within the lake. |
| 004136 | Clare Island SPA | Clare Island is one of the most important seabird colonies in the country being notable for both the size of the populations and for the diversity of species (13 regular breeders). It is of particular importance for <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> (10% of the all-Ireland total and the largest population in the country) and <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> . It also has nationally important populations of <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> <i>Larus canus</i> <i>Larus marinus</i> <i>Uria aalge</i> and <i>Alca torda</i> . Nationally important numbers of <i>Cephus grylle</i> (a non-migratory species) also occur at the site. Whilst the <i>Morus bassanus</i> (<i>Sula bassana</i>) colony has not grown to any extent since its establishment in the 1970s this is still of significance as it is one of the only 5 in Ireland and the only colony on the west coast. Other breeding species include <i>Fratercula arctica</i> <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> (recently established) and <i>Larus fuscus</i> . <i>Larus argentatus</i> formerly bred in large numbers but the population has declined markedly in line with a national decrease. <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> has been suspected of breeding in the past but there have been no recent surveys. Clare Island is an important stronghold for <i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> with a nationally important population. <i>Falco peregrinus</i> also breeds. There is a long history of recording dating back to the 1909-11 Clare Island Survey. | Clare Island is a large island situated approximately 5 km from the mainland. The geology of the island is diverse consisting of Dalradian sandstones and shales Carboniferous sandstones shales and conglomerates and a variety of Silurian rocks. The site comprises all of the cliffs on the island a length of approximately 10 km as well as the land adjacent to the cliff edge (inland to 300-350 m) and the adjacent marine waters (to distances of 200 m or 500 m depending on auk distribution). The cliffs on the northern coast consist of vertical precipices alternating with steep grassy slopes and huge blocks of rock. The vertical cliffs are up to 100m in places. The less sheer cliffs are well vegetated with a maritime sward. A maritime heath above the high cliffs is included within the site in places. The cliffs in the south-west and eastern sectors of the site are low-lying. |
| 004177 | Bills Rocks SPA | The site supports nationally important population of <i>Fratercula arctica</i> (ca. 7.1% of the all-Ireland total). It also has a colony of <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> which is at least of regional importance. Other breeding seabird species are <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> <i>Larus marinus</i> <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> and <i>Alca torda</i> . The site is an excellent example of an isolated and highly exposed seabird colony. | Bills Rocks are a group of three rocks lying close together approximately 10 south of Moyteoge Head (Achill Island). The islands are composed of metamorphic rock and are drift covered. They rise precipitously to a height of approximately 35 m. The two larger islands have flattish tops which are covered by swards of <i>Armeria maritima</i> . Rocky reefs surround the islands. The sea area to a distance of 500 m from the island is included for the benefit of the breeding auks. |
| 004227 | Mullet Peninsula SPA | The Mullet Peninsula SPA supports a nationally important breeding population of <i>Crex crex</i> and is one of a suite of sites along the western seaboard that is regularly utilised by this species. <i>Crex crex</i> is listed on the 2010 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. This is due to population and range declines of more than 50% in the last 25 years across significant parts of its range. | The Mullet Peninsula SPA comprises three separate areas situated on the Mullet peninsula in Co. Mayo. The peninsula is low-lying and exposed (rarely rising above 20 m) and is mostly underlain by metamorphic schist and gneiss although the southern tip is granite and rises to 103 m. The three areas that make up the site are located respectively 5 km north-west 2 km west and 15 km south-west of the town of Belmullet. The main habitat present is grassland which is managed in a relatively intensive manner. |
| 004231 | Inishbofin Omev Island and Turbot Island SPA | The Inishbofin Omev Island and Turbot Island SPA supports a nationally important breeding population of <i>Crex crex</i> and is one of a suite of sites along the western seaboard that is regularly utilised by nationally important breeding numbers of this species. <i>Crex crex</i> is listed on the 2010 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. This is due to population and range declines of more than 50% in the last 25 years across significant parts of its range. | Inishbofin Omev Island and Turbot Island SPA comprises parts of three islands lying off the coast of Connemara in Co. Galway. Inishbofin the largest of the three islands is situated c. 5 km from the mainland and some 20 km north-west of Clifden. It is composed of metamorphic schists and gneiss and rises to a maximum height of 89 m above sea level. The Special Protection Area (SPA) includes approximately one fifth of the island and mostly comprises agricultural grassland used for cattle and/or sheep pasture and fodder. Omev Island is a small island situated 10 km west-north-west of Clifden. It is underlain by granite which is partly covered by blown sand. The area within the SPA is along the southern coast and takes in about one third of the island. The island is accessible from the mainland for a few hours at low tide. Turbot Island is a flat low-lying island situated less than 1 km off the coast and 8 km west of Clifden. The island is approximately 1.5 km in length and is underlain by granite. Almost all of the island is included within the SPA. The habitats on the island are mainly enclosed agricultural grassland - damp to wet peaty pasture with patches of Yellow Iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>) and small areas of machair. |
| 000278 | Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC | Lough Bofin is an excellent example of an isolated sedimentary lagoon with a cobble barrier. This type of lagoon is relatively rare in Ireland. The fauna of the lagoon is poor but this may be due to entirely natural 'island effects'. The flora however comprises a very interesting <i>Ruppia/Lamprothamnion</i> community with 4 lagoonal specialists including a Red Data charophyte. The habitat is in very natural condition well conserved and prospects for maintenance of structure appear excellent. The site supports examples of lowland oligotrophic lakes. A significant population of <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> occurs the fourth largest in Ireland. The site supports regular populations of six Annex I Bird Directive species including breeding <i>Crex crex</i> and a large wintering flock of <i>Branta leucopsis</i> . <i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i> a legally protected plant species plus three other Red Data Book species - <i>Tuberaria guttata</i> <i>Lycopodium</i> | The site is situated c.5 km off the Galway coast. It comprises two main islands with several islets and stacks and the surrounding waters to 200 m are included. The islands are composed almost entirely of Silurian slates and shales and rise to heights of 89 m (Inishbofin) and 69 m (Inishshark). Inishbofin is inhabited Inishshark was abandoned in the 1960s. The main habitat of the islands is rocky heath. Pasture grassland of varying quality but often wet is frequent on Inishbofin less so on Inishshark. Several small lakes occur on Inishbofin the largest Lough Bofin having a brackish character. The shorelines of the islands vary from bedrock shore to low cliffs. Some sheer cliffs occur at Inishshark. Several sandy beaches occur. The main landuse is grazing by sheep and cattle. |

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| | | inundatum and Lamprothamnion papulosum occur. The quality of the terrestrial habitats is often poor due mainly to grazing pressures however good examples of wet & dry heaths occur. | |
| 000297 | Lough Corrib SAC | The site is of immense importance for the occurrence of scarce and specialised habitats as well as animal and plant species. Lough Corrib is the second largest oligotrophic lake in the country and is a superb example of a hardwater system. The site holds 14 Annex I habitats 6 of these are priority Annex I habitats of the EU Habitats Directive 5 Red Data Book plant species also Drepanocladus vernicosus and Lutra lutra and a rare chironomid Corynorera ambigua good populations of Margaritifera margaritifera Austroptamobius pallipes Petromyzon marinus and Lampetra planeri. The site also supports an important population of Salmo salar. Important for wintering and breeding birds with Anser albifrons flavirostris Sterna hirundo and Sterna paradisaea. | Lough Corrib is situated directly north of Galway city and is the second largest lake in Ireland. The lake supports extensive Chara beds many wooded islands and large areas of swamp and fen in the shallow south-east section which lies on limestone. The north-west part is deeper wider and more oligotrophic. Shore is mainly karst bog and small areas of callow. The surroundings are farmland and holiday-home areas. Most of the main rivers and their tributaries which flow into the lake are included within the site including the Abbert Clare Cong Cornamona Dalgan Drimeen Grange Owenwee Owenriff and Sinking rivers. The River Corrib flows from the southern point of the lough into the sea at Galway city. |
| 000507 | Inishkea Islands SAC | The main habitat on the islands is machair which is considered of good quality and one of the best examples in Ireland. Petalophyllum ralfsii has recently been discovered here. Inishkea Islands together with Inishkeeragh and the Duvillauns hold 33% of the national population of Halichoerus grypus. Internationally important population of Branta leucopsis and nationally important populations of several wintering wader species including Pluvialis apricaria are present. Three breeding tern species (Sterna spp.) some breeding seabirds and important concentrations of breeding waders including Calidris alpina harmatopus ostragalus and Charadrius hiaticula also occur. The Inishkeas are a traditional breeding site of Falco peregrinus. | The Inishkea Islands are two low-lying exposed and wind-swept islands separated by a narrow channel. They lie 5km off the Mullet Peninsula. Site includes associated rocks and reefs as well as the surrounding seas. Inishkea North is a ridge of gneiss rising to 30m on the western edge where there are cliffs and gullies. This island is dominated by machair and includes a small lake. The south island is higher with machair on the low areas and heath on the higher levels. Both islands have a small sandy bay on the eastern side. The islands were populated until 1932 and the remains of two villages are still visible. Today grazing is the main landuse on the islands. |
| 001311 | Rusheenduff Lough SAC | Although small this lake is an important example of an oligotrophic-mesotrophic system situated directly on the Atlantic coastline. Water quality is good. The lake has an excellent diversity of aquatic plant species and is renowned as the only Irish site for Hydrilla verticillata a legally protected species. The lake also has abundant Najas flexilis. | Rusheenduff Lough is separated from the Atlantic Ocean by a narrow shingle ridge. The geology of the area is dominated by schist and gneiss. The lake drains a catchment of less than 2 km sq. Two small feeder streams enter the southern part of lake and there is an outflow from the north directly to the sea. It is a shallow lake with maximum depth of 2.1 m. The lake floor is silted though the margins are stony. Despite its proximity to the sea the salinity of the water is low. There is little marginal wetland vegetation. Dry grassland on shingle west of the lake has been partly improved for a pitch and putt course. The surrounding land is low lying and largely used for sheep grazing. |
| 001529 | Lough Cahasy Lough Baun and Roonah Lough SAC | Geomorphologically Roonah Lough is a good example of a moderately large sedimentary lagoon with a cobble barrier situated on a highly dynamic coastline. However only a low number of lagoonal specialists (flora and fauna species) were recorded in a recent survey. The boulder-shingle ridge which runs the length of the site is considered a good example of perennial vegetation of stony banks habitat. The sand dunes or hills are limited in area and diversity. The site has Mertensia maritima a Red Data Book species. Low numbers of wintering waterfowl occur including Cygnus cygnus. | Situated on the south Co. Mayo coast this site extends for up to 4 km and includes a fine diversity of coastal habitats. A boulder-shingle ridge runs the length of the site and is backed by sand hills and dune grassland some of which is machair. There is then a series of wetlands with Roonah Lough being a natural lagoon and Lough Cahasy and Lough Baun being freshwater lakes which at times have a brackish character. These waterbodies have marginal wet grassland and some swamp vegetation. The main landuse within the site is grazing with recreational activities along the beaches and sand dunes. |
| 001955 | Croaghau/Slievemore SAC | The site is of immense importance for the occurrence of rare and specialised oceanic bryophytes most of which are associated with alpine heath. It is one of the best examples of this habitat in the country and covers an area of 297ha. The site also supports a wide diversity of habitats from sea level to >650m. Erica erigena a plant confined in Europe to Spain Portugal Western France and Counties Mayo and Galway in Ireland has its most westerly location at Lough Nakeeroe (Foss et. al. 1987). | This is a medium sized site rising in height from sea level to 688m. It is dominated especially at the west of the site by cliffs which can exceed 300m. Nestling below the cliffs of Croaghau are five corrie lakes perched at various levels above the sea. Slievemore rises to >650m at the east of the site. Both summits support alpine heath and exposed rock. Wet heath wet grassland and blanket bog are found on the lower less steep slopes. The underlying geology is pre-Cambrian schists and gneisses at Slievemore and quartzite at Croaghau. Land use consists of grazing peat cutting quarrying and tourism development. A main road runs parallel to the shore at the south of the site. |
| 002034 | Connemara Bog Complex SAC | The site is of exceptional scientific value as it provides (with the exception of the Glenamoy Bog complex) the best example of a relatively unmodified lowland blanket bog habitat in Ireland. The primary interest of this site lies in the blanket bog and in the associated habitats of quaking bog flushes Rhynchosporion vegetation dystrophic bog pools and fens. Excellent examples of lagoons occur with highly diverse assemblages of flora and fauna. The site also includes areas of reef. There are four Annex II species of flora and fauna including Salmo salar Najas flexilis and Lutra lutra and a total of 11 legally protected plant species. The site is of particular conservation importance for Salmo salar with excellent grise and spring salmon rivers and lakes and extensive spawning habitat. The site has ornithological importance with five Annex I Bird Directive species. The nesting Falco columbarius and Pluvialis apricaria within the site constitute a high proportion of the national totals for the species. Additional areas are included in the site under EU LIFE funded restoration projects. | A vast area of lowland Atlantic blanket bog providing one of the best examples of this habitat type in Ireland. The majority of land in the area is still quite intact and is of immense botanical and zoological interest. The underlying rock in the area is predominantly granite with areas of gneiss and gabbro to the west of the site. There are numerous oligotrophic lakes throughout the site with the Roundstone area providing an excellent example of a lake-studded blanket bog environment. Dystrophic pools are also encountered throughout the site in association with other habitats including alkaline fens quaking bog transition mires deciduous woodland wet and dry heaths scrub semi-improved grassland wet grassland and river habitats. |
| 002179 | Towerhill House SAC | As >50 Lesser Horseshoe Bats (Rhinolophus hipposideros) hibernate in this site it is a site of international importance. It is one of just a few known sites for this species in County Mayo - the most northerly distribution point in Europe for this species. | The main interest of the site which is north-east of Lough Carra in County Mayo is a winter hibernation roost of Lesser Horseshoe Bats. More than 50 bats use an artificial underground passage in the grounds of the ruined Towerhill House. The surrounding habitats of conifer plantations mixed woodland wet woodland drains and streams along with Lough Beg and its surrounding swamp vegetation all provide suitable shelter and foraging habitat for the bats. |
| 004042 | Lough Corrib SPA | The site is of international importance for wintering Aythya ferina but also qualifies for international importance because it regularly supports well in excess of 20000 waterfowl. It is one of the top five sites in the country for wintering waterfowl. Of particular importance is that it is the most important site in the country for Aythya ferina Aythya fuligula and Fulica atra supporting 21% 46% and 13% of the respective national totals. It also has nationally important populations of wintering Cygnus olor Anas strepera Anas clypeata Pluvialis apricaria and Vanellus vanellus. The lake is a traditional site for Anser albifrons flavirostris. Small numbers of Cygnus cygnus winter. Lough Corrib is a traditional breeding site for gulls and terns. There are nationally important colonies of Sterna hirundo and Sterna paradisaea as well as Larus ridibundus and Larus canus. Considerable higher numbers of gulls bred in the 1970s and 1980s. Whilst only colonised in the 1970s/80s by nesting Melanitta nigra Lough Corrib now supports approximately half of the national population of this rare duck which is a Red Data Book species. The population has been stable since the mid 1990s. Lough Corrib supports a range of species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive including Lutra lutra Salmo salar and Najas flexilis. | Lough Corrib is the largest lake in the Republic of Ireland. The lake can be divided into two parts: a relatively shallow basin underlain by Carboniferous limestone in the south and a larger deeper basin underlain by more acidic granite schists shales and sandstones to the north. The main inflowing rivers are the Black Clare Dooghata Cregg Owenriff and the channel from Lough Mask. The main outflowing river is the Corrib which reaches the sea at Galway City. Lough Corrib is classified as a mesotrophic system and overall water quality is considered to be satisfactory. The shallow lime-rich waters of the southern basin of the lake support one of the most extensive beds of charophytes (Chara spp.) in Ireland which occur mixed with submerged pondweeds (Potamogeton spp.). Large areas of reedswamp vegetation dominated by varying mixtures of Phragmites australis and Scirpus lacustris occur around the margins of the lake. Reedswamp usually grades into species-rich marsh vegetation. Of particular note are the extensive beds of Cladium mariscus that have developed over the marly peat deposits in sheltered bays. The lake has numerous islands from rocky islets to larger islands with grassland or woodland. The surrounding lands are mostly pastoral farmland to the south and east and bog and heath to the west and north. Lough Corrib is an internationally renowned salmonid fishery. |
| 004221 | Illaunnon SPA | Illaunnon supports a nationally important population of Sterna sandvicensis which has been breeding there since at least 1984. Sterna hirundo Larus ridibundus and Larus canus also breed on the island. | Illaunnon also known as Lamb's Island is a small low-lying island located about 2 km west of Letterfrack Co. Galway. It is situated at the mouth of Barnaderg Bay on the east side of Ballynakill Harbour. It is composed of metamorphic rocks and supports a sward of coastal grassland. The site comprises the island and the surrounding marine waters and inter-tidal rocks. |

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| 004228 | Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA | Lough Conn and Lough Cullin is one of only four breeding sites in the country for <i>Melanitta nigra</i> (supporting 40% of the all-Ireland total) a species that in Ireland is at the south-west end of its European range. Recent surveys have recorded a considerably reduction in breeding pairs. Lough Conn and Lough Cullin is also of importance for wintering waterfowl with a nationally important population of <i>Aythya fuligula</i> (1% of all-Ireland total). The lakes attract other species in lesser numbers including <i>Cygnus olor</i> <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> <i>Anas crecca</i> <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> <i>Bucephala clangula</i> <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> and <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> . Lough Conn is also one of the sites utilised by a population of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> . The geese feed mainly on Annagh Island and at a shoreline site near Cloonaghmore Point. | Lough Conn and Lough Cullin are situated in north Co. Mayo and are connected by a narrow inlet near Pontoon. The main inflowing rivers to Lough Conn are the Deel the Addergoole and the Castlehill while the main outflowing river from Lough Cullin is the River Moy. The lakes have a number of small islands. Fringing swamp vegetation occurs in some sheltered areas. Both Lough Conn and Lough Cullin are part of an important salmonid fishery. |
| 004235 | Doogort Machair SPA | This site traditionally supported a breeding <i>Calidris alpina</i> subsp. <i>schinzii</i> population with ten pairs recorded here in 1985. The population declined to two pairs in 1996 and by 2009 no breeding <i>Calidris alpina</i> subsp. <i>schinzii</i> were recorded at the site. However <i>Calidris alpina</i> subsp. <i>schinzii</i> has been recorded here during the early stages of the breeding season in recent years indicating its potential as a breeding resource for this scarce breeding bird whose national population has declined in recent years. The site can also be of importance for other breeding wader species - a 1996 survey recorded eleven pairs of <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> and one pair of <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> . It is also used on occasion by <i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> . | Doogort Machair SPA is a small coastal site situated in the north-east corner of Achill Island adjacent to the village of Valley and approximately 3 km east of Doogort Co. Mayo. The site comprises machair and associated habitats including foredunes and freshwater marsh as well as two lakes Lough Doo and Lough Nambrack. |
| 000470 | Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC | Blacksod Bay has a good range of representative littoral and sublittoral sediment communities. The seagrass <i>Zostera marina</i> occurs at several localities and species richness in sublittoral sediment communities is high. There is an interesting and unusual Horse Mussel (<i>Modiolus modiolus</i>) / Purple Sea Urchin (<i>Paracentrotus lividus</i>) community. There are large oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) populations and the rare anemone <i>Phellia gausapata</i> is present. The machair and fixed dune habitats are particularly well developed and comprise some of the largest areas of these habitats in Ireland. A fine example of decalcified fixed dunes occurs. A fairly extensive area of alkaline fen which is subject to a strong maritime influence occurs at Termoncarragh Lough. Cross Lough is a good example of a naturally eutrophic system and receives large inputs of wind-borne ions from the nearby ocean. <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> has recently been found at two machair areas within the site. The site supports significant populations of nine Annex I Bird Directive species most notably internationally important populations of wintering <i>Gavia immer</i> and <i>Branta leucopsis</i> a nationally important population of <i>Limosa lapponica</i> and a regionally important population of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> . The site is one of the only Irish breeding sites for <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i> though birds have not been recorded in recent years. A good diversity of other wintering waterfowl occur including internationally important numbers of <i>Branta bernicla horta</i> and <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> . The site also had important concentrations of breeding waders especially <i>Calidris alpina</i> and <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> . <i>Lutra lutra</i> occurs throughout much of site. | This large coastal site located in north-west Mayo comprises much of the Mullet Peninsula the sheltered waters of Blacksod Bay and the low-lying sandy coastline from Belmullet to Kinrovar. Blacksod Bay is 16 km in length and 8 km wide at the mouth. It is a shallow bay reaching a maximum depth of 19 m and with weak tidal streams. The character of the site is strongly influenced by the Atlantic Ocean and the exposed location of much of it results in a terrestrial landscape dominated by blown sand and largely devoid of trees. In addition to sand dune habitats other terrestrial habitats include shallow coastal lakes notably Cross Lough and Termoncarragh Lough salt marshes and some rocky shore. The underlying bedrock consists mainly of schists and gneiss. Grazing is the main terrestrial activity while fishing and recreational activities are carried out in Blacksod Bay. |
| 000471 | Brackloon Woods SAC | A sessile oak wood of the <i>Blechno-Quercetum petraea scapanietosum</i> a rare hypo-oceanic community of restricted distribution. It is one of the few remaining fragments of woodland in the region. Considerable past disturbance has fragmented the wood which nevertheless retains a typical structure and flora in places and contains the Red Data species <i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i> . | A sessile oak wood developed on soils derived from schists and gneiss on gently undulating terrain. The site is bounded on the eastern margin by the Owenee River. |
| 000522 | Lough Gall Bog SAC | This largely intact blanket bog supports a high diversity of typical features. Of particular note is the unusually intact zonation and transition from blanket bog vegetation to salt marsh on peat and shingle beach. The site supports the protected <i>Lycopodiella inundata</i> and the uncommon <i>Erica erigena</i> . The site is visited by <i>Lutra lutra</i> which has a presence in Bellacragher Bay. | An area of lowland blanket bog situated on a peninsula in the sheltered marine inlet of Bellacragher Bay with a range of typical natural features including small lakes pool systems streams flushes swallow holes islands and natural drains. Boulder shingle beaches salt marsh and marine waters form a natural boundary to the site on three sides. |
| 001774 | Lough Carra/Mask Complex SAC | This site is of immense importance for the occurrence of scarce and specialised habitats as well as animal and plant species. Lough Carra is one of the best examples of a marl lake in the country while Mask is one of the largest lowland oligotrophic systems. The site is the northern limit of the western limestones. The limestone pavement which is one of the most important examples outside of the Burren occurs in mosaic with good examples of dry heath and calcareous grassland rich in orchids. Alkaline fens and calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> are a feature of the marginal wetland vegetation and both are well represented. Alluvial forest is well-developed at Lough Mask especially at Ballykine and Clonbur. <i>Taxus baccata</i> occurs as a component of the woodland at Clonbur. An internationally important population of <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> which is at the northern limit of the species' distribution in Ireland is also present. A population of <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> on the shoreline of Lough Mask is the only known example of a lake-shore population in Ireland. Several Red Data Book plant species occur. Also supports <i>Lutra lutra</i> the glacial relict <i>Salvelinus alpinus</i> and a rare shrimp <i>Niphargus</i> spp. Important for wintering and breeding birds with <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> <i>Sterna hirundo</i> and <i>Larus</i> gulls. | General geological character of the area is carboniferous limestones with some shales and sandstones. Lough Mask dominates the site being the sixth largest lake in Ireland and one of the deepest (maximum depth 58m). The eastern side of Mask is edged by a mosaic of limestone pavement scrub and woodland. The paving floods. In contrast the western shore is backed by high mountains from which the fast flowing Owenbrin river flows and where it enters the lake it forms an extensive delta of coarse sandy sediment. Lough Carra is generally shallow (maximum depth 9m) and surrounded by limestone pavement with a diversity of other habitats both limestone related and wetland type. A feature of the lakes are the many islands. Loughs Mask and Carra are hydrologically linked while the main outflowing river in Mask connects to Lough Corrib. |
| 001922 | Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC | Probably one of the largest and finest examples of intact lowland blanket bogs in Ireland with exceptionally well developed pool complexes and dystrophic lakes. Rhynchosporion vegetation is well represented in many of the pool areas out in the wet quaking bog area. Groundwater seepage areas are widespread and support a range of fen vegetation assemblages including some of the best alkaline fens in the country notable for their diversity of structure and species especially rare boreal relict fen mosses such as <i>Leiocolea rutheana</i> <i>Homalothecium nitens</i> and <i>Paludella squarrosa</i> . One of only 4 locations for <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> an Annex II species. The site formerly supported wintering <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> . Additional areas are included in the site under EU LIFE funded restoration projects. | A large expanse of lowland blanket bog with numerous pools and dystrophic lakes developed on gently undulating glacial drift overlying shales and sandstone and bordering carboniferous limestone to the east. Shallow stream valleys bordered by humid grassland and heath vegetation dissect the lowland plain. Site is notable for the widespread occurrence of flush and fen vegetation derived from mineral-rich and often calcareous groundwater seepage areas. |
| 002031 | The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC | One of the largest and most varied sites of conservation interest in Ireland including the scenically renowned Twelve Bens mountain range which support extensive areas of blanket bog heath and exposed rock and a range of arctic-alpine plants. Rhynchosporion vegetation is well represented in the wet areas of blanket bog. The suite of lowland lakes that encircle the mountains represent some of the finest oligotrophic lakes in the country and support several rare species such as <i>Pilularia globulifera</i> and | An extensive area incorporating the predominantly quartzite mountains of the Twelve Bens and encompassing a range of habitat types including blanket bog oligotrophic lakes heath exposed rock and scree acid grassland and remnants of oak woodland. The northern part of the site is bounded by coastline and includes rocky shore and small areas of sandy beach machair tidal river mud flats and saltmarsh. Several river headstreams are also within the site. |

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| | | populations of <i>Salvelinus alpinus</i> . The site also has a significant population of <i>Lutra lutra</i> and an important population of <i>Salmo salar</i> . The site includes a large portion of the Connemara National Park and a National Nature Reserve at Derryclare Wood. Additional areas are included in the site under EU LIFE funded restoration projects. | |
| 002144 | Newport River SAC | This is a very important site for <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> with populations occurring in suitable habitat throughout the Newport River. The site is also important for the conservation of <i>Salmo salar</i> being a notable spring fishery with good spawning habitats. Habitat conditions and water quality for both of these species is currently good though declining rod and line catches and disappointing spawning in the last few years may reflect negative impacts of afforestation and overgrazing in the catchment. The site also has important sea trout <i>Salmo trutta</i> stocks. <i>Lutra lutra</i> is present on the system as is <i>Alcedo atthis</i> . | The Newport River flows from Lough Beltra to Newport town. Part of the main tributary the Skerdagh River is included as is the main river which flows into Lough Beltra the Crumpaun/Boghadoon. The rivers flow through a range of habitats mainly wet grassland which is improved to varying extents but also wet heath blanket bog scrub and some deciduous woodland. Coniferous plantations occur close to the edges of the watercourses in some parts. Lough Beltra is a medium sized lake with several islands. |
| 002268 | Achill Head SAC | The Achill Head site has good examples of extremely exposed reef communities. The littoral reef contains populations of the purple sea-urchin <i>Paracentrotus lividus</i> which are vulnerable to over-exploitation. The infralittoral reef contains an exceptional <i>Alaria esculenta</i> community. There are important sponge communities in the circalittoral reef. Achill Head is the only pSAC where one sponge species <i>Halicnemis verticillata</i> is present (though it also occurs in outer Galway Bay). The brachiopod <i>Neocrania anomala</i> is frequent at one circalittoral reef. It is only otherwise known to occur in abundance in the Kenmare River in the south-west of the country. Exposed shallow bays with small though significant examples of intertidal sand flats are also present and add habitat diversity to the site. | Achill Head is the most westerly point of Achill Island on the north-west coast of Ireland. The site comprises the shallow waters extending from Doega Head north-westwards to Achill Head and north-eastwards to Gubnahinneora Point. Bedrock is metamorphic schist and gneiss alternating with metamorphic quartzite. High cliffs (650m) on the north-west and is adjacent vertically into the sea forming steep sublittoral reefs. Landwards they sweep down to two exposed bays Keem Bay and Keel Bay that are composed of sediments. |
| 002998 | West Connacht Coast SAC | The site represents a key habitat for the Annex II species Bottlenose Dolphin within Ireland. Survey data show that Bottlenose Dolphin occurrence within the site compares favourably with another designated site in the Lower Shannon Estuary and that dolphins sampled within the site are genetically distinct from those occupying the Shannon Estuary. Overall Bottlenose Dolphin population estimates for the site also exceed that of the Shannon Estuary. The species is known to range widely within the site and it occurs within the site in all seasons while comparatively high group sizes of up to 50-65 dolphins or more have been recorded therein. Adults with young (i.e. calves) are commonly observed in summer within the site while foraging resting and social behaviour are commonly recorded at key locations. Groups of dolphins demonstrate a level of site fidelity to such locations within and between years. Sighting records from coastal and boat-based observation are also significant for the coast of Ireland and groups of Bottlenose Dolphins have been tracked from land as they transit along the Atlantic coastline. The site contains a wide array of habitats and hydrographic features believed to be important for Bottlenose Dolphin including areas of strong current flow within bays or adjacent to coastal headlands islands sandbanks shoals and reefs. Harbour Porpoise Short-beaked Common Dolphin Risso's Dolphin Killer Whale and Minke Whale are also recorded within the site. The site also contains two Annex II seal species: Harbour Seal and Grey Seal which carry out breeding resting social behaviour and moulting activity at terrestrial or intertidal locations in immediate proximity to the site. | The selected site extending approximately 90 km in total length encompasses two dynamic coastal water areas in the west of Ireland and a range of associated shallow marine habitats. These include exposed Atlantic continental shelf waters and sheltered coastal bays diverse seabed structures including sedimentary basins and reefs prominent headlands islets and islands of various sizes. The site borders numerous existing designated sites for Annexed species and habitats and is adjacent to a wide array of coastal features e.g. sheltered bays exposed open bays estuaries coastal cliffs and sea caves several of which are also designated protected sites. |
| 004037 | Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven SPA | The site supports an excellent diversity of wintering waterfowl species and is one of the most important wetland complexes in the west. It has internationally important populations of <i>Gavia immer</i> and <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> . The site also supports nationally important populations of <i>Melanitta nigra</i> <i>Numenius arquata</i> <i>Limosa lapponica</i> <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> <i>Calidris alpina</i> <i>Mergus serrator</i> and <i>Calidris alba</i> . The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the birds though some species may also utilise areas elsewhere for feeding and/or roosting purposes. A nationally important population of <i>Calidris alpina</i> subsp. <i>schinzii</i> breeds within areas of the machair. Inishderry Island has a nationally important breeding colony of <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> as well as nesting <i>Sterna hirundo</i> <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> and <i>Larus ridibundus</i> . | Situated in the extreme north-west of Co. Mayo this site comprises a number of bays and inlets including Sruwaddacon Bay Moyrahan Bay Traw-Kirtaun Blind Harbour Tullaghan Bay and the various sheltered bays and inlets in Blacksod Bay including Traymore Bay Feorinyeeo Bay Saleen Harbour Elly Bay and Elly Harbour. At low tide extensive areas of intertidal sand and mudflats are exposed. These support a well-developed macro-invertebrate fauna. Seagrass (<i>Zostera marina</i>) occurs at several localities. Salt marshes which are often on a peat substrate fringe parts of the site and provide useful roosts for the wintering waterfowl. Sandy and shingle beaches are well-represented. A small island Inishderry occurs in the inner part of the bay and is used by nesting terns and gulls. Also included within the site are two small lakes on the Mullet Peninsula Cross Lough and Leam Lough. The underlying bedrock consists mainly of schists and gneiss. |
| 004052 | Carrowmore Lake SPA | There is a long established breeding colony of gulls and terns on Derreens Island. <i>Larus ridibundus</i> and <i>Larus canus</i> both nest in numbers of national importance with the latter representing over 5% of the national total. <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> formerly had a large nesting population but has not nested in at least the last 5 years. The species does however still regularly visit the lake. A population of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> winters on the surrounding bogs and at times uses the lake for roosting and/or feeding. Relatively small numbers of wildfowl mostly diving duck occur in winter. | Carrowmore Lake is a large relatively shallow oligotrophic/mesotrophic lake which overlies Dalradian schists and quartzite. The lake generally has a stony bottom and shoreline. Stands of emergent swamp vegetation occur especially in sheltered areas. The lake has one substantial island Derreens Island and several small islands. These are dominated by a grassy sward. Carrowmore Lake is set in a landscape dominated by blanket bogs. |
| 004098 | Owenduff/Nephin Complex SPA | The Owenduff/Nephin Complex SPA is one of the largest expanses of blanket bog in the country and the site supports an excellent diversity of bird species characteristic of blanket bog and mountain habitats. <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> regularly visit the site in winter though numbers nowadays are relatively low. The population is a sub-flock of the main Bog of Erris population (4 other sub-flocks). The site supports breeding populations of several important species notably <i>Falco columbarius</i> <i>Falco peregrinus</i> and <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> . Recent studies have shown that there is a good population of <i>Lagopus lagopus</i> an Irish Red Data Book species. Several species listed in Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive occur notably <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> <i>Lutra lutra</i> and <i>Salmo salar</i> . Much of the site is incorporated into the Mayo National Park. | This is a large inland site which is underlain by schists and gneisses in the west and quartzites in the east and south. A large proportion of the site (c. 25%) lies above 200 m and these upland areas contain spectacular mountain cliffs and corrie lakes. Many of the mountain peaks reach altitudes of over 500 m while 721 m is the height of the tallest summit. Most of the site is drained by the Owenduff River and its complex network of tributaries and streams which generally flow in a south-east to north-west direction. Much of the land surrounding the site is afforested with conifers. |
| 004144 | High Island Inishshark and Davillaun SPA | High Island Inishshark and Davillaun are utilised in winter by a nationally important population of <i>Branta leucopsis</i> (4.3% of the all-Ireland population total). In addition this site is an important breeding sites for seabird species with nationally important numbers of <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> (2.1% of the all-Ireland total) and <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> (1.8%). Other breeding birds occur include <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> <i>Larus argentatus</i> and <i>Larus canus</i> . | High Island Inishshark and Davillaun are small uninhabited islands lying some 3-5 km north and west of Aughrus Point on the Co. Galway coast. Grassland is the main vegetation type found with vegetated sea cliffs dry heath exposed rock and some freshwater marsh also present. The surrounding sea to a distance of 200 m from each island is included within the site. High Island is the site of an important ancient ecclesiastical settlement. |

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| 000476 | Carrowmore Lake Complex SAC | An important site in the region for birds with long established breeding colonies of <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> , <i>S. paradisaea</i> , <i>Larus ridibundus</i> and <i>L. canus</i> on Derreen's Island and a range of wintering birds on the lake. Surrounding lands to the east of the lake are used by wintering <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> . The site is also valuable for the large area of intact blanket bog particularly at Largan More which includes a flush holding one of only three known populations of <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> in the country as well as a recently discovered population of <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> . Depressions on peat substrates (<i>Rhynchosporion</i>) is well represented within the bog complex. Boglands used by breeding <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Falco columbarius</i> . | A large shallow oligotrophic/mesotrophic lake with extensive blanket bog to the east overlying Dalradian schists and quartzite. Minerotrophic flush vegetation and wet grassland occur along tributary and stream banks. Heath vegetation with <i>Erica erigena</i> fringes much of the Carrowmore Lake shore. Grassy islands occur in Carrowmore Lake. |
| 000485 | Corraun Plateau SAC | The site is important for the large though often disturbed areas of alpine heath dry heath wet heath and juniper scrub habitats. Blanket bog is also present and within this is an area of relatively intact high plateau bog. The Red Data Book species <i>Saussurea alpina</i> is found on high rocky ledges. The largest colony of <i>Erica erigena</i> in Ireland is found on the heaths at Mallaranny and also occurs elsewhere in the site. | The geology at the site is varied. The area around Mallaranny is underlain by Dalradian schists while Corraun Mountain is underlain by Dalradian schists and quartzites. The southern coast is underlain by old red sandstone. The site consists of a steep mountain and summit plateau at Corraun (524m) and other high summits above Lough Cullydoo (541m) and 360m in the vicinity of Claggan Mountain (360m) at the east of the site. The area is dominated by heath type vegetation in combination with pockets of peat and rock. Oligotrophic lakes are present at the north of the site. The main landuse is grazing with peat-cutting in parts. |
| 000532 | Oldhead Wood SAC | A hyper-oceanic woodland of the <i>Blechno-Quercetum petraea scapanietosum</i> one of a very few intact examples in the region and one of the only sites directly adjacent to the coast. Mature woodland grades into scrub and heath with ascending altitude. Exceptionally high humidity and abundant development of epiphytic bryophytes and lichens including <i>Lobaria pulmonaria</i> . A good example of dry heath in an exposed location and includes the localised <i>Daboecia cantabrica</i> . Woods and heath support typical bird fauna including several species on the edge of their European range notably <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> . | A small oak woodland confined to the lee side of two exposed rocky knolls (106-150m) situated on a coastal promontory in Clew Bay. Complex geology of igneous rocks mainly silurian; felstone and dolerite overlain by loamy brown earths merging into peaty podsols on the hill tops. Trees display the effects of exposure and deterioration in soil with altitude being tall and well developed at low levels but degenerating to low windswept scrub on the hills. |
| 001228 | Aughrusbeg Machair and Lake SAC | The aquatic vegetation of Aughrusbeg Lake is unusual and has a high conservation value. Overall it is a very clear softwater species-rich lake and based on current interpretations (O Connor 2015) is best described as a 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> lake. Small patches of the submerged vegetation may conform to 3110 while other areas are dominated by <i>Chara</i> spp. and could be aligned with the hard water lake habitat (3140). Aughrusbeg Lake was surveyed in 1999 by Cillian Roden in a Heritage Council-funded study and in September 2017 by Cillian Roden Paul Murphy and Jim Ryan as part of the NPWS Mixed <i>Najas flexilis</i> lake habitat study. The lake is on granite bedrock and is separated from the sea by a small machair plain creating sloping granite shores other than at the western end where there is a well-developed sand-shelf. It was ranked as having the highest conservation importance of the 15 coastal lakes surveyed in 1999 (Roden 1999). The 2017 survey recorded 29 species including seven <i>Potamogeton</i> species one <i>Potamogeton</i> hybrid and three-species each of the charophytes <i>Chara</i> and <i>Nitella</i> in 21 relevés. Euphotic depth was 5.2 m. The sand-shelf at the western end supports a population of what appears to be <i>Chara muscosa</i> (Roden 1999; Roden et al. 2017). <i>Chara muscosa</i> is closely related to and may even be an ecologically-induced form of <i>Chara contraria</i> (Stewart 2017). It was described from Mullaghderg Lough which remains its only definite world location but no longer occurs in this site (Roden et al. 2017; Stewart 2017). | The site is located on the western seaboard approximately 2 km west of the village of Cleggan in Co. Galway. It comprises a range of terrestrial intertidal and marine habitats. The area is underlain by Ormeau granite. Aughrusbeg Lough is surrounded mostly by coastal heath with frequent outcropping rock. At its western side it is separated from the sea by a narrow machair plain. Lough Atalia is a tidal lake that is connected to the sea by a narrow intertidal inlet. An area of marine water is included as well as several small islands (Dog Island Roellaun Gooreen Island). Other habitats include sandy and shingle beaches and rocky shoreline. |
| 001513 | Keel Machair/Menaun Cliffs SAC | This site is important because of the presence of the priority Annex I habitat machair though the quality of the habitat has been reduced by heavy grazing and recreational use. A fairly typical example of alpine and sub-alpine heath also occurs though this has been degraded by sheep grazing. Also of importance is a fine example of a stony beach which occurs adjacent to the machair. Associated with the machair is a large population of the Annex II liverwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> . Two legally protected plant species occur <i>Lathyrus japonicus</i> and <i>Mentha pulegium</i> . A variety of rare bryophytes have been recorded including <i>Philonotis rigida</i> , <i>Cyclodictyon laetevirens</i> , <i>Bryum marratii</i> and <i>Bryum calophyllum</i> . The site supports wintering <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> and breeding <i>Falco peregrinus</i> and <i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> . Some breeding waders and breeding seabirds are also found. | This relatively large coastal site located along the mid-western coast of Achill Island Co. Mayo comprises a complex of coastal and upland habitats. The dominant bedrock within the site is quartzite with an extensive flat area of blown sand occurring between Trawmore Strand and Keel Lough. The principal habitats are heaths varying from wet to dry blanket bog sea cliffs (up to 250 m) machair and lakes. Other habitats which occur in small amounts are freshwater marsh sandy beach and a shingle/stony ridge. The tall quartzite cliffs which dominate the south-western shore lend a very scenic quality to the site. |
| 002005 | Bellacragher Saltmarsh SAC | Although small in area this is a typical example of west coast salt meadow of the fringe type on a peat substrate. Both Atlantic and Mediterranean types of salt meadow are represented. Turf fucoids are a feature and a community of this type was first described from Bellacragher. Quality moderate to good. Owing to its proximity to the public road the site is easily accessible and is used for educational purposes. | Bellacragher Bay is a very sheltered inlet situated to the north-west of Mallaranny in Co. Mayo. The site is situated on the eastern side of the bay. The salt marsh is of the fringe type and occurs mostly on a peat substrate though some patches occur on the stony shoreline. The width of the fringe varies in places being up to 20 m. On the landward side of the salt marsh fringe the habitat is generally bog or damp acidic grassland. Other habitats within the site are stony shoreline intertidal flats a small sandy beach and some damp grassland. The salt marsh is grazed by sheep. |
| 002130 | Tully Lough SAC | Tully Lough is a typical small oligotrophic lake partly surrounded by semi-natural bog and wet grassland vegetation. The aquatic vegetation is well developed. The quality of the lake water appears good despite some likely input of nutrients from agricultural run-off. <i>Najas flexilis</i> has been recorded in the past and probably still occurs. A building on Heath Island has a nationally important nursery roost of <i>Myotis nattereri</i> a Red Data Book bat species. | Site is situated in Connemara c.4 km north-west of Letterfrack and just over 1 km from the coast. Tully Mountain towers above the site to the south-west. Lake is fringed in parts by reedbeds and other swamp vegetation. A feature of the lake is a series of small islands mostly wooded the largest of which is Heath Island. Lake is immediately surrounded to the east south and north-east by blanket bog (some relatively intact) and wet grassland which has been partly improved. To the west and south-west the land has been more intensively improved for pasture. Main landuse in area is grazing by cattle and sheep. |
| 002177 | Lough Dahybaun SAC | While there is good recent information on the presence of <i>Najas</i> at this site the quality of the habitat is considered poor. Without appropriate management the long-term survival of <i>Najas</i> at this site is at risk. | Situated in a large expanse of blanket bog in north Mayo Lough Dahybaun is a fairly typical small to medium sized oligotrophic lake. Most of the bog surrounding the lake has been severely damaged by cutting and afforestation. |
| 004062 | Lough Mask SPA | Lough Mask is one of the most important sites in the country for nesting <i>Larus ridibundus</i> , <i>Larus canus</i> and <i>Larus fuscus</i> accounting for 8.4%, 1.7% and 10% of the respective national totals. It also supports a nationally important colony of <i>Sterna hirundo</i> . In winter the site has a range of waterfowl especially diving duck with the <i>Aythya fuligula</i> population being of national importance. It also supports <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> and is visited at times by part of the Erriff / Derrycraff population of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> . The lake has a population of <i>Salvelinus alpinus</i> a Red Data Book species and is an important site for <i>Lutra lutra</i> . Lough Mask is an important salmonid fishery. | Lough Mask at over 8000 ha is the sixth largest lake in the country. It extends for over 14 km along its long axis and is on average about 5 km in width. The underlying geology is of Carboniferous limestones with some shales and sandstones. The main inflowing rivers are the Cloon Robe and the stream from Lough Carra to the north-east. The main outflow is to Lough Corrib to the south. The lake is shallow off the eastern shore but considerably deeper off the western where there is a long narrow trench with a maximum depth of 58 m. The water of the lake is moderately hard. During the 1990s the trophic status of Lough Mask has changed from oligotrophic to mesotrophic due to a steady increase in phytoplankton growth. The eastern part of the lake is edged by a low-lying shoreline which is subject to winter flooding. An intricate mixture of plant communities has developed on the limestone with bare pavement scrub-dominated pavement dry grassland and heath. The western |

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| | | | shoreline is less diverse and lacks the limestone communities. Islands are a feature of the lake especially in the south-east sector. |
| 004111 | Duvillaun Islands SPA | The site is an important seabird colony with nationally important populations of <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> , <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> and <i>Larus marinus</i> . In winter the Duvillauns support <i>Branta leucopsis</i> - up to 500 birds can occur; these are part of a much larger population centred on the Mullet Peninsula and Inishkea Islands. The site is a traditional nesting location for <i>Falco peregrinus</i> and 1-2 pairs of <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> breed. The Duvillauns form part of a larger group of islands which hold one of the largest breeding populations of <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> in Ireland a species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. | The site comprises a group of uninhabited marine islands rocks and reefs located between 1 and 5 km off the southern tip of the Mullet Peninsula in Co. Mayo. The surrounding seas to a distance of 200 m from the shoreline where seabirds forage bathe and socialise are included in the site. Duvillaun More is the largest of the islands rising to 63 m with cliffs on the north-west and south-west sides. About two-thirds of this island is covered by a maritime grassland sward. There is a small area of dry heath at the west end of the island near the summit. Duvillaun Beg which rises to 14 m also has a grassy sward and an extensive intertidal shore. The other islands while having some land above the high tide mark are largely rocky islets and knolls. From west to east the lesser islands are Turduvillaun Shiraghy Islands Drumacappul Islands Orragoon Island Keely Island Gaghtha Island and Leamareha Island. |
| 004212 | Cross Lough (Killadoon) SPA | The Cross Lough is the former site of a long-established <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> colony (107 pairs in 1984 and 70 pairs in 1995) which was located on a small islet within the lake. Recent counts (1998-99) suggest that the terns no longer breed at this site possibly due to predation by feral Mink (<i>Mustela vison</i>); however terns are well-known to abandon unsuitable sites but to often return once conditions become more favourable. <i>Larus ridibundus</i> also breeds (70 pairs in 1995) and there are a small numbers of breeding <i>Larus canus</i> (c.10 pairs). | Cross Lough is located near Killadoon village approximately 12 km south-west of Louisburgh in Co. Mayo. Cross Lough is a fine example of a freshwater coastal lake which at times may become slightly saline (4 ppt salinity was measured in 1990). The lake lies on muddy sand above the foreshore behind a shingle and boulder bar. In certain years a tidal channel connects Cross Lough to the sea but this has been closed in recent times. |

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

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
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| 000278 | Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC | European dry heaths [4030], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Coastal lagoons [1150], Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364] | C01.01, I01, K04.05, D04.01, L07, F02.01.01, J03.03, A04, J02.12.01, H05.01, L08, F03.02.04, F02.01, J02.02.01, G01.02, E01.03, A04.01.02, J01.01 | Sand and gravel extraction, Invasive non-native species, Damage by herbivores (including game species), Airport, Storm, cyclone, Potting, Reduction, lack or prevention of erosion, Grazing, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Garbage and solid waste, Inundation (natural processes), Predator control, Professional passive fishing, Dredging or removal of limnic sediments, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Dispersed habitation, Intensive sheep grazing, Burning down |
| 000297 | Lough Corrib SAC | Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Limestone pavements [8240], Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp [3140], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Active raised bogs [7110], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Bog woodland (Bog woodland) [91D0], Slender green feather-moss (<i>Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus</i>) [1393], <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410], Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] | G05, D01, H01.08, E03.01, I01, B01, A02.01, J02.15, C01.01, A08, A04, A04.03, C01.03.02, A10.01, E01.01, D03.01.02, J02.01.03, E01.03 | Other human intrusions and disturbances, Roads, paths and railroads, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Invasive non-native species, Forest planting on open ground, Agricultural intensification, Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Sand and gravel extraction, Fertilisation, Grazing, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Mechanical removal of peat, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Continuous urbanisation, Piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, Dispersed habitation |
| 000330 | Tully Mountain SAC | Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], European dry heaths [4030] | A04.01.02, A04.02.02, A05.02, I01, C01.01 | Intensive sheep grazing, Non intensive sheep grazing, Stock feeding, Invasive non-native species, Sand and gravel extraction |
| 000466 | Bellacorick Iron Flush SAC | Marsh saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>) [1528] | D01.01, C01.03.02, K01.03 | Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Mechanical removal of peat, Drying out |
| 000470 | Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC | Machair (Machairs (* in Ireland)) [21A0], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120], Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation [3150], Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Reefs [1170], Alkaline fens [7230], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150] | G01, A02.01, A04.01.01, A05.02, F02, J02.12.01, X, E03.01, A04.01.02, C01.01.02, A08, C01.02, G05.09 | Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Agricultural intensification, Intensive cattle grazing, Stock feeding, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, No threats or pressures, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Intensive sheep grazing, Removal of beach materials, Fertilisation, Loam and clay pits, Fences, fencing |
| 000471 | Brackloon Woods SAC | Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0] | I01, B02 | Invasive non-native species, Forest and Plantation management & use |
| 000476 | Carrowmore Lake Complex SAC | Marsh saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>) [1528], Slender green feather-moss (<i>Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus</i>) [1393], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] | A04, C01.03.02, B01, D01.02, C01.03.01, F02.03, E01.03, I01, D01.01 | Grazing, Mechanical removal of peat, Forest planting on open ground, Roads, motorways, Hand cutting of peat, Leisure fishing, Dispersed habitation, Invasive non-native species, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks |
| 000484 | Cross Lough (Killadoon) SAC | Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] | X, C01.01.02, K01 | No threats or pressures, Removal of beach materials, Abiotic (slow) natural processes |
| 000485 | Corraun Plateau SAC | Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], European dry heaths [4030], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] | A04, C01, F03.02.02, B, E03.01, G01, C01.01, I01, E01 | Grazing, Mining and quarrying, Taking from nest (e.g. falcons), Sylviculture, forestry, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Sand and gravel extraction, Invasive non-native species, Urbanised areas, human habitation |
| 000495 | Duvillaun Islands SAC | Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364] | D02, F02, A04.03, D03.01.01, H06.01, X, E01, E06.02 | Utility and service lines, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Slipways, Noise nuisance, noise pollution, No threats or pressures, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Reconstruction, renovation of buildings |
| 000500 | Glenamoy Bog Complex SAC | Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Machair (Machairs (* in Ireland)) [21A0], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Transition mires and quaking bogs | A02.01, G05.01, E03.01, A04.01.02, C01.01.02, C01.03.02, B02.02, B05, | Agricultural intensification, Trampling, overuse, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Intensive sheep grazing, Removal of beach materials, Mechanical removal of peat, Forestry clearance, Use of fertilizers (forestry), Hand cutting of peat, |

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| | | [7140], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Marsh saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>) [1528], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Slender green feather-moss (<i>Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus</i>) [1393] | C01.03.01, G05.09, E01.03, J02.12, B01, D01.02, G01 | Fences, fencing, Dispersed habitation, Dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, Forest planting on open ground, Roads, motorways, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities |
| 000507 | Inishkea Islands SAC | Machair (Machairs (* in Ireland)) [21A0], Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364], Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395] | A04.01.05, M02.04, K03.04, G02.08, A04.01.02, K03.01, M02.03, J03.01, E06.02, G01, D05 | Intensive mixed animal grazing, Migration of species (natural newcomers), Predation, Camping and caravans, Intensive sheep grazing, Competition (fauna), Decline or extinction of species, Reduction or loss of specific habitat features, Reconstruction, renovation of buildings, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Improved access to site |
| 000522 | Lough Gall Bog SAC | Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] | E03.01, D01.01, C01.03.02, C01.03.01, A04 | Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Mechanical removal of peat, Hand cutting of peat, Grazing |
| 000527 | Moore Hall (Lough Carra) SAC | Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303] | A10.01 | Removal of hedges and copses or scrub |
| 000532 | Oldhead Wood SAC | European dry heaths [4030], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0] | I01, B02 | Invasive non-native species, Forest and Plantation management & use |
| 000534 | Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC | Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Slender green feather-moss (<i>Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus</i>) [1393], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Marsh saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>) [1528], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106] | B, X, A04, C01.03, E01.03, F02.03, J01, F03.01, D01.02, A08 | Sylviculture, forestry, No threats or pressures, Grazing, Peat extraction, Dispersed habitation, Leisure fishing, Fire and fire suppression, Hunting, Roads, motorways, Fertilisation |
| 000542 | Slieve Fyagh Bog SAC | Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] | B01, C01.03.01, D01.02, E01.03, C01.03.02, K01.01, A04 | Forest planting on open ground, Hand cutting of peat, Roads, motorways, Dispersed habitation, Mechanical removal of peat, Erosion, Grazing |
| 001228 | Aughrusbeg Machair and Lake SAC | Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] | I01, A05.02, L07, D03.01.02, D03.01.01, J01.01, F02.01.01, A04.02, G05.09, E01.03 | Invasive non-native species, Stock feeding, Storm, cyclone, Piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, Slipways, Burning down, Potting, Non intensive grazing, Fences, fencing, Dispersed habitation |
| 001309 | Omey Island Machair SAC | Machair (Machairs (* in Ireland)) [21A0], Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp [3140] | K04.05, L07, G02.10, G05.01, J02.12.01, F02.03, K01.01, A08, G01.02, F03.02.04, G01.03.02, A05.02, A04.02 | Damage by herbivores (including game species), Storm, cyclone, Other sport or leisure complexes, Trampling, overuse, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Leisure fishing, Erosion, Fertilisation, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Predator control, Off-road motorized driving, Stock feeding, Non intensive grazing |
| 001311 | Rusheenduff Lough SAC | Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130], Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833] | K01.01, D03.01.01, A04.02, J02.12.01, F02.01.01, A03.03, L08, L07, I01, G02.10 | Erosion, Slipways, Non intensive grazing, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Potting, Abandonment or lack of mowing, Inundation (natural processes), Storm, cyclone, Invasive non-native species, Other sport or leisure complexes |
| 001482 | Clew Bay Complex SAC | Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Geyer's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1013], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Machair (Machairs (* in Ireland)) [21A0], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)) [1330], Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0], Common seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365], Coastal lagoons [1150] | G01.01, H, F03.01, F06, C01.01, F02.03, J02.04.01, D, K01.01, A04, D03.01.02, B, L07, E, D01.05, G02.09, D03.01, G05.05, F01, D02, G01.01.02, A10, G01.02, A08, G01.01.01 | Nautical sports, Pollution, Hunting, Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, Sand and gravel extraction, Leisure fishing, Flooding, Transportation and service corridors, Erosion, Grazing, Piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, Sylviculture, forestry, Storm, cyclone, Urbanisation, residential and commercial development, Bridge, viaduct, Wildlife watching, Port areas, Intensive maintenance of public parks or cleaning of beaches, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Utility and service lines, Non-motorized nautical sports, Restructuring agricultural land holding, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Fertilisation, Motorized nautical sports |
| 001497 | Doogort Machair/Lough Doo SAC | Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395], Machair (Machairs (* in Ireland)) [21A0] | G02, A04, G02.08, G01.02, K01.01, G01.03, G05.01, A10, C01.03, L07, G01.08 | Sport and leisure structures, Grazing, Camping and caravans, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Erosion, Motorised vehicles, Trampling, overuse, Restructuring agricultural land holding, Peat extraction, Storm, cyclone, Other outdoor sports and leisure activities |
| 001513 | Keel Machair/Menaun Cliffs SAC | Machair (Machairs (* in Ireland)) [21A0], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395] | L07, I01, D01.01, K01.01, G01, G01.02, M02.01, J03.01, G02.01, E03.01, J02.04.01, G05.01, G01.03.01, G05.05, A08, G02.08, A03, A04.01.02, D01.02, J02 | Storm, cyclone, Invasive non-native species, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Erosion, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Habitat shifting and alteration, Reduction or loss of specific habitat features, Golf course, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Flooding, Trampling, overuse, Regular motorized driving, Intensive maintenance of public parks or cleaning of beaches, Fertilisation, Camping and caravans, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Intensive sheep grazing, Roads, motorways, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions |
| 001529 | Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough SAC | Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Coastal lagoons [1150] | X, K01, C01.01.02 | No threats or pressures, Abiotic (slow) natural processes, Removal of beach materials |
| 001774 | Lough Carra/Mask Complex SAC | Alkaline fens [7230], Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130], Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davalliana</i> [7210], Slender green feather-moss (<i>Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus</i>) [1393], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp [3140], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210], European dry heaths [4030], Limestone pavements [8240], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] | H01, A03.03, X | Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Abandonment or lack of mowing, No threats or pressures |

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| 001922 | Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC | Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Alkaline fens [7230], Geyer's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1013], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Marsh saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>) [1528], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] | E02, C01.03.02, F03.01, C01.03.01, A04, D01.02, D05, D02.01, E01.03, I01, B01 | Industrial or commercial areas, Mechanical removal of peat, Hunting, Hand cutting of peat, Grazing, Roads, motorways, Improved access to site, Electricity and phone lines, Dispersed habitation, Invasive non-native species, Forest planting on open ground |
| 001932 | Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC | Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395], European dry heaths [4030], Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110], Machair (Machairs (* in Ireland)) [21A0], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletia uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170], Alkaline fens [7230], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)) [1330], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150], Geyer's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1013], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Coastal lagoons [1150], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029] | A04.01.02, X, C01.03.02, H01, A08, A02.01 | Intensive sheep grazing, No threats or pressures, Mechanical removal of peat, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Fertilisation, Agricultural intensification |
| 001955 | Croaghaur/Slievemore SAC | Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], European dry heaths [4030], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] | C01.01.01, I01, C01.03, G01, A10, A04, D01.01 | Sand and gravel quarries, Invasive non-native species, Peat extraction, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Restructuring agricultural land holding, Grazing, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks |
| 002005 | Bellacragher Saltmarsh SAC | Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)) [1330] | F06, X, A04, I01 | Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, No threats or pressures, Grazing, Invasive non-native species |
| 002008 | Maumturk Mountains SAC | Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] | G05.09, I01, G05.01, D01.01, B04, E01.03, C01.03.01, G02.10, A04.02.01, B02.01.02, B01.02, A04.01.02, C01.03.02, G01.04, D01.05, B01.01, H01.05 | Fences, fencing, Invasive non-native species, Trampling, overuse, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry), Dispersed habitation, Hand cutting of peat, Other sport or leisure complexes, Non intensive cattle grazing, Forest replanting (non native trees), Artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), Intensive sheep grazing, Mechanical removal of peat, Mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, Bridge, viaduct, Forest planting on open ground (native trees), Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities |
| 002031 | The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC | Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0], Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletia uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029] | G01.02, A04.02.01, J01.01, I01, H01.05, C01.03.02, G05.09, B02.01.02, G01.04, B04, G05.01, D01.05, A04.02.04, E01.03, C01.03.01, A04.01.02 | Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Non intensive cattle grazing, Burning down, Invasive non-native species, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Mechanical removal of peat, Fences, fencing, Forest replanting (non native trees), Mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry), Trampling, overuse, Bridge, viaduct, Non intensive goat grazing, Dispersed habitation, Hand cutting of peat, Intensive sheep grazing |
| 002034 | Connemara Bog Complex SAC | <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410], Alkaline fens [7230], Coastal lagoons [1150], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Reefs [1170], Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletia uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Marsh fritillary butterfly (<i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i> , <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i>) [1065], European dry heaths [4030], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0] | J01, A04.01.02, C01.03.02, X, C01.03.01 | Fire and fire suppression, Intensive sheep grazing, Mechanical removal of peat, No threats or pressures, Hand cutting of peat |
| 002081 | Ballinafad SAC | Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303] | X, K01.01 | No threats or pressures, Erosion |
| 002130 | Tully Lough SAC | Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletia uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130], Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833] | C01.03.02, D01, J02.06.02, I01, F02.03, X | Mechanical removal of peat, Roads, paths and railroads, Surface water abstractions for public water supply, Invasive non-native species, Leisure fishing, No threats or pressures |
| 002144 | Newport River SAC | Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106] | I01, G05.09, A08, B, C01.03, E01.03, A10, F02.03, G01.01.02, A04 | Invasive non-native species, Fences, fencing, Fertilisation, Sylviculture, forestry, Peat extraction, Dispersed habitation, Restructuring agricultural land holding, Leisure fishing, Non-motorized nautical sports, Grazing |
| 002177 | Lough Dahybaun SAC | Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833] | X, C01.03 | No threats or pressures, Peat extraction |
| 002179 | Towerhill House SAC | Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303] | B | Sylviculture, forestry |
| 002243 | Clare Island Cliffs SAC | Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230] | L05, X | Collapse of terrain, landslide, No threats or pressures |
| 002268 | Achill Head SAC | Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Reefs [1170] | F06, F02, G01, F02.03, L07, G05.01, G02.09, I01, G05, F02.02.02 | Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Leisure fishing, Storm, cyclone, Trampling, overuse, Wildlife watching, Invasive non-native species, Other human intrusions and disturbances, Pelagic trawling |

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| 002298 | River Moy SAC | Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles) [91A0], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Alkaline fens [7230], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Active raised bogs [7110] | D04.02, F03.02, B05, F03.02.04, I01, J02.04, B01, C01.03, F02.03, H01.05, A02.01 | Aerodrome, heliport, Taking and removal of animals (terrestrial), Use of fertilizers (forestry), Predator control, Invasive non-native species, Flooding modifications, Forest planting on open ground, Peat extraction, Leisure fishing, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Agricultural intensification |
| 002998 | West Connacht Coast SAC | Bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) [1349] | D03.02, X, E03.01, H06.01, H03, F02, E03 | Shipping lanes, No threats or pressures, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Noise nuisance, noise pollution, Marine water pollution, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Discharges |
| 004004 | Inishkea Islands SPA | Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i> [Eastern Greenland/Scotland/Ireland]) [A045], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i> [Svalbard/Denmark/UK]) [A045], Common snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>) [A153], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Purple sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) [A148], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], Little tern (<i>Sterna albibrons</i>) [A195], Northern fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045], European storm-petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014], Eurasian oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] | A04, G01.02, X | Grazing, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, No threats or pressures |
| 004037 | Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven SPA | Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191], Great northern diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003], Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001], Black (common) scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>) [A466], Common greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Common shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Eurasian oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] | F01, A08, F02.03.01, G01.02, F02.03, E01 | Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fertilisation, Bait digging or collection, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Leisure fishing, Urbanised areas, human habitation |
| 004042 | Lough Corrib SPA | Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Common coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Black (common) scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Northern shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) [A051], Common pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059], Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] | F03.01, A08, A04, G01.01, E01, F02.03, B | Hunting, Fertilisation, Grazing, Nautical sports, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Leisure fishing, Sylviculture, forestry |
| 004051 | Lough Carra SPA | Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Northern shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Common pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) [A051], Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179] | A10, F02.03, B, A08 | Restructuring agricultural land holding, Leisure fishing, Sylviculture, forestry, Fertilisation |
| 004052 | Carrowmore Lake SPA | Common pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Greater scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062], Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] | F02.03, K03.04, B | Leisure fishing, Predation, Sylviculture, forestry |
| 004062 | Lough Mask SPA | Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Common coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125], Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Common pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059], Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] | F02.03, A10, B, A08 | Leisure fishing, Restructuring agricultural land holding, Sylviculture, forestry, Fertilisation |
| 004098 | Owenduff/Nephin Complex SPA | European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] | F02.03, D01.02, F03.01, A04, J01, E01.03, C01.03, A08, B | Leisure fishing, Roads, motorways, Hunting, Grazing, Fire and fire suppression, Dispersed habitation, Peat extraction, Fertilisation, Sylviculture, forestry |
| 004111 | Duvillaun Islands SPA | European storm-petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i> [Eastern Greenland/Scotland/Ireland]) [A045], Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i> [Svalbard/Denmark/UK]) [A045], Northern fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Red-billed chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346] | A04 | Grazing |
| 004136 | Clare Island SPA | Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184], European shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018], Black-legged kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Northern gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016], Common guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199], Red-billed chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346], Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200], Atlantic puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204], Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] | A04, G01.02 | Grazing, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles |
| 004144 | High Island, Inishshark and Davillaun SPA | Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184], Black-legged kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i> [Eastern Greenland/Scotland/Ireland]) [A045], Northern fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Manx shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013], | X | No threats or pressures |

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| | | Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045], European shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i> [Svalbard/Denmark/UK]) [A045] | | |
| 004177 | Bills Rocks SPA | Black-legged kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188], European shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018], Northern fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], European storm-petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014], Atlantic puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204] | X | No threats or pressures |
| 004212 | Cross Lough (Killadoon) SPA | Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191] | C01.01.02, K03.04, G01, X, F03.01, G01.01 | Removal of beach materials, Predation, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, No threats or pressures, Hunting, Nautical sports |
| 004221 | Illaunnaon SPA | Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] | X | No threats or pressures |
| 004227 | Mullet Peninsula SPA | Corn crake (<i>Crex crex</i>) [A122] | A01, A04, E01.02, A03 | Cultivation, Grazing, Discontinuous urbanisation, Mowing or cutting of grassland |
| 004228 | Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA | Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Black (common) scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Common pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059], Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Common coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] | I01, A08, B, F02.03 | Invasive non-native species, Fertilisation, Sylviculture, forestry, Leisure fishing |
| 004231 | Inishbofin, Omev Island and Turbot Island SPA | Corn crake (<i>Crex crex</i>) [A122] | X | No threats or pressures |
| 004235 | Doogort Machair SPA | Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>) [A466] | M02, X, A04 | Changes in biotic conditions, No threats or pressures, Grazing |

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

| Qualifying Interests | EU Code | Current threats to Qualifying Interests | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|---|---------|--|--|
| Active raised bogs | [7110] | Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes. |
| Alkaline fens | [7230] | Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| Alpine and Boreal heaths | [4060] | Abandonment; overgrazing; burning; outdoor recreation; quarries; communication networks; and wind farm developments. | Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. |
| Annual vegetation of drift lines | [1210] | Grazing; sand and gravel extraction; recreational activities; coastal protection works. | Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management. |
| Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Uliceteta</i>) | [2150] | | |
| Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) | [1330] | Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>); infilling and reclamation. | Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion. |
| White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) | [1092] | Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation. | Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution. |
| Blanket bogs (* if active bog) | [7130] | Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| Bog woodland | [91D0] | The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland. | Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species. |
| Calcareous fens with species of the <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Caricion davallianae</i> | [7210] | Hydrological changes, pollution to surface waters, urbanisation, roads development, groundwater interactions, grazing and cultivation practices and the inappropriate use of pesticides. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation | [8210] | Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access. | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| Coastal lagoons | [1150] | | |
| Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration | [7120] | Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes. |
| Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion | [7150] | Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes. |
| Slender Green Feather Moss (<i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i>) | [1393] | Pollution, land use, climate change and invasive species. | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) | [2170] | Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity. | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| Embryonic shifting dunes | [2110] | Natural erosion processes exacerbated by recreation and sand extraction. Coastal protection interfering with natural processes. | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) | [1065] | Declines in habitat quality lead to species decline. | Habitat management; land use change and drainage. |
| European dry heaths | [4030] | Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion. | Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status. |
| Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) | [2130] | Recreation; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing: non-native plant species, particularly sea buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>). | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| Grey Seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) | [1364] | Distance to human activities, accidental entanglement in fishing gear competition for prey resources, illegal killing, pollution and habitat degradation. | Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality. |

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|---|--------|--|--|
| Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara spp.</i> | [3140] | Hydrological changes, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution. |
| Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels | [6430] | Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status. |
| Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands | [5130] | Overgrazing, erosion, scrub clearance, inappropriate land use management, and succession processes. | Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species. |
| Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) | [1096] | Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants. | Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change. |
| Large shallow inlets and bays | [1160] | Pressures on the habitat include nutrient enrichment, dredging and invasive alien species. Overall Status is assessed as Bad and deteriorating, a genuine decline since the 2013 assessment of Inadequate and improving, and is based on more detailed information. | Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity, surface water runoff, discharge etc. On site management activities. |
| Limestone pavements | [8240] | Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access. | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) | [1355] | Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); unting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course. | Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution. |
| Machairs (* in Ireland) | [21A0] | | |
| Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) | [1029] | In stream works, hydrological and morphological alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due urbanisation etc. Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation. | Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution. |
| Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caeruleae</i>) | [6410] | Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status. |
| Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide | [1140] | Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise. | Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development. |
| Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) | [1833] | | |
| Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds | [3160] | Nutrient alterations; management shifts in the associated peatland habitat, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution |
| Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation | [3150] | Hydrological changes, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution. |
| Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> | [4010] | Reclamation, afforestation and burning; overstocking; invasion by non-heath species; exposure of peat to severe erosion. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles | [91A0] | The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland. | Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species. |
| Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> | [3130] | Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution. |
| Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i>) | [3110] | Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution. |
| Perennial vegetation of stony banks | [1220] | Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel. | Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal. |
| Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) | [1395] | There are no significant impacts affecting this species. | None identified. |
| Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Ceratoneurion) | [7220] | Ground water interactions, on site management activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution. |
| Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) | [1095] | Barriers to upstream migration (e.g. weirs), which limit access to spawning beds and juvenile habitat are main threats to this species. | Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity. |
| Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) | [1365] | | |
| Reefs | [1170] | Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition. | Sensitive to disturbance and pollution. |
| Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) | [1303] | | |
| Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand | [1310] | Invasive Species; erosion and accretion. | Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species. |
| Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) | [1106] | Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations. | Disease, parasites and barriers to movement. |
| Marsh Saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>) | [1528] | | |

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|---|--------|---|---|
| Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) | [6210] | Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) | [2120] | Recreation and coastal defences, which may interfere with local sediment dynamics. | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation | [8220] | Pressures associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb (<i>Epilobium brunnescens</i>). | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) | [8110] | Overgrazing, undergrazing and succession were recorded as medium-importance pressures in this reporting period, and Structure and functions were again assessed as Inadequate, the trend is considered to be stable rather than improving. This change is due to improved knowledge and the habitat is considered to have been stable since before the last assessment. | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| Transition mires and quaking bogs | [7140] | Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes. |
| <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> | [1349] | | |
| Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts | [1230] | A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change. There have been no significant losses in sea cliff habitat since the Directive came into force. | Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage. |
| Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) | [1014] | Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites. | Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes. |
| Geyer's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) | [1013] | Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites. | Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes. |
| Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation | [3260] | Hydrological and morphological changes, water quality, enrichment, and surface water discharges from industrial site and/or agriculture. | Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions. |

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

| Special Conservation Interests | Vulnerabilities of Special Conservation Interests |
|---|--|
| Red-throated diver Great northern diver Great crested grebe Northern fulmar Manx shearwater European storm-petrel Northern gannet Great cormorant European shag Whooper swan Barnacle goose Barnacle goose Barnacle goose Common shelduck Eurasian wigeon Gadwall Eurasian teal Mallard Northern shoveler Common pochard Tufted duck Greater scaup Black (common) scoter Common goldeneye Red-breasted merganser Merlin Peregrine falcon Corn crake Common coot Eurasian oystercatcher Ringed plover European golden plover Grey plover Northern lapwing | <p><i>Gavia stellata</i> [A001] <i>Gavia immer</i> [A003] <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> [A005] <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> [A009] <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> [A013] <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> [A014] <i>Morus bassanus</i> [A016] <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A017] <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> [A018] <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> [A038] <i>Branta leucopsis</i> [A045] <i>Branta leucopsis [Eastern Greenland/Scotland/Ireland]</i> [A045] <i>Branta leucopsis [Svalbard/Denmark/UK]</i> [A045] <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A048] <i>Anas penelope</i> [A050] <i>Anas strepera</i> [A051] <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052] <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> [A053] <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A056] <i>Aythya ferina</i> [A059] <i>Aythya fuligula</i> [A061] <i>Aythya marila</i> [A062] <i>Melanitta nigra</i> [A065] <i>Bucephala clangula</i> [A067] <i>Mergus serrator</i> [A069] <i>Falco columbarius</i> [A098] <i>Falco peregrinus</i> [A103] <i>Crex crex</i> [A122] <i>Fulca atra</i> [A125] <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [A130] <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A137] <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A140] <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A141] <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> [A142]</p> <p>Bird species are particularly vulnerable to direct disturbance due to noise and/or vibration. These effects are localised and disturbance effects are foreseen to be low at distances beyond 2km. Direct habitat loss is a serious concern for bird species, as well as the reduction in habitat quality. Habitat degradation could occur through effects such as local enrichment due to agricultural practices or damage to habitat through activities such as trampling. Prey species diversity and availability is a key element of species conservation. Community dynamics and ecosystem functionality are complex concepts and require site specific information. The site synopsis and conservation objectives for the SPAs identified within the ZOI were used to identify any specific prey sensitivities. Availability of nesting/roosting habitat. Particularly for the Hen Harrier. Vegetation composition, structure and functionality.</p> |

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|--|
| Red knot | <i>Calidris canutus</i> | [A143] | |
| Sanderling | <i>Calidris alba</i> | [A144] | |
| Purple sandpiper | <i>Calidris maritima</i> | [A148] | |
| Common snipe | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> | [A153] | |
| Bar-tailed godwit | <i>Limosa lapponica</i> | [A157] | |
| Eurasian curlew | <i>Numenius arquata</i> | [A160] | |
| Common redshank | <i>Tringa totanus</i> | [A162] | |
| Common greenshank | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | [A164] | |
| Ruddy turnstone | <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | [A169] | |
| Black-headed gull | <i>Larus ridibundus</i> | [A179] | |
| Mew gull | <i>Larus canus</i> | [A182] | |
| Lesser black-backed gull | <i>Larus fuscus</i> | [A183] | |
| Herring gull | <i>Larus argentatus</i> | [A184] | |
| Black-legged kittiwake | <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> | [A188] | |
| Sandwich tern | <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> | [A191] | |
| Common tern | <i>Sterna hirundo</i> | [A193] | |
| Arctic tern | <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> | [A194] | |
| Little tern | <i>Sterna albifrons</i> | [A195] | |
| Common guillemot | <i>Uria aalge</i> | [A199] | |
| Razorbill | <i>Alca torda</i> | [A200] | |
| Atlantic puffin | <i>Fratercula arctica</i> | [A204] | |
| Red-billed chough | <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> | [A346] | |
| Greenland white-fronted goose | <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> | [A395] | |
| Dunlin | <i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i> | [A466] | |
| Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] | | | Direct land take is a common vulnerability to all sites; as well as significant water quality effects. The conservation objective of all SPAs designated for Wetland and Waterbirds is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds using it. |

Appendix II Relationship with Other Plans and Programmes

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|---|---|---|
| European Level SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution. | <p>Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions. | <p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an integrated approach best available techniques, flexibility; and public participation | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of |

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| | | | the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Plant Protection (products) 2009/127/EC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288(COD)) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption. The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor. Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive; Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014; Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels; Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Alternative Infrastructure Fuels Directive (2014/94/EU) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner. | <p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services. The six targets cover: | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry Sustainable management of fish stocks Reducing invasive alien species Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss | effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Green Infrastructure Strategy | Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. Supporting EU-level GI projects. Improving access to finance for GI projects. Improving information and promoting innovation. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement) | <p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. | <p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario. | To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). Sets new air quality objectives for PM_{2.5} (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM₁₀) or up to five years (NO₂, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) | The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source. | <p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process. | <p>or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies. Promote sustainable water usage. The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive Sampling Drinking Water Directive Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive Shellfish Directive Freshwater Fish Directive Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive Dangerous Substances Directive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. Achieve "good status" for all waters. Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. Involve the public and streamline legislation. Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. Recover costs for water services. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, control and conserve groundwater. Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption. Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I. Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a). Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5. Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause. Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action. Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health. Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban wastewater and the treatment and discharge of wastewater from certain industrial sectors. The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of wastewater discharges. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban wastewater entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. Establishes minimum requirements for urban wastewater collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| | | <p>any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the Guidelines. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs. | |
| <p>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study. | <p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>European Landscape Convention 2000</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</p> | <p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing | <p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better implementation of legislation. Better information by improving the knowledge base. More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make the Union's cities more sustainable. To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</p> | <p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats to promote cooperation between states to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species | <p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. | the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Bali Road Map (2007) | <p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities. | <p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mitigation adaptation technology financing | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Cancun Agreements (2010) | <p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation Transparency of actions Technology Finance Adaptation Forests Capacity building | Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Doha Climate Gateway (2012) | Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015. | <p>The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Common Agricultural Policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances. | <p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation; and Restriction of chemicals. <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Stockholm Convention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner To target additional POPs Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Ramsar Convention | The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world". | <p>Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. | comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| OSPAR Convention | The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas. | <p>OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy Eutrophication Strategy Hazardous Substances Strategy Offshore Industry Strategy Radioactive Substances Strategy Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme <p>These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European 2020 Strategy for Growth | <p>Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. | <p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Level | | | |
| Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, (replacing the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020) and the National Development Plan (2018-2027) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people. | <p>The National Planning Framework published alongside the National Development Plan yields ten National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Compact Growth Enhanced Regional Accessibility Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities Sustainable Mobility A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills High-Quality International Connectivity Enhanced Amenity and Heritage Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation] | The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. | In preparation | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects. Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination |

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| Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011 | environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). | effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Waste Management Act 1996, as amended | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels | <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration. | <p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations, which give effect to Irelands 3rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources | <p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited Limits on the land application of fertilisers Storage requirements for livestock manure; and Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy. | <p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, The policy of the Government on climate change, Climate justice, Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> international agreement referred to in section 2; and The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency. | |
| The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan provides a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets. | <p>The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs; Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals; Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> €27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all. It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| <p>Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 : (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997) Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001) Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 101 | The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities. | <p>The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture & Foreshore Management Division are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011 | The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences and Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal. In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013) | These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in Natura 2000 sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries; Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required; Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation; Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan; Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan; Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment; Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities; Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| <p>National Seafood Operational Programme (2010-2020)</p> | <p>The Operational Programme (OP) supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in Ireland aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the EU's "Europe 2020" objectives. The OP supports the general reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the development of its Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) in Ireland.</p> <p>The OP strategy is designed around the Irish national priorities in the agri-food sector: 'Act Smart' by encouraging knowledge and innovation, 'Think Green' through a responsible and sustainable use of resources, 'Achieve Growth' in order to maintain and create jobs.</p> | <p>Irish OP is organised around the following priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Priority 1 (UP1): €67 million (28% of the total allocation) aim at assuring the sustainable development of fishing activities, while protecting the marine environment • Union Priority 2 (UP2): €30 million (12% of the total allocation) will support the Irish National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture that aims at boosting the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector. • Union Priority 3 (UP3): €84.8 million (35.4% of the total allocation) will go towards compliance with CFP rules regarding control and data collection. • Union Priority 4 (UP4): €12 million (5% of the total allocation) will support local development initiatives — a substantial, eleven-fold increase compared to the 2007-2013 funding period. • Union Priority 5 (UP5): €33 million (13.8% of the total allocation) will go towards creating scale in the Irish marketing and processing sectors, starting from the base of very small-scale businesses. • Union Priority 6 (UP6): €10.6 million (4% of the total allocation) will be used on measures to improve the knowledge on the state of the marine environment and the level of protection of marine areas | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012</p> | <p>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors; • Increase the contribution to the national GDP; • Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework; • Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems; • Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem; • Implement and comply with environmental legislation; • Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity; • Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and • Engagement and participation by all. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost efficient manner for consumers. • Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs. | <p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing on and offshore wind, • Building a sustainable bioenergy sector, • Fostering R&D in renewables such as wave & tidal, • Growing sustainable transport; and • Building out robust and efficient networks. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives. | <p>The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action Policy Framework • Decarbonising Electricity Generation • Decarbonising the Built Environment • Decarbonising Transport • An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. • Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. | <p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity; • Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future; • Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and • Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. • The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. • The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other</p> |

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| Eirgrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2011 -2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eirgrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland. "Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way." | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy. Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020. | <p>users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| National Water Resources Plan [in preparation] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment. | <p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020) | <p>Vision: "Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU."</p> | <p>General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated. | <p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>"Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."</i> | <p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published. <p>Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management. | <p>The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention Collection Self-sufficiency Regulation Legacy issues North-south cooperation Guidance and awareness Implementation | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision is: <i>"A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility."</i> | <p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</p> | <p>A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce overall travel demand. To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. To reduce transport emissions. To improve accessibility to transport. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism And Sport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades. | <p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and To the extent within the Authority's remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security of Supply Sustainability of Energy Competitiveness of Energy Supply | <p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production Being prepared for energy supply disruptions | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and forthcoming regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans (including marine) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance based actions. Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030) | <p>The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.</p> | <p>2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. | <p>Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems Give statutory protection to NHAs Enhances wildlife species and their habitats Includes more species for protection | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Statement for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| | | | users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors. To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Broadband Plan (2012) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland. | <p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband. Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process. Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications. Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels. Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off. Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains. Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth. Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders. Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management. <p>The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)</p> <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</p> <p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. Outlines surface water quality standards. Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality. Sets groundwater quality standards. Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division. | <p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecute for water pollution offences. Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. | |
| <p>Water Services Act 2007</p> <p>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</p> <p>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the water services infrastructure. Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply. Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland. | <p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced. Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems. Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term. | <p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Customer Expectations. Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. Provide Effective Management of Wastewater. Protect and Enhance the Environment. Support Social and Economic Growth. Invest in the Future. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Food Harvest 2020</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan</p> | <p>Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment</p> | <p>not applicable</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)</p> <p>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other</p> |

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| Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) | | | users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Rural Development Programme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas | <p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Forestry Programme (2014-2020) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020. | <p>Measures include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afforestation and Creation of Woodland NeighbourWood Scheme Forest Roads Reconstitution Scheme Woodland Improvement Scheme Native Woodland Conservation Scheme Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions Producer Groups Innovative Forest Technology Forest Genetic Reproductive Material Forest Management Plans | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| River Basin Management Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. Involve the public through consultations. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025) | <p>This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.</p> | <p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs. <p>To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive. | <p>CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020 | <p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner. | <p>Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of |

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| Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016 | Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources. Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála. | the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030 | This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework. | Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFV forecasts Electricity targets Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets Hydrogen targets Biofuels targets LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Food Wise 2025 (DAFM) | Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further. | Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high end value added product development. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020 Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. | This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce overall travel demand Maximise the efficiency of the transport network Reduce reliance on fossil fuels Reduce transport emissions Improve accessibility to transport These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 | The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe. | The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy Context Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination Enhancing the Visitor Experience Research in the Irish Tourism Sector Supporting Local Communities in Tourism Wider Government Policy International Context Co-ordination Structures | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Statement for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|--|---|---|---|
| Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025 | The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work. | The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; 250,000 people employed in tourism; and 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Regional/ County/Local Level | | | |
| Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies, replacing Regional Planning Guidelines | Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) provide long-term strategic planning frameworks and will be replaced by Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs). The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RPGs gave regional effect to the National Spatial Strategy. RSEs give regional effect to the National Planning Framework. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024 | The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport. | The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus; Light Rail; Heavy Rail; Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment; Integrated Service Plan; and Integration and Accessibility. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs | Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest To describe the site and its management To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Groundwater Protection Schemes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Development Plans, including the Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020 Local Area Plans, including the Westport Town and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport objectives). Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. Protect and enhance amenities and environment. Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. Aim to promote sustainable development. Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of |

Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Statement for the Clew Bay Destination and Experience Development Plan

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|---|--|---|
| Environs Local Area Plan 2005-2011 | | | the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Green Infrastructure Plans/Strategies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes the maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure in an area. Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats. | not applicable | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Mayo County Council Biodiversity Plan 2010-2015 | The County Mayo Biodiversity Action Plan aims to raise awareness of and promote the conservation of the natural heritage and biodiversity of the county. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a framework for the conservation of biodiversity at a local level. Helps ensure that national & international targets for biodiversity conservation can be achieved, while at same time addressing local priorities. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 | The plan gives effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021. | To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Mayo County Council Draft Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 | The Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland. | The purpose of this Action Plan is to endeavour to manage the existing noise environment and protect the future noise environment within the action planning area. Management of the existing noise environment may be achieved by prioritising areas for which further assessment and possible noise mitigation may be required. Protection of the future noise environment may be achieved by acoustical planning, which further incorporates noise into the planning process via measures such as land-use planning, development planning, sound insulation measures, traffic planning and control of environmental noise sources. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Fáilte Ireland plans, strategies etc. relating to the Wild Atlantic Way or other brands or initiatives, including the Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme 2015-2019 | <p>Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.</p> <p>The vision for the Wild Atlantic Way brand is: To create a world class, sustainable and un-missable experience brand that engages and energises the visitor so that they become powerful advocates and leaves them wanting to return for more.</p> | <p>Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence.</p> <p>The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Any other plans and projects, or associated proposals, such as those relating to: Croagh Patrick trails; Wild Nephin Ballycroy National Park and trail network; and Great Western Greenway including extensions to Louisburgh and Keel | Various other plans and projects which are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment | Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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

Contents of this Appendix:

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



WILD ATLANTIC WAY

SLÍ FHIÁIN AN ATLANTAIGH

Site Maintenance Guidelines

*for launching the
Wild Atlantic Way*



Fáilte Ireland

National Tourism Development Authority

the **paulhogarth** company



BRADY SHIPMAN MARTIN



INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

What does it look like?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Ferry to Island

P Car parks & Lay-bys

 Potential Discovery Points

2

OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

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



SITE APPROACH AND ENTRANCE

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

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

Typical maintenance works may include:

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



PARKING SURFACES

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

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

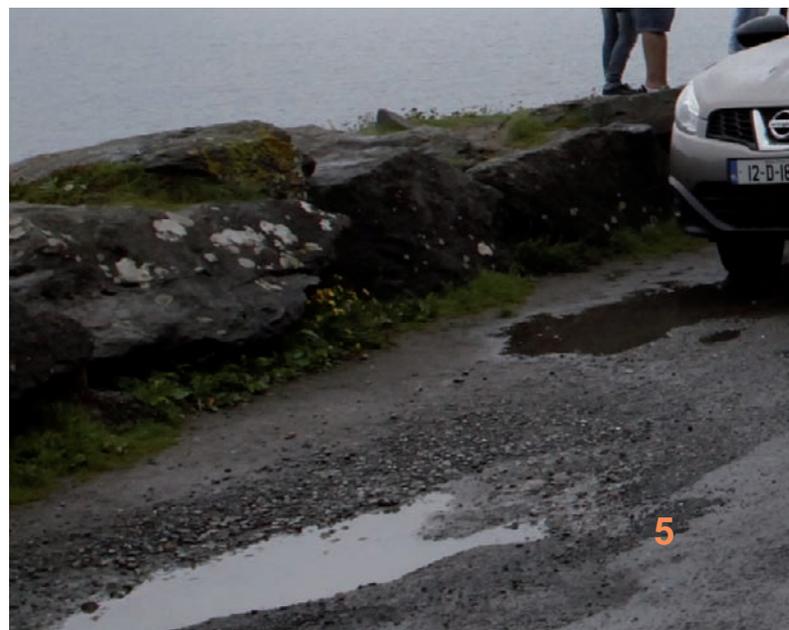
Surface materials will typically include tar and chip or compacted stone for rural sites, whereas village and harbour sites might include bitumen macadam, tar and chip, and possibly concrete.

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

Issues to Consider

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

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



SITE BOUNDARIES

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

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

Repair and maintenance works for improved presentation may require:

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

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

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



SIGNAGE

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

In many instances, typical actions required that may include:

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

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

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

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



SITE FURNITURE

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

Actions required may include:

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

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

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

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

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



SITE FACILITIES

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

Actions required:

Toilet Blocks

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

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

Temporary Toilets

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

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

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

Recycling:

Consider possible alternative sites

Ensure they are located out of sight of visitors;

Provide screening, perhaps using timber panels and hedgerow surrounds





SITE LIGHTING

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

Inappropriate lighting installations should be removed.

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

SOFT LANDSCAPING

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

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

SUSTAINABILITY

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





MAINTENANCE & SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

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

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

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

What will the Service Level Agreement include?

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

Typically, they are likely to include:

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

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



ECOLOGICAL METHOD STATEMENT

1.1 Introduction

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

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

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

Table 1.1 Proposed Works for Wild Atlantic Way candidate Discovery Points

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

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

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

1.2 Ecological Control Measures

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

Table 1.2 Ecological Control Measures

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

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

1.3 Advisory Measures

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

Table 1.3 Advisory Measures

| No. | Description |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Protection of Biodiversity including Natura 2000 Network</p> | <p>Contribute as appropriate towards the protection of designated ecological sites including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries, Ramsar Sites, Salmonid Waters and Wicklow National Park.</p> <p>The protection of natural heritage and biodiversity, including European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network, will be supported in accordance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including the following and any updated/superseding documents):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended)¹, the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)², the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)³, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC). • National legislation, including the Wildlife Act 1976⁴, the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989 (SI No. 349 of 1989) (as amended), the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008⁵ and the Flora Protection Order 1999. • National policy guidelines, including the Landscape and Landscape Assessment Draft Guidelines 2000, the Environmental Impact Assessment Sub-Threshold Development Guidelines 2003, Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines 2004 and the Appropriate Assessment Guidance 2010. • Catchment and water resource management Plans. • Biodiversity Plans and guidelines, including Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016: and Ireland’s National Biodiversity Plan; • Ireland’s Environment 2012 (EPA, 2012), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report’s goals and challenges. |

¹ Including Annex I habitats, Annex II species and their habitats and Annex IV species and their breeding sites and resting places (wherever they occur). Note that the NPWS provide sensitive areas mapping for Freshwater Pearl Mussels which are listed under Annex II of the Directive.

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

³ Including protected species and natural habitats

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

⁵ Including protected species and natural habitats

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

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

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

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

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

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



WILD ATLANTIC WAY

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Appendix 6

'Environmental Management for Local Authorities and Others'

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

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

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

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

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

If proposals are screened out then planning exemptions are not lost. If a Stage 2 AA is required then planning exemptions are lost and planning permission must be sought¹. If a local authority is applying for the permission and Stage 2 AA is required, then the application must go to An Bord Pleanála.

Developments or works by other groups or individuals may require planning permission or, if not, may require Ministerial consent in European sites. Local authorities are likely to be responsible for deciding whether there are restrictions on exemptions in the case of exempted development by a group or individual.

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

| Topic ² | Requirement ³ |
|----------------------------------|---|
| All | <p>Regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p> <p>Local authorities and others shall cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Local authorities and others will demonstrate, as appropriate, that plans, programmes and projects comply with EU Directives - including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) – and relevant transposing Regulations.</p> |
| All | <p>Information to be considered by local authorities and others at lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment</p> <p>Lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment by local authorities and others, as relevant, should consider the sensitivities identified in Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas; • Features of the landscape that provide linkages/connectivity to designated sites (e.g. watercourses, areas of semi-natural habitat such as linear woodlands etc) • Salmonid Waters; • Shellfish Waters; • Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; • Nature Reserves; • Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas; • Areas likely to contain a habitat listed in annex 1 of the Habitats Directive; • Entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and Zones of Archaeological Potential; • Entries to the Record of Protected Structures; • Un-designated sites of importance to wintering or breeding bird species of conservation concern; • Architectural Conservation Areas; and • Relevant landscape designations. |
| All | <p>Construction and Environmental Management Plan</p> <p>Construction Environment Management Plans (CEMPs) shall be prepared in advance of the construction of larger projects and implemented throughout. Such plans shall incorporate relevant mitigation measures indicated in this Appendix to the Operational Programme and any lower tier Environmental Impact Statement or Appropriate Assessment. CEMPs typically provide details of intended construction practice for the proposed development, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. location of the sites and materials compound(s) including area(s) identified for the storage of construction refuse, b. location of areas for construction site offices and staff facilities, c. details of site security fencing and hoardings, d. details of on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction, e. details of the timing and routing of construction traffic to and from the construction site and associated directional signage, f. measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network, g. measures to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris, h. alternative arrangements to be put in place for pedestrians and vehicles in the case of the closure of any public right of way during the course of site development works, i. details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels, j. containment of all construction-related fuel and oil within specially constructed bunds to ensure that fuel spillages are fully contained; such bunds shall be roofed to exclude rainwater, k. disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil, l. a water and sediment management plan, providing for means to ensure that surface water runoff is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local water courses or drains, m. details of a water quality monitoring and sampling plan. n. if peat is encountered - a peat storage, handling and reinstatement management plan. o. measures adopted during construction to prevent the spread of invasive species (such as Japanese Knotweed). p. appointment of an ecological clerk of works at site investigation, preparation and construction phases. |
| All | <p>Maintenance Plan</p> <p>Lower tier assessments should examine the need for Maintenance Plans informed by environmental considerations to be prepared and implemented.</p> |
| Biodiversity and flora and fauna | <p>Protection of Biodiversity including Natura 2000 Network</p> <p>Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); UNESCO World Heritage and UNESCO Biosphere sites; Ramsar Sites; Salmonid Waters; Shellfish Waters; Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildlife Sites (including Nature Reserves); Certain entries to the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas; Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs); Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979) ; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p> |

² The SEA Directive identifies a number of environmental topics which must be considered in the assessments being undertaken for plans and programmes. These topics are listed in this column and comprise biodiversity and flora and fauna, population and human health, soil, water, air and climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape.

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

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>Local authorities and others shall demonstrate compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including the following and any updated/superseding documents):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended)⁴, the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)⁵, the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)⁶, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC). • National legislation, including the Wildlife Act 1976⁷, the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989 (SI No. 349 of 1989) (as amended), the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008⁸ and the Flora Protection Order 1999. • National policy guidelines (including any clarifying Circulars or superseding versions of same), including the Landscape and Landscape Assessment Draft Guidelines 2000, the Environmental Impact Assessment Sub-Threshold Development Guidelines 2003, Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines 2004 and the Appropriate Assessment Guidance 2010. • Catchment and water resource management Plans, including River Basin District Management Plans 2009-2015 (including any superseding versions of same). • Biodiversity Plans and guidelines, including Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016: Ireland's 2nd National Biodiversity Plan (including any superseding version of same). • Ireland's Environment 2014 (EPA, 2014, including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges. |
| | <p>Appropriate Assessment</p> <p>All projects and plans arising from this programme will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. A plan or project will only be authorised after the competent authority has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment where necessary, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or 2. The Plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or 3. The Plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000. |
| | <p>Protection of Natura 2000 Sites</p> <p>No projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this programme (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects⁹).</p> |
| | <p>NPWS & Integrated Management Plans</p> <p>Regarding, integrated management plans, Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive requires that Member States establish the necessary conservation measures for Special Area of Conservation involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans. The NPWS's current priority is to identify site specific conservation objectives; management plans may be considered after this is done.</p> <p>Where Integrated Management Plans are being prepared for all Natura sites (or parts thereof), Fáilte Ireland and local authorities shall engage with the National Parks and Wildlife Service in order to ensure that plans are fully integrated with the Operational Programme and other plans and programmes, with the intention that such plans are practical, achievable and sustainable and have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and economic considerations and with special regard to local communities.</p> |

⁴ Including Annex I habitats, Annex II species and their habitats and Annex IV species and their breeding sites and resting places (wherever they occur). Note that the NPWS provide sensitive areas mapping for Freshwater Pearl Mussels which are listed under Annex II of the Directive.

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

⁶ Including protected species and natural habitats.

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

⁸ Including protected species and natural habitats.

⁹ Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

a) no alternative solution available,

b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and

c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| | <p>Coastal Zone Management Local authorities and others shall demonstrate that works will be undertaken in accordance with best practice and local authorities and others shall, as appropriate: support measures to protect the coast, the coastal edge and coastal habitats; and facilitate an Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach to ensure the conservation, management and projection of man-made and natural resources of the coastal zone.</p> <p>Biodiversity and Ecological Networks Local authorities and others shall demonstrate, as appropriate, protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, semi-natural grasslands, rivers, streams, natural springs, wetlands, geological and geo-morphological systems, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Protection of Riparian Zone and Waterbodies and Watercourses Local authorities and others shall demonstrate that waterbodies and watercourses are protected from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in riverine, wetland and coastal areas, as appropriate.</p> <p>Non-Designated Sites Local authorities and others shall demonstrate the appropriate protection of non-designated habitats and landscapes and to conserve the biological diversity.</p> <p>Non-native invasive species Local authorities and others shall support, as appropriate, the National Parks and Wildlife Service's efforts to seek to control the spread of non-native invasive species on land and water.</p> |
| Population and human health | <p>Human Health Local authorities and others shall assess proposals for development in terms of, inter alia, potential impact on existing adjacent developments, existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape. Where proposed developments would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, local authorities and others shall ensure the introduction of mitigation measures in order to eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> |
| Soil | <p>Soil Protection and Contamination Local authorities and others shall ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed.</p> <p>Areas of geological interest Local authorities and others shall demonstrate protection and maintenance of the character, integrity and conservation value of features or areas of geological interest.</p> |
| Water | <p>Water Framework Directive and associated legislation Local authorities and others shall contribute towards, as appropriate, the protection of existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, including rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater, coastal waters and associated habitats and species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC), the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009), the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same). Local authorities and others shall support the application and implementation of a catchment planning and management approach to development and conservation, including the implementation of Sustainable Drainage System techniques for new development.</p> <p>River Basin Management Plan Local authorities and others shall support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the various River Basin Management Plans 2009 – 2015, and associated Programmes of Measures, or any such plans that may supersede same during the lifetime of the Operational Programme, as well as relevant recommendations contained in the Water Quality in Ireland 2007 – 2009 (EPA, 2011, and any updated/superseding document). Local authorities and others shall demonstrate that proposals for development would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands and coastal waters. Also local authorities and others shall have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 which provides guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Bathing Water Local authorities and others shall contribute towards the achievement of the requirements of the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008) and EU Mandatory Values, as a minimum, and EU Guide Values, where possible.</p> <p>Flood Risk Management Guidelines Local authorities and others shall support, as appropriate, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010), the DEHLG/OPW publication <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</i> (2009) (including any clarifying Circulars or superseding versions of same) and relevant outputs of the Catchment and Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies (CFRAMS).</p> <p>Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) Local authorities and others shall ensure that new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems as appropriate.</p> |
| Air and Climatic | <p>Infrastructure for Walking, Cycling and Water-based activities Local Authorities and others shall work with Fáilte Ireland, the National Trails Office, Coillte, the</p> |

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| Factors | Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking, cycling and water-based activities along the Wild Atlantic Way. |
| Material Assets | Construction Waste Local authorities and others shall demonstrate that all waste arising during construction phase will be managed and disposed of in a way that ensures the provisions of the Waste Management Acts and regulations and Regional Waste Management Plans. Construction Waste Management Plans will be implemented by local authorities and others to minimise waste and ensure correct handling and disposal of construction waste streams in accordance with the Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects, Department of the Environment, July 2006. |
| | Waste Creation Local authorities and others shall support the minimisation of waste creation and promote a practice of reduce, reuse and recycle where possible. |
| | Waste Disposal Local authorities and others shall safeguard the environment by seeking to ensure that residual waste is disposed of appropriately. |
| | Irish Water Local authorities and others shall co-operate with and support, as relevant and appropriate, Irish Water in its new role as the lead authority for water services. |
| Cultural Heritage | Archaeological Heritage Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage, in particular by implementing the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the National Monuments Act, 1930 (as amended). |
| | Protection of Archaeological Sites Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of archaeological sites and monuments and their settings, archaeological objects and underwater archaeological sites that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments. Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places. |
| | Consultation Local authorities and others shall consult with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites. |
| | Underwater Archaeological Sites Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine, intertidal and sub-tidal locations. |
| | Architectural Heritage Local authorities and others shall help to ensure the appropriate protection of architectural heritage by complying, as appropriate, with the legislative provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to architectural heritage and the policy guidance contained in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011 (and any updated/superseding document). |
| Landscape | Landscape Designations Local authorities and others shall contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of county and local level landscape designations from incompatible developments. Proposals for development that have the potential to significantly adversely impact upon these designations shall be accompanied by an assessment of the potential landscape character and visual impacts of the proposed development - demonstrating that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation. Such assessments should be prepared having regard to the relevant aspects of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2013 Landscape Institute). |
| | Coastal Areas and Seascapes Local authorities and others shall protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes. |