

Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan SEA Environmental Report

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Client:

Fáilte Ireland

Date:

21 November 2024

Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan

SEA Environmental Report

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

7052_RP01_SEA Environmental Report

Project No. 7052
Client: Fáilte Ireland
Project Name: Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan
Report Name: SEA Environmental Report
Document No. RP01
Issue No. 03
Date: 21/11/2024

This document has been issued and amended as follows:

Issue	Status	Date	Prepared	Checked
01	Draft	25 Jun 2024	NK	TB
02	Final – Public Consultation	08 July 2024	NK	TB
03	Final	21 Nov 2024	NK	TB



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Glossary

Appropriate Assessment

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

Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

Environmental Problems

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

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

Environmental Vectors

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

Mitigation Measures

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

Protected Structure

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

Recorded Monument

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

SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment)

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

SEA Scoping

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

Strategic Actions

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

Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO)

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

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

This is the Environmental Report of the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan (hereafter referred to the 'Plan' or the 'CCDEDP').

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

1.2 Destination Experience Development Plans

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

The CCDEDP is focused on an area extending from Tralee across North Kerry to Loop Head Peninsula and Spanish Point in West Clare. The CCDEDP has been developed through a programme of research and consultation incorporating the views of visitors, the tourism industry, local community and a programme of international benchmarking. The objective of the CCDEDP is to achieve growth in revenue to return to 2019 levels of tourism income by 2026.

1.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) stems from *Directive 2001/42/EC*¹ (the 'SEA Directive') of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Article 1 of the Directive states that:

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

In effect, SEA comprises a systematic assessment process of predicting and evaluating the 'likely significant environmental effects' of implementing a proposed plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme. The overall aim of SEA 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 Directive was transposed into Irish law through two Statutory Instruments (S.I.):

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

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

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

transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism and town and country planning or land use”, and these provisions are applicable to the CCDEDP as a tourism sector plan.

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

1.4 The Requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Plan

Article 3(2) of the SEA Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes:

- a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive², or
- b) which, in view of the likely effect on sites, have been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of the 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)³ i.e. requires that SEA is undertaken where Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is being undertaken on the plan or programme.

The Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan is a non-statutory tourism sector plan that does not set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive and does not contain provisions or define rules that must be complied with when consent of other projects is being granted. Therefore, SEA of the CCDEDP is not required under Article 3(2)(a) above of the SEA Directive.

The Plan does, however, fall under the definition of a “plan” contained within the *Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (as amended)* and therefore, must be screened for the requirement to undertake Appropriate Assessment (AA) in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EC). The Screening for AA (BSM, 2024) has found that the Plan has the potential, if unmitigated, to affect the ecological integrity of European sites and that measures to ensure that potential effects are avoided are required. Therefore, in accordance with Article 3(2)(b) above and guidance provided in SEA Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08⁴, a SEA of the CCDEDP has been undertaken.

This Environmental Report provides the findings of the SEA and takes account of recommendations contained in submissions from the Environmental Authorities. On finalisation of the Plan, an SEA Statement will be prepared, summarising, *inter alia*, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan.

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

³ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

⁴ <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-sea-01-08.pdf>

2 Outline Description of the Plan

2.1 Introduction

The Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan (CCDEDP) is a five-year sustainable tourism development plan for North Kerry and West Clare. It is focused on an area extending from Tralee across North Kerry to Loop Head Peninsula and Spanish Point in West Clare. The CCDEDP focuses on sustainability and responsible tourism. Over the term of the plan, it will grow the number of experiences available to visitors through a number of destination projects designed to create long term destination differentiation for the Cliff Coast.

The Plan provides an opportunity to ensure that all existing and future tourism projects and initiatives within the Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan area are planned, developed and managed in a sustainable and integrated manner. The VICE (Visitor, Industry, Community and Environment) Model for Sustainable Tourism is the approach the CCDEDP is developed from and strives to implement.

The framework for the CCDEDP has identified two unifying ideas that link a series of projects to generate a more significant economic impact for North Kerry and West Clare. The destination development themes of 'Bays and Ways of Adventure' (expanding the activity base) and 'Responsible Innovation' (sustainability at the core of all experiences) will build on investment in current and future outdoor infrastructure through sustainable tourism innovation and the area's coastal and rural built and natural heritage, tourism assets and trails. The green and blue spaces of the Cliff Coast provide the focus for tourism enterprise and experience development. The CCDEDP approach will capitalise on the opportunities provided by recent and future product investment while increasing the supply of saleable experiences for the visitor to engage with.

The CCDEDP was developed through a programme of stakeholder consultation and research, reflecting the views of visitors, the local tourism industry and the wider community. In assessing the international destination opportunity for the Cliff Coast, a programme of international benchmarking was also conducted.

The key objectives of the plan are:

- *Ensure local experiences are brought to life through the development of the optimal mix of hero and ancillary tourism products that attract visitors and retain them for longer in the destination.*
- *Unlock the economic growth potential of an area by progressing a range of key initiatives that will motivate tourists to explore the wider destination.*
- *Develop a sustainable basis for commercial tourism development centred on creating strong signature, supporting and ancillary experiences that are commoditised through the creation of saleable experiences that excite consumers and buyers alike.*
- *Create the conditions to attract leisure visitors on a year-round basis to North Kerry and West Clare to immerse themselves actively in the community, interacting with local people.*
- *Strengthen the value of tourism to the local community by providing sustainable employment opportunities.*

Furthermore, four strategic development outcomes have been identified to influence the tourism industry's product and experience development in the CCDEDP. These four development outcomes will ensure a coordinated approach to destination experience development aligned with the opportunities identified through the plan and future product investment and experience priorities. The four outcomes are as follows:

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- *Navigating Adventure - Sustainable engagement with the outdoor environment through activities and slow adventure on water and land.*
- *Coastal Heritage - Guiding Lights - Access the unique maritime heritage of the Cliff Coast, conquests and journeys across its coastline and the mouth of the estuary.*
- *Immersive Sustainability - Develop visitor experiences that exceed new expectations around responsible travel by embracing sustainability as the basis for destination and experience innovation.*
- *Restorative Tourism - Develop a distinctive form of Irish wellbeing across the Cliff Coast through sustainable rural, restorative and nature based experiences.*

2.2 Vision

The Destination Vision for CCDEDP 2033 is:

“The Cliff Coast is recognised as a leader in sustainable tourism where visitors clearly understand their role in contributing to community wellbeing and responsible tourism. The striking coastline is renowned for its cliff top walks and soul stirring views of a cliff coast brought alive through its vibrant communities and the opportunity to sample the best of local culture and traditional music. It is a leading family destination where the visitor has access to great indoor attractions and outdoor activities. The quality of the outdoor activity product and coastal tourism adventure encourages slow adventure exploration with greenways acting as the link between the land and water adventure clusters in Tralee Bay and West Clare. Visitors have access to world class coastal tourism and marine experiences from dolphin watching to water activities linking our islands and coastal communities.”

2.3 Strategic Objectives

Regional Tourism Development Plans 2023- 2027 (RTDS) have been developed for each of Fáilte Ireland’s four Regional Experience Brands (Ireland’s Ancient East, Wild Atlantic Way, Dublin and Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands). These plans provide the strategic framework for other tourism development strategies, such as, Destination and Experience Development Plans (DEDPs) and County Tourism Strategies. The CCDEDP has been developed to contribute to the overarching regional objectives for the Wild Atlantic Way.

The strategic initiatives for the Cliff Coast DEDP are based on the Strategic Objectives of the Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy (RTDS). Under each of the strategic objectives, a number of strategic initiatives have been identified to achieve the vision for the Cliff Coast and contribute to the development of the Wild Atlantic Way.

The Plan is structured around the following strategic objectives and strategic initiatives:

1. RTDS Strategic Objective 1: Grow the year-round appeal of the Wild Atlantic Way domestically and internationally ensuring we attract and disperse high value visitors into and throughout the region.

Strategic Initiatives:

- 1.1. Address the challenge of the area perceived as a transient destination in the international marketplace located between more mature tourism destinations.
- 1.2. Develop the Cliff Coast as an activity destination providing visitors with access to great land and water based experiences.
- 1.3. Maximise the potential of Tralee as a destination day and accommodation hub for the Cliff Coast.

- 1.4. Create destination clusters for water adventure activities building on the existing potential of Tralee Bay and West Clare.
- 1.5. Develop cliffs and coastal trails experiences to disperse visitors across the Cliff Coast and prepare for the future development of the Wild Atlantic Way Coastal Walk.
- 1.6. Examine how the destination will grow its volume of available accommodation stock to attract and retain visitors and ensure local economic impact from tourism.
- 1.7. Develop the opportunity for the Cliff Coast to be recognised internationally for the quality and diversity of its marine tourism activities. Leveraging unique destination opportunities such as Dolphin Watching.

2. RTDS Strategic Objective 2: Raise the international profile of the Northern half of the Wild Atlantic Way to increase visitation and revenue.

3. RTDS Strategic Objective 3: Increase tourism revenue, visitor dispersion and season extension across the Southern half of the Wild Atlantic Way.

Strategic Initiatives:

- 3.1. Prepare the tourism industry and local communities for future opportunities provided by the capital investment in Greenways.
- 3.2. Examine the enhancement of existing walking and cycling trails and regenerate them to become refreshed trails experiences that enable the visitor explore the destination.
- 3.3. Develop the capacity of existing attractions to attract and disperse visitors across the Cliff Coast through enhancement of the visitor experience and repurposing of key sites to act as a catalyst for destination development.
- 3.4. Build on thematic and product linkages between North Kerry and West Clare to grow the number of saleable day time experiences available through the destination e.g. maritime, rural, food, culture and activities.
- 3.5. Grow the number of saleable visitor experiences (B2B and B2C) accessible across the destination supported by new approaches to packaging.
- 3.6. Examine how to develop authentic local community experiences to disperse visitors across the destination and meet local people through culture and heritage experiences.

4. RTDS Strategic Objective 4: Protect the authenticity and “wildness” of the Wild Atlantic Way

Strategic Initiatives:

- 4.1. Protect, sustain and enhance the natural environment of the CCDEDP area through the creation of new sustainable visitor experiences.
- 4.2. Develop the international profile of the destination through its credibility as a responsible tourism area and the potential for ‘green’ experience innovation immersing visitors in responsible tourism experiences.
- 4.3. Examine new opportunities throughout the Cliff Coast to build on world class sustainability and marine bio experiences e.g. dolphin watching.

5. RTDS Strategic Objective 5: Enable and assist the industry to grow its capacity and capability so that it can thrive over the period of this strategy

Strategic Initiatives:

- 5.1. Develop the capacity of the tourism industry to develop its online presence and commercial approach to online activity.
- 5.2. Develop a new tourism clusters approach building on established networks and creating new tourism networks where none exist.
- 5.3. Build on the association of North Kerry as a family destination and develop the profile to attract domestic and international visitors.
- 5.4. Work with the tourism industry to improve its capacity to deliver new and enhanced experiences aligned with the destination vision.
- 5.5. Develop the cultural opportunity across the Cliff Coast to create vibrant evening economy hubs for visitors.

6. RTDS Strategic Objective 6: Foster strong coalitions of industry and stakeholders with a common purpose in creating flourishing destinations and thriving communities.

Strategic Initiatives:

- 6.1. Work with the OPW to enhance the visitor experience at key sites within the Cliff Coast.
- 6.2. Ensure tourism is integrated as a key element of future strategic development sites across North Kerry and West Clare to include future urban and rural regeneration activity.
- 6.3. Grow the number of tourism enterprises operating in the destination supported by an environment that encourages new levels of tourism entrepreneurship.
- 6.4. Develop sustainable transport options to engage with the Cliff Coast and new approaches to visitor management with sustainability at the core.

2.4 Key Destination Development Projects Overview

Nine catalyst projects have been identified as key destination development projects. They link areas and experiences within the destination, expand the range of things to do and see and encourage visitors to explore the wider area. They each contribute to achieving the destination transformation goals for the Cliff Coast i.e. Bays & Ways of Adventure (increase the activity base) and Responsible Innovation (sustainable tourism experience development). These destination development projects will be supported through additional projects necessary to ensure the tourism industry and local communities can avail of emerging opportunities.

The catalyst projects and their objectives are as follows:

Project 1 Cliff Coast Water Adventure Hub - *A co-ordinated approach to developing the Cliff Coast as a water adventure and coastal activity hub of scale.*

Project 2 Greenways – *Maximise the investment in Greenways in North Kerry and West Clare for local communities and identify future Greenway projects to strengthen the network of trails that motivate visitors to explore new communities and local experiences.*

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Project 3 Visitor Hubs – Developing Key Towns – *Develop the capacity of key destination towns to retain visitors in the area for longer by increasing the range of things to do and see during the day and evening time.*

Project 4 Beach Management & Facilities - *Employ a sustainable approach to the future management of beaches supported by the delivery of the visitor facilities that will support the outdoor activity and sustainability ambition of West Clare and North Kerry.*

Project 5 Developing the Trails Network - *Grow the network of coastal and rural trails through a sustainable development approach to create a national and international destination profile for the uniqueness of Cliff Coast trails and associated local experiences.*

Project 6 Developing the Attractions Base – *Loop Head Lighthouse, Vandeleur Walled Gardens, Scattery Island and Blennerville Heritage & Activity Centre - Maximise the capacity of existing attractions to attract and disperse visitors across the Cliff Coast through a new product and experience development approach for Loop Head Lighthouse, Vandeleur Walled Gardens, Scattery Island and the Blennerville Heritage and Activity Centre.*

Project 7 Developing Digital Capacity - *Develop the online and digital skills capacity of the Cliff Coast tourism industry.*

Project 8 Accommodation Growth - *Grow the accommodation base across West Clare and North Kerry.*

Project 9 Transport Connectivity - *Grow the sustainable transport options to attract visitors into and around the Cliff Coast destination.*

Underpinning these destination projects are a number of destination supporting projects (enablers) that will support the development of the tourism industry, local communities and other stakeholders. These are projects and supports that will enhance the destination's capacity to recover and achieve future growth. They also address the gaps that can strengthen the destination's ability to work towards achieving year-round visitor footfall. The destination supporting projects include improving industry capabilities, a focus on the family market, developing clusters and building on the rich culture of the region and its unique programme of festivals and events.

The destination supporting projects / enablers and their objectives are as follows:

Enabler 1 Family Adventures - *A destination wide approach to developing the Cliff Coast as Ireland's family destination.*

Enabler 2 Industry Development - *Increase the capacity of the tourism industry and local communities to attract visitors to the Cliff Coast through new levels of collaboration and experience development.*

Enabler 3 Unique Events - *Build on the portfolio of niche events across the Cliff Coast to create unique year round reasons to visit.*

Enabler 4 Community Tourism - *Provide the visitor with the opportunity to engage with our local communities by developing authentic heritage, cultural and local experiences to grow the value of tourism for the Cliff Coast communities as part of a sustainable tourism development approach.*

Enabler 5 Tourism Clusters - *Develop a number of clusters within the Cliff Coast linked together by themes such as outdoor activity, heritage and culture or food and drink.*

The complete list of catalyst project and actions are provided and assessed in **Appendix 1**.

3 Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.1 Introduction

SEA is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental quality and consequences of Plans or Programmes (P/Ps). The purpose is to ensure that the environmental consequences of P/Ps are assessed both during their preparation and prior to their adoption. The SEA process also gives specified environmental authorities, interested parties and the general public, an opportunity to comment on the environmental impacts of the proposed P/P and to be kept informed during the decision-making process.

Directive 2001/42/EC⁵ on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the ‘SEA Directive’) requires EU Member States to assess the ‘likely significant environmental effects’ of plans and programmes prior to their adoption. This provides for the assessment of strategic environmental considerations at an early stage in the decision-making process.

Article 1 of the SEA Directive states that:

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

The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish law through:

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

S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, relates to SEA as it applies to plans or programmes prepared for *“agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism and town and country planning or land use, and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive.”*⁶

S.I. No. 436 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011, relates to SEA as it applies to plans or programmes where the context requires, *“a development plan, a variation of a development plan, a local area plan (or an amendment thereto), regional planning guidelines or a planning scheme”*⁷.

Given the nature of the Plan, the SEA for the CCDEDP is being prepared under the requirements of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011.

The SEA process is designed to ensure that significant environmental effects arising from plans are:

- Properly identified and assessed;
- Subject to public participation;

⁵ SEA Directive: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042&from=EN>

⁶ See Section 9(1)(a)

⁷ Section 5(c)

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- Taken into account by decision makers; and
- Regularly monitored.

The SEA Directive and SEA Regulations require that competent authorities determine whether the implementation of plans or programmes, or modifications thereof, will be likely to have significant effects on the environment. This determination process is referred to as an Environmental Assessment and defined as:

“...the preparation of an environmental report, the carrying out of consultations, the taking into account of the environmental report and the results of the consultations in decision-making and the provision of information on the decision...”⁸

3.2 SEA Stages and Process

The key focus of SEA is to take environmental issues, and in particular ‘*likely significant environmental effects*’ of a P / P, into consideration during the plan or programme making process. The key stages in the SEA process as they relate to the CCDEDP are outlined in **Table 3.1** and **Figure 3.1** below.

Table 3.1 Outline of the SEA Process

Stage	Description	Status
1. Screening	<p>The requirement to undertake a SEA is mandatory for certain Plan / Programme (P / P). Where SEA is not a mandatory requirement, the P / Ps is subject to a ‘Screening process’, to consider if it is <i>likely to have significant effects</i> on the environment, and therefore, if SEA is required.</p> <p>The preparation of the <i>Draft CCDEDP</i> has been screened for Appropriate Assessment (AA) and it has been concluded that potential for effects on the integrity of European sites cannot be excluded beyond all reasonable scientific doubt and is required to undergo Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>Therefore, in accordance with <i>Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08</i> the <i>Draft CCDEDP</i> is also required to undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with <i>Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment</i> (known as the SEA Directive).</p>	Completed 
2. Scoping	<p>Preparation of a SEA Scoping Report highlighting that the Environmental Report is required to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ methods of assessment; ■ contents and level of detail in the Plan / Programme; ■ the stage in the Plan or Programme-making process; and ■ the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in the decision-making process in order to avoid duplication of environmental assessment. <p>Scoping provides for consultation with the Environmental Authorities specified in Article 13 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by Regulations S.I. No. 200 of 2011, and the process allows for incorporation of the views of the environmental authorities within the P / P and the SEA Environmental Report.</p>	Completed 

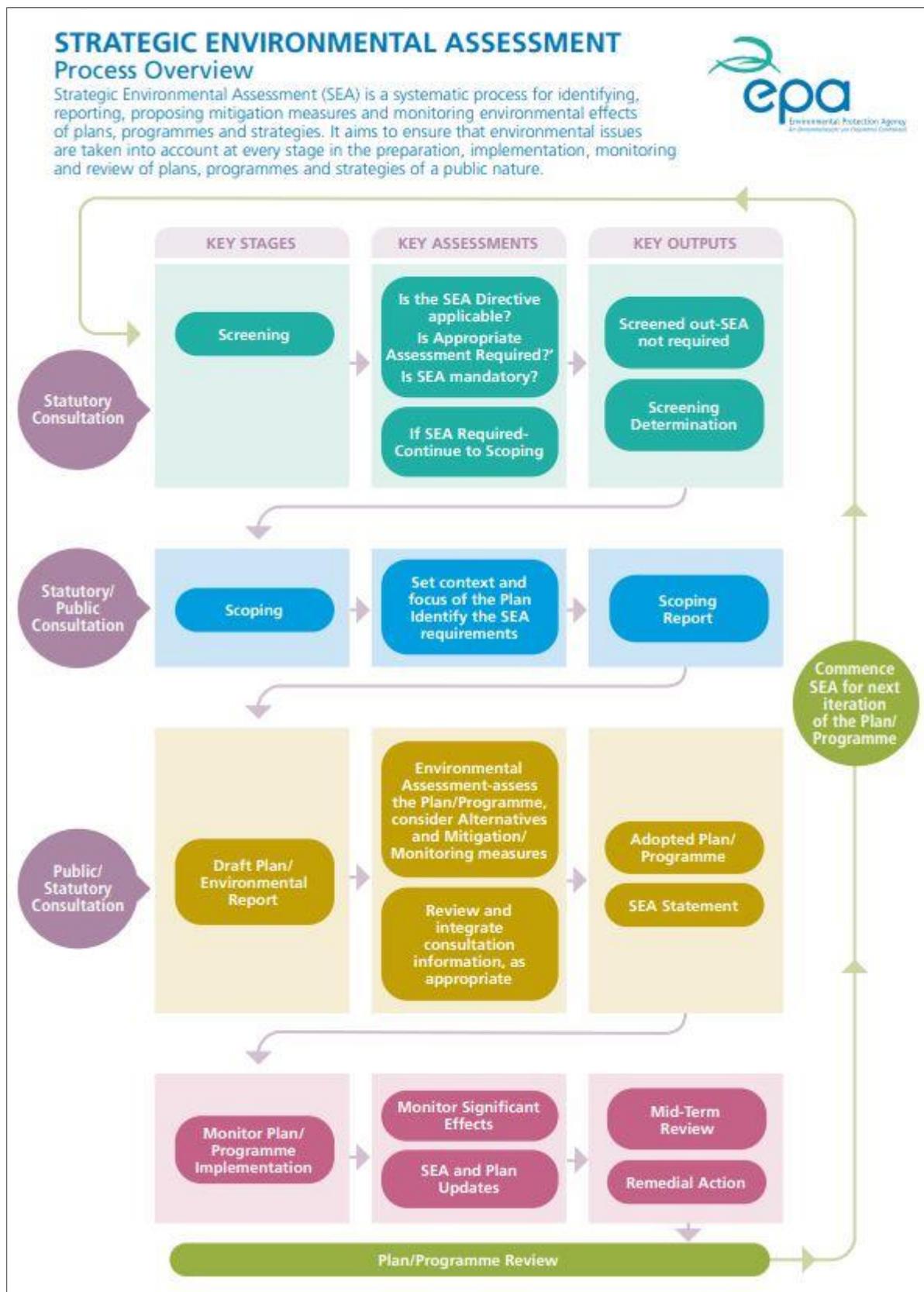
⁸ Article 2(b) of Directive 2001/42/EC, European Union, Article 2 (3) of EC (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 S.I No. 435 of 2004

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Stage	Description	Status
3. Environmental Report	<p>Preparation of a systemic identification and evaluation of alternatives and assessment of the <i>likely significant environmental effects</i> of implementing the P / P.</p> <p>The findings of the assessment, which is carried out at various stages in the P / P making (<i>e.g.</i> Draft, Amended Draft <i>etc.</i>), are provided in the SEA Environmental Report in accordance with Article 12 (including Schedule 2) of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by Regulations S.I. No. 200 of 2011.</p> <p>The output from this stage is an Environmental Report which accompanied the draft P / P on public display.</p>	<p>Completed</p> 
4. SEA Statement	<p>Completion / adoption of the Final CCDEDP, taking account of <i>likely significant environmental effects</i>, any submissions or observations received from consultations and integration of mitigation and monitoring measures within the Plan.</p> <p>The Environmental Report is concluded and an SEA Statement is prepared in accordance with Article 16(2)(b) of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by Regulations S.I. No. 200 of 2011, summarising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan / Programme; ▪ how the environmental report, and any submissions /observations or consultations have been taken into account in the preparation of the Plan / Programme; ▪ the reasons for choosing the Plan / Programme in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and ▪ the measures decided for monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan / Programme. 	<p>Current Stage</p>

Figure 3.1 Overview of SEA Process (EPA SEA Process Flow, 2019)



⁹ EPA: <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/SEA%20Process%20Checklist.pdf>

3.3 SEA Screening and Requirement for SEA

The requirement to undertake a SEA is mandatory for certain P / Ps that are above specified thresholds. Where SEA is not a mandatory requirement, the P / P is subject to a 'Screening process', (Stage 1) to consider if it is likely to have significant effects on the environment, and therefore, if SEA is required.

Screening for the purposes of SEA is defined as *"the determination of whether implementation of a P / P [Plan or Programme] would be likely to have significant environmental effects on the environment. The process of deciding whether a P / P [Plan or Programme] requires SEA."*¹⁰ The criteria for screening, i.e. determining whether a particular plan is likely to have significant environmental effects are set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive. These criteria are reproduced in Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011. The criteria are set out under two principal headings, each of which have a number of sub-criteria:

- Characteristics of a Plan / Programme; and
- Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected.

It is also noted that in accordance with Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08¹¹, SEA for a P / P is also a mandatory requirement where the P / P requires Appropriate Assessment (AA) under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

Article 3(2) of the SEA Directive requires that:

"Subject to paragraph 3, an environmental assessment shall be carried out for all plans and programmes,

(a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to Directive 85/337/EEC, or

(b) which, in view of the likely effect on sites, have been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of Directive 92/43/EEC."

Article 9(1) of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, states that:

"Subject to sub-article (2), an environmental assessment shall be carried out for all plans and programmes:

(a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism and town and country planning or land use, and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, or

(b) which are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but, either individually or in combination with other plans, are likely to have a significant effect on any such site."

Articles 9(2) and 9(3) of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, further state that:

(2) "A plan or programme referred to in sub-article (1) which determines the use of a small area at local level or a minor modification to a plan or programme referred to in sub-article (1) shall

¹⁰ EPA: <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/SEA%20Pack%202018.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-sea-01-08.pdf>

require an environmental assessment only where the competent authority determines that it is likely to have significant effects on the environment and, for this purpose, the competent authority shall make any necessary determination.

(3) A competent authority shall determine whether plans and programmes other than those referred to in sub-article (1), which set the framework for future development consent of projects, are likely to have significant effects on the environment”

The *Draft CCDEDP* has been screened for Appropriate Assessment (AA) in accordance with Article 6(3) of the *Habitats Directive* (92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42 of the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011*, as amended. The AA Screening has concluded that potential for effects on the integrity of European sites cannot be excluded beyond all reasonable scientific doubt and therefore appropriate assessment and the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is required.

Therefore, in accordance with *Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08*¹² the *Draft CCDEDP* is also required to undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with *Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment*¹³ (the *SEA Directive*).

This Environmental Report has been prepared as the *CCDEDP* is subject to requirements of SEA.

Refer to **Appendix 2** for the SEA Screening Determination.

3.4 SEA Scoping

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

The consultation was undertaken with the following Environmental Authorities specified in Article 9(5) of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended, on 07 November 2023:

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

Submissions / observations on the scoping of the Environmental Report were received from the environmental authorities and comments have been incorporated into the Plan and Environmental Report as set out in **Table 3.2**.

¹² <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-sea-01-08.pdf>

¹³ DIRECTIVE 2001/42/EC: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042&from=EN>

Table 3.2 SEA Scoping Submissions / Observation from Environmental Authorities

Environmental Authority	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
<p>Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage – Development Applications Unit (DAU)</p>	<p>The submission from DAU outlined heritage related observations and recommendations.</p> <p><u>Archaeology-</u></p> <p>The submissions notes that within the study area there are many recorded archaeological monuments, including national monuments of national significance. The range of archaeological monuments covered by the study area of the SEA may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sites and monuments included in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) as maintained by the National Monuments Service (NMS). b) Monuments and places included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) as established under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. c) Historic monuments and archaeological areas included in the Register of Historic Monuments as established under section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987. d) National monuments subject to Preservation Orders under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and national monuments which are in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage or a Local Authority. e) Archaeological objects within the meaning of the National Monuments Acts. f) Wrecks protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 or otherwise included in the Wreck Viewer maintained by the National Monuments Service. g) Archaeological features not as yet identified but which may be impacted on by any development. <p><u>Protection of the Archaeological/Cultural Heritage-</u></p> <p>The submission suggests to consult the archaeological/cultural heritage addressed both in the Kerry County Development Plan 2022–2028 (Chapter 8), and Clare County Development Plan 2017–2023 (as extended, Chapter 15). It is advised to take full account of national policy on the protection of the archaeological heritage as set out in the <i>Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Government of Ireland 1999)</i>.</p>	<p>The information and datasets provided have informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.</p>

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Environmental Authority	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p>The archaeological and cultural heritage of the study area shall be protected through ensuring preservation in-situ or preservation by record, as appropriate, with preservation in-situ being the first option to be considered being presumed to be the preferred option. If preservation in-situ cannot be achieved, or can only be achieved in-part, then preservation by record of the archaeological heritage will be required — this will require the full archaeological excavation and recording of the monument/site, according to best professional practice. Where excavation is required this shall also include the preparation of appropriate reports, post-excavation analyses and publications. Archaeological policies encompassing the forgoing are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>To ensure that archaeological assessment is carried out in accordance with relevant policies and standards, in particular those set out in the Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Government of Ireland 1999) and the Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (Government of Ireland 1999) and the advice in particular cases of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with all relevant techniques (including documentary research, aerial photographic research, geophysical survey and archaeological test excavation) being required as appropriate. This will also include, in appropriate cases, the carrying out of building surveys and assessments of upstanding structures to determine the extent to which they are, or contain within them, structures of medieval or early modern date. Features of early modern date are also considered cultural heritage and it is noted that there are several World War II features in-and-around the Shannon Estuary which lies within the study area as outlined.</i> - <i>To ensure that all such assessments are carried out by professionally qualified and experienced personnel.</i> <p><u>Climate Change Policies and Objectives for Archaeological Heritage-</u></p> <p>Archaeological monuments along the Atlantic seaboard within the study area are in particular risk of climate change and this should be referred to in any SEA. In this regard see Built & Archaeological Heritage Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation on Plan Prepared under the National Adaptation Framework (Government of Ireland 2019).</p>	

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Environmental Authority	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p><u>Policy Context-</u></p> <p>The submission highlights that there are a number of key national policy documents pertaining to archaeology and built heritage, including Heritage Ireland 2030, the Built Vernacular Strategy (2021) and the National Policy on Architecture (pending). The Department also notes the symbiotic relationship between cultural heritage and biodiversity provides opportunities to build capacity as per the National Biodiversity plan 2017–2021 actions and to focus not just on protection but also on the conservation/restoration of diminishing or under threat cultural assets i.e. the archaeological and built heritage. Department notes the importance of new areas of interest including our built vernacular architecture and its setting both rural and urban, and the protection and potential of planned and designed landscapes for recreational and amenity purposes.</p> <p>The Department supports the opportunity for making cultural heritage more accessible and better integrated with wider tourism and recreational opportunities of the county. This will enhance and spread the tourism capacity through the county’s heritage sites and historic towns. The Department supports the integration and communication of multiple strands of cultural and natural heritage, particularly through the implementation of blue and green infrastructural projects that deal with all aspects of archaeological, built and natural heritage.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Nature Conservation-</u></p> <p>North Kerry contains a number of designated sites for wildlife. These include the national designation of Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and areas under European legislation known as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) (species other than birds and habitats) and Special Protected Areas (SPA) (birds). These are conservation areas important for wildlife and the habitats in which they occur, both at national and European level. The legal basis on which SACs are selected and designated is the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and the EU Birds Directive 2009/147/EC.</p> <p>Preserving the ecological heritage of an area is of paramount importance and should be protected in line with national and European policy.</p>	

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Environmental Authority	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p>Designated sites which occur in the north Kerry component of the Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan (CCDEDP) are diverse in nature and comprise areas of raised bog to offshore reefs and shoals. The coastal dune and salt marsh habitats are of particular sensitivity and regularly experience high visitor pressure under the current situation. The submissions highlights that any plans to increase visitor levels, or expanding those pressures into a longer 'tourist season' will need to be cognisant of the potential for negative ecological impacts on those habitats and species they support, with actions taken to ensure those negative impacts are avoided.</p> <p>The submission further lists the designated sites within North Kerry and includes NHAs, SACs, SPAs and Annex IV species,</p>	
<p>Department of Environment, Climate & Communications - Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)</p>	<p>GSI encourage use of and reference to their datasets attached to their submission. These include geoheritage (county geological sites), culture and tourism (geoparks), dimension stone/stone built Ireland, groundwater, geological mapping, geohazards, natural resources (minerals / aggregates), marine and coastal unit.</p> <p>GSI also includes a list of publicly available datasets relevant to planning, EIA & SEA processes.</p> <p>It is noted that County Geological Site audit for Co. Kerry has not yet been completed. The sites are listed in the 'indicative list' of unaudited sites, created by theme-specific panels of experts, and are presented on Geological Survey Ireland's Map Viewer as sites with buffer zones but no specific site boundary. There are numerous unaudited CGSs in the vicinity of the Cliff Coast DEDP. We recommend that these be included in the SEA report when being compiled and in the DEDP itself. The audit for Co. Clare was completed in 2005.</p>	<p>The information and datasets provided have informed the preparation of the Environmental Report.</p>
<p>Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine (DAFM)</p>	<p>The submission from DAFM Fisheries Division advises that commercial sea fishing is a long standing, pre-existing and traditional activity in the marine environment. The evaluation of potential impacts on any commercial sea fishing activities needs to be given consideration as part of any planning/proposal process and during the development process itself. The submission advises that it is imperative that engagement should be sought with the fishing industry and other relevant stakeholders at as early a stage as possible to discuss any changes that may affect them to afford a chance for their input and to avoid, minimise, and mitigate</p>	<p>The response has been noted and the information provided has informed the preparation of the Environmental Report.</p>

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Environmental Authority	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	impacts on fishing. Fishers’ interests and livelihoods must be fully recognised, supported, and taken into account.	
<p>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</p>	<p>The submission from EPA includes the following comments and recommendations:</p> <p>EPA highlights several key environmental issues to consider in preparing the Plan and SEA. The submission includes specific comments on the SEA Scoping Report in Appendix I and some high-level plans to consider are listed in Appendix II.</p> <p>Governance and Implementation – The submissions recommends to set out the implementation arrangements and governance structures, including lines of responsibility for implementation and delivery as well as provisions for interim review and progress reporting. The relationship between the Plan and the National Planning Framework, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and the implications of the Plan in the context of existing Local Authority Plans should be set out.</p> <p>Synergies with key national plans - The relevant actions of the Climate Action Plan 2023 and the objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework, River Basin Management Plan, and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern should be aligned with and considered, as appropriate.</p> <p>Integration of the SEA and the Plan - The integration of the SEA process into the Plan should reflect the overall objective of the SEA Directive “<i>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</i>”.</p> <p>The submission advises that the SEA should address the complex and cross cutting nature of climate and biodiversity issues and include targets and measures where relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>Recommendations from the SEA & AA including mitigation measures and monitoring proposals should be integrated into the Plan. SEA Environmental Report and the Plan should</p>	<p>The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.</p>

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Environmental Authority	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p>include a chapter on how the recommendations and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan.</p>	
	<p>EPA recommend that the Plan includes summary tables outlining the key findings of the SEA and linking the significant environmental effects identified to the proposed mitigation measures, monitoring programme and Plan policies/measures.</p>	
	<p>EPA recommend that the SEA Environmental Report should include summary tables outlining the key findings of the SEA and linking the significant environmental effects identified to the proposed mitigation measures, monitoring programme and, where relevant, Plan policies/measures.</p>	
	<p>The submission describes the key findings and chapters of the 'State of the Environment Report- Ireland's Environment An Integrated Assessment 2020'. The report recognises the need for full implementation of existing environmental legislation and review of governance/coordination on environmental protection across public bodies.</p>	
	<p>EPA highlights the requirement under the SEA Regulations to consult with Environmental Authorities (EPA, Minister of Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Minister for Environment, Climate & Communications, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine)</p>	
	<p>Appendix I to the EPA submission includes comments on the SEA Scoping Report - scope of the SEA, data and knowledge gaps, range of effects, consultation, transboundary consultation, monitoring, implementation & reporting, SEA statement, integration with other key Plans and Programmes, available guidance & resources, webtools.</p>	

3.5 SEA Environmental Report

The current stage of the SEA process (Stage 3) involves the preparation of the Environmental Report for the identification, description, evaluation and mitigation of the potential environmental impacts associated with the CCDEDP and the alternatives taking account of the geographical scope of the Plan.

Article 5(1) and Annex I of the *SEA Directive* provides detail on the information to be included in an Environmental Report. **Table 3.3** provides a checklist of the information referred to in Article 5(1) with a confirmation of where the relevant information is contained within the SEA.

The SEA Environmental Report will be placed on public display, together with the CCDEDP and for comment from statutory bodies, the public and interested parties.

Table 3.3 Information required under Annex I of the SEA Directive

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

3.6 Consultation

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

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

Submissions received are detailed in **Table 3.4** below.

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Table 3.4 SEA Consultation Response

Submission	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
<p>Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Development Applications Unit)</p>	<p>The submission from the Department includes the following comments and recommendations:</p> <p>Archaeology</p> <p>The submission advises that, should the Cliff Coast DEDP be finalised, an experienced archaeologist be engaged to the Project Team and a comprehensive Archaeological Impact Assessment(s) be undertaken in advance of any works relating to the Plan commencing, in order to assess in greater detail the entire archaeological heritage resource of the proposed project area (to include terrestrial and underwater archaeological heritage and archaeological objects); its potential predicted impacts (both negative and positive) on that archaeological resource and recommended mitigation measures to alleviate any predicted negative impacts that may occur.</p>	<p>The following reference (in green) has been added to the final Plan (Appendix 1- Implementation & Consent):</p> <p><i>'In order to be realised, projects included in this Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with the various provisions of legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier <i>Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment, Archaeological Impact Assessment</i> and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which this Plan is not part and does not contribute towards.'</i></p>
	<p>Nature Conservation</p> <p>The submission notes that several of the specific objectives refer to the implementation of developments which would be defined as projects. Because of their location in or near European sites, many of these will require appropriate assessment. Without wishing to burden the wording with legalistic clauses relating to such assessment, nevertheless a clause which takes account of this is nevertheless recommended, such as 'subject to any required environmental constraints', or use of 'sustainable' before the verb 'develop'. This means that the project will proceed only where it is shown not to adversely affect the integrity of the European site (e.g. as in objective 50). Such clauses and adjectives are widely used in county development and local area plans (e.g. Kerry County Development Plan), and will make the Cliff Coast Plan easier to adopt by such plans.</p> <p>The submission further notes that the Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways (2021) refers to the need for project promoters to adhere to the assessment requirements of the EU Habitats Directive. It is recommended that a similar requirement is</p>	<p>The Plan and the Environmental Report take into account the submission and under the Action Plan 2024-2028 the projects 2, 3, 23, 25, 30, 46, 51, 52, 74, 78, 91, 106 have been updated as per the recommendation from the Department (refer to <i>green text</i> inserted in Appendix 1 of the Environmental Report).</p>

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Submission	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p>also mentioned in the text of the plan. The submission further states that there have been cases in the past where local project promoters have been unaware of the requirement for assessment, and in some cases significant damage to habitats or disturbance to protected species has occurred.</p> <p>Specific Objectives and Recommendations from the submissions include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Specific Objective 2: West Clare Greenway: Recommend inserting (italics) “This will include the progression of the concept, feasibility, <i>environmental assessment</i> and option selection phases” ■ Specific Objective 3: Kerry Greenway: Recommend inserting (italics) “Progress the concept, feasibility, <i>environmental assessment</i> and option selection phases” ■ Specific Objective 23: Recommend inserting (italics) “Examine the feasibility of <i>sustainably</i> developing the ...” ■ Specific Objective 25: Recommend inserting (italics) “Develop <i>sustainably</i> the ...” ■ Specific Objective 30: Recommend inserting (italics) “... to <i>sustainably</i> redevelop the ...” ■ Specific Objective 46: Recommend inserting (italics) “... to <i>sustainably</i> develop ...” ■ Specific Objective 51: Recommendation: Fenit lighthouse and An tOileán Beag (Samphire Island) is within the Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (Site Code: 002070), designated for, amongst others, the habitat types reefs (1170) and Atlantic sea cliffs (1230). As the objective is <i>to develop</i> a water and land trail, the clause ‘subject to any required environmental constraints’ is recommended at the end of this objective. ■ Specific Objective 52: Recommend inserting (italics) “Develop <i>sustainably</i> the ...” ■ Specific Objective 74: Recommend inserting (italics) “... to <i>sustainably</i> develop ...” 	

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Submission	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Specific Objective 78: Recommendation The Cliff Coast area is within (a) the Kerry Head Special Protection Area (SPA) (Site Code: 004189), (b) the Loop Head SPA (Site Code: 004119), (c) the Mid-Clare Coast SPA (Site Code: 004182), and (d) near Illaunonearaun SPA (Site Code: 004114). As there is a risk of significant disturbance if tourist access is too close to these sites, the clause (as in objective 50) 'subject to their being no significant adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites' is recommended. ■ Specific Objective 91: Recommend inserting (italics) "... <i>sustainably</i> developing the experience at visitor attractions ..." ■ Specific Objective 106: Recommend inserting (italics) "Support the <i>sustainable</i> implementation ..." 	
<p>Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)</p>	<p>The submission from GSI encourages the use of their various datasets for EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes and to attribute them correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'. GSI appreciate the use of their Bedrock, Geoheritage, Landslide Susceptibility and Groundwater Vulnerability and Aquifer maps and datasets within the draft Cliff Coast DEDP SEA.</p>	<p>The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.</p>
<p>Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media</p>	<p>The response from the Department acknowledges the receipt of the correspondence.</p>	<p>The response has been noted.</p>
<p>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</p>	<p>The submission from EPA includes the following comments and recommendations:</p> <p>Ensure the Plan aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p> <p>Visitor Numbers</p> <p>EPA note that central to the Plan is the aim of increasing visitor numbers. This increase has the potential to disturb or damage the natural environment, if not carefully managed. Where the expected increase in tourist numbers materialises, there may be a need for additional or expanded tourism and tourism-related developments. Such developments may have</p>	<p>The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.</p> <p>The Plan and the Environmental Report take into account integrating requirements for environmental protection and management under Appendix 1 and is also considered throughout the Plan.</p>

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Submission	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p>implications for changes to land use, loss of green field sites, disturbance to natural or cultural heritage (including designated sites and protected species, etc.). It is important that tourism offerings are developed at suitable locations and in an environmentally sustainable manner, which minimises potential adverse environmental impacts.</p>	
	<p>Critical Infrastructure Provision</p> <p>In the context of increased visitor numbers and any potential development, the Plan should recognise the need for adequate and appropriate wastewater and drinking water services to be put in place to service any infrastructural development associated with Plan-related projects, in the interests of protecting both the environment and public health. In this context, Fáilte Ireland should liaise with Úisce Éireann in terms of future needs for provision of adequate critical services.</p>	<p>This is already referenced in Section 6 of Appendix 1 (pg. 54)– ‘<i>Infrastructure Capacity</i>’. As such this is already included and no further change is required.</p>
	<p>Biodiversity Considerations</p> <p>EPA state that it is important that the various important ecosystem services and designated sites / protected species within the Plan area are afforded significant protection. This should be considered carefully, to ensure that any additional tourism developments are sited, designed, operated and maintained in an appropriate manner. In seeking to enhance tourism developments, the need to maintain and protect the significant environmental resources of the area should also be a clear objective.</p> <p>EPA suggest that it may be useful to include a map outlining the environmental sensitivities in the plan area that should be protected in implementing the Plan and in any developments arising out of the Plan.</p>	<p>The following reference has been added to the final Plan (Appendix 1 – Key findings of the SEA and AA Process for the Plan):</p> <p><i>“Identification and mapping of the key environmental sensitivities of relevance to the Plan are detailed in the SEA Environmental Report and in the AA Natura Impact Statement.”</i></p>
	<p>EPA note the commitment to working closely with stakeholders in delivering many of the projects included in the Plan. Those projects should take into account the requirements of the EIA, Birds and Habitats Directives, as appropriate. The potential for cumulative effects that may arise from multiple tourism initiatives needs to be a key consideration also. It will be important that environmental management plans are prepared as appropriate, to ensure that important environmental and cultural resources are afforded significant protection.</p>	<p>The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.</p>

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Submission	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	<p>EPA advise to refer to the following guidance document- <i>Good practice guidance on SEA for the tourism sector</i> (EPA, 2023), <i>Good practice guidance on SEA and landscape</i> (EPA, 2023), EPA Guidance on the <i>Tiering of environmental assessments – The influence of Strategic Environmental Assessment on Project level Environmental Impact Assessment</i> (EPA, 2021) and <i>Ireland’s Climate Change Assessment</i> (ICCA).</p>	<p>The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.</p>
	<p>The Monitoring Programme should be flexible to take account of specific environmental issues and unforeseen adverse impacts should they arise. It should consider and deal with the possibility of cumulative effects. Monitoring of both positive and negative effects should be considered. The monitoring programme should set out the various data sources, monitoring frequencies and responsibilities. Guidance on SEA-related monitoring is available on the EPA website.</p>	<p>The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.</p>
	<p>The Submission refers to the State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environment 2024. EPA also brings to the attention that the next iteration of the report will be published later in 2024.</p>	<p>The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.</p>
	<p>EPA advises on the preparation of the SEA statement and to send a copy of the SEA Statement with the above information to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.</p>	<p>The SEA statement has been prepared and will be forwarded to the EPA.</p>

3.7 SEA Statement

Following approval of the Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan, an SEA Statement (Stage 4) will be prepared which includes information on:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the CCDEDP, highlighting the main changes to the CCDEDP which resulted from the SEA process;
- How the SEA Environmental Report and consultations have been taken into account, summarising the key issues raised in consultations and in the Environmental Report indicating what action was taken in response;
- The reasons for choosing the CCDEDP in the light of the other alternatives, identifying the other alternatives considered, commenting on their potential effects and explaining why the CCDEDP, as adopted, was selected; and
- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the CCDEDP.

3.8 SEA Guidance

The SEA Environmental Report reflects the requirements of *Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the SEA Directive)* and the national implementing Regulations S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011, and by the PDR 2001, as amended.

The following principal sources of guidance were used in the SEA process including in the preparation of this Environmental Report:

- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of certain plans and programmes on the environment.
- S.I. No. 435 of 2004 – European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004.
- S.I. No. 200 of 2011 -Environmental Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.
- Guidance on Implementation of Directive 2001/42/EC, European Commission, 2004, at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/eia/pdf/030923_sea_guidance.pdf
- SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans - EPA Recommendations and Resources. EPA, Updated October 2024.
- SEA Pack. EPA, Updated January 2022.
- SEA Spatial Information Sources Inventory. EPA, Updated April 2024.
- SEA Resource Manual for Local and Regional Planning Authorities. EPA, 2015.
- Good Practice Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Tourism Sector. EPA, June 2023.
- Good Practice Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Landscape. EPA, December 2023.
- Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statements and Monitoring. EPA, March 2023.
- Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment - Environmental Impact Assessment Tiering, EPA, 2021.
- Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines. Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, March 2023.

- EPA Mapping. Environmental Mapping / Geographical Information System (GIS) tools are available at: <http://gis.epa.ie/SeeMaps>
- EPA Water and Air Quality Reports at: <https://www.epa.ie/pubs/legislation/air/quality/>
- EPA Ireland's State of the Environment Report 2024, <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/state-of-the-environment/irelands-state-of-the-environment-report-2024.php>
- EPA Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 at: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/irelands-environment/state-of-environment-report-/#>
- SEA (EPA) Spatial Information Sources at: <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/>
- Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment, EPA 2015 at: https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/biodiversity/EPA-157_web.pdf
- Integrating Climate Change into Strategic Environmental Assessment in Ireland - A Guidance Note. EPA, 2015.
- Climate Action Plan 2024. Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, 2024.
- Circular Letter PL 9/2013: Article 8 (Decision Making) of EU Directives 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as amended. Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, 2013.
- Circular Letter PSSP 6/2011: Further Transposition of EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, 2011.
- Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08: Appropriate Assessment of Land Use Plans. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2008.
- Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment - Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes: Practitioner's Manual. Strive Report Series No. 106. Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, 2013.
- Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment. European Commission 2013.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission, 2000, at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/provision_of_art6_en.pdf
- 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, 2002, at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_asses_en.pdf
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2009, at: http://www.npws.ie/publications/archive/NPWS_2009_AA_Guidance.pdf

3.9 Appropriate Assessment

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

Stage 1 is to establish whether AA is required for the particular plan or project. This stage is referred to as 'screening for the requirement for AA', and its purpose is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary

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assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, could have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

As set out in Department Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08¹⁴ (15 February 2008), Screening for AA is of relevance to SEA screening in that *“where following screening, it is found that the draft plan or amendment may have an impact on the conservation status of a Natura 2000 site or that such an impact cannot be ruled out, adopting the precautionary approach:*

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

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

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

The AA/NIS has concluded that the CCDEDP will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

¹⁴ NPWS SEA letter: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-sea-01-08.pdf>

4 Relationship with Plans and Programmes

4.1 Overview

Fáilte Ireland has prepared the Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan to enhance the visitor experience, promote tourism and support economic growth. The plan is designed to build on the ambition of the Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy. Regional Tourism Development Plans, 2023- 2027 (RTDS) have been developed for each of Fáilte Ireland’s four Regional Experience Brands (Ireland’s Ancient East, Wild Atlantic Way, Dublin and Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands). These plans provide the strategic framework for other tourism development strategies, most notably, Destination and Experience Development Plans (DEDPs) and County Tourism Strategies. The CCDEDP has been developed to contribute to the overarching regional objectives for the Wild Atlantic Way.

As part of the SEA process, it is necessary to consider the environmental protection objectives, established at the international; European and national level which are relevant to the CCDEDP and how they have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan. In its making, the CCDEDP sits at the lower level of the hierarchy and must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions / plans. These documents include plans and programmes, which have also been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, are detailed below.

4.2 Project Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework

Project Ireland 2040 is the Government’s overarching planning and development policy for the country to 2040. It constitutes a “*strategy to make Ireland a better country for all of its people*” by setting public investment policy at a high level. It comprises two documents: the *National Planning Framework* (NPF), which details the strategy for development to 2040; and the *National Development Plan* (NDP), which outlines the public expenditure required to implement this strategy and identifies priority future projects.

The NPF is the Government’s high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of Ireland to 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment to create and promote opportunities, and to protect and enhance the environment. At its core are ten National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs), “*a shared set of goals for every community across the country*” (p. 10), which the plan aims to deliver:

1. Compact Growth
2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility
3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities
4. Sustainable Mobility
5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills
6. High-quality International Connectivity
7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage
8. Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society
9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources
10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services

With a view to achieving these NSOs, the NPF identifies a suite of National Policy Objectives (NPOs).

The NPF identifies under NSO 7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage that-

'This will ensure that our cities, towns and villages are attractive and can offer a good quality of life. It will require investment in well-designed public realm, which includes public spaces, parks and streets, as well as recreational infrastructure. It also includes amenities in rural areas, such as national and forest parks, activity-based tourism and trails such as greenways, blueways and peatways. This is linked to and must integrate with our built, cultural and natural heritage, which has intrinsic value in defining the character of urban and rural areas and adding to their attractiveness and sense of place.'

The NPF addresses the Plan for Ireland's growing population and economy and to promote new economic opportunities arising from digital connectivity and indigenous innovation and enterprise as well as more traditional natural and resource assets (e.g. food, energy, tourism). Local services sectors, including tourism and small-scale manufacturing, are a significant part of the rural economy and are also important local employers.

The National Policy Objective 22 states to –

'Facilitate tourism development and in particular a National Greenways, Blueways and Peatways Strategy, which prioritises projects on the basis of achieving maximum impact and connectivity at national and regional level.'

The NPF emphasises on tourism opportunities for rural Ireland and states that –

'The development of greenways, blueways and peatways offer a unique alternative means for tourists and visitors to access and enjoy rural Ireland. The development of a strategic national network of these trails is a priority and will support the development of rural communities and job creation in the rural economy, as well as the protection and promotion of natural assets and biodiversity.'

The NPF further elaborates on the importance of Ireland's natural heritage, cultural heritage and landscape and their role and contribution towards the tourism industry and economic investment.

4.2.1 Draft First Revision to the National Planning Framework

The National Planning Framework (NPF), published in 2018 has been revised and updated to take account of changes that have occurred since it was published in 2018 and to build on the framework that is in place. A Draft First Revision to the National Planning Framework has been published on 10th July 2024 and is currently out for public consultation. The Draft Revision focuses on the need to update the Framework in order to appropriately reflect changes to government policy that have taken place since its initial publication six years ago, such as climate transition, regional development, demographics, digitalisation and investment and prioritisation.

The Draft highlights how tourism has the capacity to directly and indirectly sustain communities, create employment and deliver real social benefits for rural Ireland. The development of greenways, blueways and peatways offer a unique alternative means for tourists and visitors to access and enjoy rural Ireland. The development of a strategic national network of these trails is a priority and will support the development of rural communities and job creation in the rural economy, as well as the protection and promotion of natural assets and biodiversity.

The Draft states that the key future planning and development and place-making policy priorities among others include:

'Tourism development and promotional branding to ensure that areas such as 'Ireland's Ancient East' and 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' are developed and promoted in such a way as to play their full part in tapping the economic potential of regional and rural areas in the region.'

‘Integrated planning, management and development of the areas traversed by the Wild Atlantic Way to maximise both the quality and integrity of the visitor experience and the added benefit in economic terms, especially for rural and local communities.’

The National Policy Objective 35 states-

‘Continue to facilitate tourism development and in particular the Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways, and a Blueways and Peatways Strategy, which prioritises projects on the basis of their environmental sustainability, achieving maximum impact and connectivity at national and regional level while ensuring their development is compliant with the National Biodiversity Action Plan, the national climate change objective and requirements for environmental assessments.’

The National Policy Objective 64 states-

‘Support the coordination and promotion of all-island tourism initiatives through continued co-operation between the relevant tourism agencies and Tourism Ireland, pursue the further development of sport, and invest in the diverse heritage, arts and cultural and linguistic traditions of the island.’

The draft revised framework retains the original NPF focus on a more balanced distribution of growth across all of Ireland’s regions – emphasising the potential for regional growth to harness the attractiveness and assets of all regions and places to a greater extent than ever before. Once finalised, the revised National Planning Framework will be incorporated into the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and the City and County Development Plans.

4.3 Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

There are three administrative Regions in Ireland: the Northern and Western Region, the Southern Region, and the Eastern and Midland Region. Under national policy, Regional Assemblies are tasked with drafting Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs), which effectively set the agenda for implementing the national level development policy – the NPF – at the Regional level. The CCDEDP area is situated in the Southern Region and, therefore, falls under the remit of the Southern RSEs.

The policies in the RSEs are structured under Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs) and Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) Policy Objectives. The Southern region has a wealth of natural, cultural and heritage assets of national importance and is a significant tourist destination.

The Strategic Planning Areas (SPA) are set out in Article 42 and Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 1991 (Regional Assemblies) Establishment) Order 2014 to provide for consideration of sub-regional issues. There are three Strategic Planning Areas in the Southern Region; the Mid-West SPA (consisting of Counties Clare, Limerick and Tipperary), South-East SPA (consisting of Counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford and Tipperary) and the South-West SPA (consisting of Counties Cork and Kerry and Cork City Council).

There are significant attractions and destinations in the South West SPA and includes but not limited to Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland’s Ancient East, Ireland’s Maritime Paradise, Ring of Kerry, Muckross House, festivals, mountain ranges, extensive coastline and blue and green flag beaches, peninsulas and islands. There are significant existing and future potential for Greenway and Blueway Corridors including proposals such as the South Kerry Greenway, North Kerry Greenway Corridors. Kerry Airport is an important regional airport for tourism.

Significant tourism assets of the Mid-West SPA include, inter alia, the Hunt Museum, Adare Heritage Centre, the Milk Market, Ballyhoura Mountain Trails, Thomond Park, the Great Southern Greenway, the Frank McCourt Museum, Pery Square, Limerick Gallery of Arts, Foynes Flying Boat Museum, Red

Mile, Ireland's Lakelands, the Shannon Estuary and its islands, greenways, blueways, Munster Vales the Burren, Cliffs of Moher, West Clare NST tourism route, Loop Head, Bunratty Castle, Holy Island, Lough Derg, King John's Castle.

The Strategy states-

North Kerry/ West Limerick/Shannon Estuary/ Clare: The RSES recognises and supports the economic role and potential of settlements including Listowel, Abbeyfeale Newcastle West (Key Town), Kilrush as economic drivers in a potential North Kerry/West Limerick/Clare network connected with the Shannon Estuary (and Shannon Foynes Port. Their attributes extend to include the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) area and strategic locations identified under the SIFP as a Shannon Estuary Coastal Network. Reference to the SIFP network is also included as an example of our Region's strategic marine and costal assets in Chapter 4.

The International Dark-Sky Association works to protect the night skies for present and future generations. 'Dark Sky' parks and reserves are focused on areas "possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment". The Kerry International Dark-Sky Reserve is the only internationally recognised Dark Sky area in the Region. The NPF and RSES recognise the potential of this concept as a significant tourism attraction. This is particularly true of mountainous and peatland areas where there is little or no light pollution, serviced by adjoining rural communities. This RSES encourages measures to support the establishment of other 'Dark Sky' parks and reserves.

The RSES Vision is to:

- Nurture all our places to realise their full potential;
- Protect and enhance our environment;
- Successfully combat climate change;
- Achieve economic prosperity and improved quality of life for all our citizens;
- Accommodate expanded growth and development in suitable locations; and
- Make the Southern Region one of Europe's most creative, innovative, greenest and liveable regions.

The RSES Vision is to make the Southern Region one of Europe's most creative, innovative, greenest and liveable regions, with planned growth and development in suitable locations that nurtures places to realise their full potential, protects and enhances the environment, and delivers quality of life and economic growth.

4.4 Kerry County Development Plan 2022 – 2028

Kerry has a range of natural, cultural and built heritage resources of outstanding value and the tourism sector is an extremely important driver of economic activity in the county. The tourism sector in Kerry is a job intensive sector, which encompasses a range of economic activities including, aviation, hotels, B&Bs, pubs and restaurants, festivals, sport, exhibitions, outdoor adventure and activities, cultural entertainment, visitor attractions and business conferences. Kerry boasts some of Ireland's most iconic scenery including the Lakes of Killarney, the MacGillycuddy Reeks, the Beara, Dingle and Iveragh peninsulas and Valentia Island, Skellig Michael, the Sleah Head Drive, the pristine beaches of North Kerry and has the longest section of the Wild Atlantic Way.

Kerry Development Plan 2022-2028 aims to protect and enhance Kerry's natural environment, built, cultural and linguistic heritage, upgrade existing facilities and provide a world class experience for tourists which will ensure the continued success of the Tourism Sector for the county.

The key objectives of Kerry County Council include –

KCDP 10-6 Engage and collaborate with strategic partners such as Fáilte Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, OPW, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Coillte, GSI and other relevant bodies and local communities to sustainably develop the tourism sector in Kerry and to ensure that the economic potential of the tourism sector is secured for the benefit of the local economy.

KCDP 10-7 Promote and facilitate sustainable tourism as one of the key economic pillars of the County's economy and a major generator of employment and to support the provision of facilities such as hotels, aparthotels, guesthouses, bed and breakfasts, tourist hostels, caravan and camping, glamping, cafes, restaurants, visitor attractions and activity tourism.

KCDP 10-8 Support the implementation of the County Kerry Tourism Strategy and Action Plan (2016-2022) including the upgrading and repurposing of existing attractions, the sustainable development of the tourism projects and the preparation and adoption of successor strategies.

KCDP 10-9 Facilitate and support the implementation of the Wild Atlantic Way Tourism Plans Fáilte Ireland Visitor /Destination Experience Development Plans, Heritage Town and Destination Town Plans and to support the continued collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and tourism stakeholders to ensure successful implementation and delivery of these tourism plans.

KCDP 10-11 Encourage tourism developments, increased visitor accommodation, interpretation centres, and commercial / retail facilities serving the tourism sector to be located within established settlements thereby fostering strong links to a whole range of other economic and commercial sectors and sustaining the host communities.

KCDP 10-12 Work with Fáilte Ireland, for the further enhancement and promotion of the Wild Atlantic Way touring route, subject to environmental assessment.

KCDP 10-15 Support inter-agency initiatives to secure the establishment of visitor attractions focused around key tourist sites and attractions in conjunction with adjoining local authorities, Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland and other key stakeholders in appropriate locations and subject to the principles of sustainable development.

KCDP 10-19 Promote the sustainable integration of land use and transportation policies to ensure that the unique needs of the tourism sector including the provision of public bus services/transport links to visitor attractions are addressed.

KCDP 10-22 Facilitate the development of the necessary tourism infrastructure, visitor attractions and supporting facilities at appropriate locations in the County in a manner that does not have an adverse impact on the locality, host community and environment.

KCDP 10-35 Promote and facilitate the sustainable development of outdoor activities including winter and adventure sports, in appropriate locations, such as walking, rambling, cycling, land and sea-based activities with specialised centres and facilities in association with Munster Technological University, Fáilte Ireland, National Trails Office, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Local Development Companies, Sport Ireland, Healthy Ireland, Local Development Companies, Kerry Education and Training Board and other relevant national and County based departments and agencies.

KCDP 10-36 Promote and facilitate opportunities to create an integrated pedestrian and cycle network linking key tourist destinations in the County and to the national network subject to environmental, heritage and normal planning constraints.

KCDP 10-41 Support the sustainable development of a National Cycle Network and the development of the EuroVelo project, in particular the Atlantic Coast Route where it passes through the County.

KCDP 10-43 Support the sustainable linking and extension of existing greenways, long distance walking routes, blueways, and peatways within the county and the integration and linkage of them with other existing / proposed greenways, long distance walking routes, blueways and peatways both within and outside County Kerry.

KCDP 10-44 Facilitate and support the sustainable development of tourism infrastructure and recreational developments at appropriate locations along greenway routes and trailheads subject to normal planning conditions.

KCDP 10-48 Promote opportunities for enterprise and employment creation in marine tourism where it can be demonstrated that the development will not impact negatively on the marine environment.

KCDP 10-56 Support the provision of appropriately designed and located toilet and changing facilities at blue flag beaches in the county and at other locations subject to need assessment and environmental compatibility.

KCDP 10-58 Support the sustainable development of the arts and crafts sector and liaise with other relevant agencies to facilitate growth within this sector.

KCDP 10-59 Support the sustainable development of Kerry's food and drink sector, especially locally sourced organic food, and liaise with other relevant agencies to facilitate growth within this sector.

KCDP 10-63 Support and promote the sustainable development of architectural and heritage trails, at appropriate locations ensuring that development does not result in negative impacts on the fabric or setting of Kerry's heritage assets.

KCDP 10-66 Support and facilitate the sustainable development of linguistic and cultural tourism in Kerry.

The Development Plan has been subject to SEA, AA and SFRA. These are discussed, where relevant, below.

4.5 Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

County Clare has an exceptionally rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage, vibrant towns and villages and contrasting landscapes, all of which are easily accessible to visitors. The diversity of its globally recognised landscapes is striking and the asset base for activity and nature-based tourism is considerable. County Clare is surrounded to the west, south and east by coastal, estuarine and freshwater systems which give the County a distinctive island-like geography that has in turn influenced its cultural heritage over the centuries. The tourism industry makes a significant contribution to the vitality and sustainability of a wide variety of local enterprises, particularly in rural areas, and promotes an enhanced awareness and positive appreciation of local traditions and ways of life.

The Plan sets the following strategic aims to promote tourism in the County:

- *To maximise the potential of tourism as a ‘pillar of economic growth’ thereby contributing to the balanced economic development of the County and the tourism industry of the region;*
- *To work in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, Clare Tourism Advisory Forum and other bodies to define the tourist experience and to develop a clear tourism identity for County Clare;*
- *To develop and enhance new and existing tourism products, attractions and tourism infrastructure;*
- *To capitalise on the distinct tourist attractions that County Clare has to offer including natural, built and cultural heritage, scenic landscapes and natural amenities;*
- *To work to improve the visitor experience to ensure that all visitors to the County enjoy the unique experience of County Clare and all that it has to offer;*
- *To develop strong, year-round, high-quality integrated tourism products;*
- *To increase the length of tourist stay and ‘yield per visitor’ in the County;*
- *To capitalise on the county’s identified nodes along the Wild Atlantic Way;*
- *To protect the environmental quality of the county on which much of the tourism activity is based; and*
- *To enhance physical access and maximise the potential of underdeveloped areas for tourism.*

The objectives required to promote a sustainable, well-managed, and high-quality year-round tourism industry that generates economic benefits for all areas of the County are set out below:

CDP 9.5 *It is an objective of Clare County Council:*

- a) To promote, encourage and facilitate the provision of new visitor accommodation and the expansion/upgrade of existing hotels, guesthouses, B&Bs and other tourist accommodation at appropriate locations throughout the County, particularly in areas with existing services;*
- b) To support the redevelopment of brownfield sites, both in settlements and in rural areas, for the provision of tourist accommodation; and*
- c) To support the development of new camping and glamping facilities and facilities for campervans/motor homes/touring caravans both within settlements and in rural locations at a variety of locations across the County. Sites in rural locations should be located in close proximity to, and have good connectivity to, existing tourism assets.*
- (d) To support the development of overnight accommodation in the County ensuring existing visitor attractions deliver, as far as practicable, the aims of ‘Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2014-2022’ and the ‘Town Centre First Policy’.*

CDP 9.6 *It is an objective of Clare County Council:*

- a) To work with all relevant stakeholders to ensure the sustainable improvement and expansion of tourist services, infrastructure, visitor management and interpretative information and transport networks and amenities for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, the Shannon Estuary Way, at the identified Wild Atlantic Way Signature Points and Discovery Points as well as at appropriate locations along this route, and for all of the key tourism corridors in the County subject to robust feasibility studies to reduce impacts on the environment and to required appraisal, planning and environmental assessment processes;*
- e) To work with Fáilte Ireland and other key stakeholders to ensure the sustainable delivery of the Tourism Masterplan for the River Shannon 2020 - 2030;*

i) To work with Fáilte Ireland and other tourism stakeholders to support the successful implementation and delivery of Wild Atlantic Way Tourism Plans.

CDP 9.8 It is an objective of Clare County Council:

- a) To work with local communities and relevant agencies to achieve the sustainable development of County Clare as a world-class destination for sports and recreation-related tourism development;*
- b) To support the development of low-impact experiential tourism in order to diversify the range of tourist activities available in the county at appropriate locations, subject to an analysis of their potential environmental impact and in order to expand the tourist season;*
- c) To support the sustainable development of water sports, surfing, sailing and water-related events at appropriate locations in the county, subject to analysis of their potential environmental impact;*
- d) To sustainably develop greenways, blueways and peatways and walking and cycling trails including the West Clare Railway Greenway to achieve greater accessibility to the countryside and the marine environment by sustainable modes and to achieve maximum benefit and connectivity at the local, regional and national levels;*
- e) To promote activity tourism subject to appropriate site selection and environmental assessment processes;*

CDP 9.11 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To support the development of the arts, crafts and food tourism sectors and work in coordination with relevant stakeholders to facilitate growth in these sectors.

CDP 9.12 It is an objective of Clare County Council:

- a) To encourage the development of coastal tourism such as water-sports and water-related activities subject to normal planning and environmental criteria;*
- b) To support proposals for tourism development in coastal areas where it can be demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the amenities of the area the integrity of the natural environment or the economic value of the County's coastline and beaches; and*
- c) To continue to work with An Taisce, the local community and other relevant stakeholders to retain and increase the number of Blue Flag awards in the County.*

CDP 9.25 It is an Objective of Clare County Council:

- a) To work with all relevant stakeholders to further develop and enhance the opportunity for tourism products in particular coastal and cliff walks in the Kilkee and Loop Head areas, cycling and niche tourism;*
- b) To promote and market the area, building on the cultural amenities and entertainment facilities of Kilrush, Kilkee, and Doonbeg;*
- c) To further develop Kilrush as a recognised destination for marine-based recreation;*
- d) To support the promotion of the Loop Head Peninsula as a tourist destination and the enhancement of visitor facilities including upgraded visitor experience facilities at the Loop Head Lighthouse, park and ride facilities and looped trails;*
- e) To encourage the development of sustainable tourism at the Bridges of Ross;*
- f) To further promote Vandeleur Gardens and Scattery Island as key tourist attractions in the Kilrush area;*
- g) To support the enhancement of the tourist accommodation offer in West Clare;*

- h) To maximise the opportunities of the area's coastal location and availability of fresh local produce to develop, facilitate and expand the local food and hospitality tourist product;*
- i) To develop and enhance the piers, harbours and slipways along the Shannon Estuary, in accordance with the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the area, to maximise their potential for water sports activities;*
- j) To promote and further develop the Shannon Estuary Way and the Wild Atlantic Way;*
- k) To work with Fáilte Ireland in the preparation and implementation of the Cliff Coast Destination Experience Development Plan.*

The Development Plan has been subject to SEA, AA and SFRA. These are discussed, where relevant, below.

4.6 Regional Tourism Development Strategies (2023-2027)

Regional Tourism Development Strategies (2023-2027) have been developed for each of Fáilte Ireland's four Regional Experience Brands (Ireland's Ancient East, Dublin, Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands). The purpose of the Regional Tourism Strategies is to identify sustainable tourism development priorities that will unlock the commercial potential of the region and generate socio-economic benefits for all local stakeholders and the tourism industry. These plans provide the strategic framework for the development of the CCDEDP.

The Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023 - 2027 identifies six strategic objectives to develop the tourism economy in the region. The projects outlined in the CCDEDP align to these overall regional objectives. The strategic objectives are as follows:

- *STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Year Round Appeal: Grow the year-round appeal of the Wild Atlantic Way domestically and internationally ensuring we attract and disperse high-value visitors into and throughout the region.*
- *STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: International Profile: Raise the international profile of the northern half of the Wild Atlantic Way to increase visitation and revenue.*
- *STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: Revenue, Dispersion & Extension: Increase tourism revenue, visitor dispersion and season extension across the southern half of the Wild Atlantic Way.*
- *STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: Authenticity & Wildness: Protect the cultural authenticity and "wildness" of the Wild Atlantic Way.*
- *STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: Capacity & Capability: Enable and assist the industry to grow its capacity and capability so that it can thrive over the period of this strategy.*
- *STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6: Industry & Stakeholder: Foster strong coalitions of industry and stakeholders with a common purpose in creating flourishing destinations and thriving communities while also building a sustainable model of destination development across the Wild Atlantic Way.*

The Regional Tourism Development Strategy for the Wild Atlantic Way provides a new context for how all existing and future tourism projects and initiatives are planned, developed and managed in a sustainable and integrated manner. The wildness of the landscape is at the heart of the Wild Atlantic Way offering. It is crucial that the quality, character and distinctiveness of these natural assets are protected.

The Regional Tourism Development Strategy for the Wild Atlantic Way provides a new context for how all existing and future tourism projects and initiatives are planned, developed, and managed in a sustainable and integrated manner. The VICE (Visitor, Industry, Community and Environment) Model for Sustainable Tourism is the framework adopted within this plan. Fáilte Ireland recognises the need

to integrate environmental considerations into this strategy in a way that responds to the sensitivities and requirements of the wider natural environment. Environmental considerations including water quality and amenity, climate change, traffic, biodiversity, built and cultural heritage, landscape, critical infrastructure and communities, all play a vital part in our tourism sector.

The Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023 - 2027 has been subject to SEA and AA. These are discussed, where relevant, below.

4.7 Other Plans and Programmes

There is a legislative framework for the protection of the environment and our natural resources relevant to the CCDEDP. **Table 4.1** below provides a list of the principle legislative framework.

Table 4.2 and **Table 4.3** below provide a working list of the principal plans and programmes influencing the formulation of the CCDEDP and the Environmental Report, either directly or through European, National and / or County level policy. The relationship with other plans and programmes is discussed, as appropriate, under the Current State of the Environment in **Section 5** of this Report.

Table 4.1 Legislative Framework

Legislative Framework	
Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended	Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)
Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended	Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EEC)	Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)
Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU) as amended by (2014/52/EU)	Renewable Energy Directive (2018/2001/EU) as amended by (EU/2023/2413)
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations) 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011) (as amended)
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) on the Conservation of Wild Birds, 1979	Renewable Energies in the 21 st Century: Building a More Sustainable Future
Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC)	EU 2020 climate and energy package
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	EU Renewable Energy Road Map
Flood Directive (2007/60/EC)	European Landscape Convention 2000
Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC)	Wildlife Acts 1976-2024
Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC)	The Water Services Act (2007 – 2017)
Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)	Foreshore Act 1933-2024
Urban Wastewater Directive (91/271/EEC)	Aquaculture Act 1997-2006
Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	Sea Fisheries & Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006
Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)	The National Monuments Act 1930-2014
EU Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC)	Roads Act 1993, as amended
Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC)	European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea Fisheries) Regulations 2013

Table 4.2 Relevant National & Regional Plans and Programmes

National & Regional Plans and Programmes	
Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework (NPF)	National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development
Draft First Revision to the National Planning Framework (July 2024)	National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2030
Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-East Region 2010-2022	National Sustainable Mobility Policy (2022)
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region	Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines (2012)
Ireland's Environment - An Integrated Assessment 2020	The Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014)
National Mitigation Plan 2017	Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022-2042
Our Sustainable Future - A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland (2012)	Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2019)
Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland (2021)	Ireland's First National Cycle Policy Framework 2009
Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments (2023)	National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024 - 2030
4 th Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan
Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012	National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2017-2020
National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development 2014- 2020	Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways 2018
Draft National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development 2030	The National Broadband Plan 2020
National CFRAMS Programme	National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025
River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021	Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)
River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027	Heritage Ireland 2030
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management (2009)	Food Harvest 2020
South Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study	National Adaptation Framework Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland 2018 and Review of the National Adaptation Framework 2022
People, Place and Policy Growing Tourism to 2025	Climate Action Plan 2024
Fáilte Ireland Corporate Plan	Water Services Strategic Plan / Capital Investment Programme (Uisce Éireann)
Tourism Action Plan 2019 – 2021	Regional Tourism Development Strategies (2023-2027) & Ireland Ancient East Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023 - 2027

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National & Regional Plans and Programmes	
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways	Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021 – 2025
National Physical Activity Plan 2013 – 2025	Actions to Promote Sustainable Tourism Practices 2021 - 2023
Ireland’s State of the Environment Report 2024	

Table 4.3 Relevant Local Plans and Programmes

Local Plans and Programmes	
Clare County Development Plan 2023-2027	County Clare Tourism Strategy 2030
Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028	County Kerry Tourism Strategy & Action Plan 2016-2022
Loop Head Tourism Development Strategy 2020-2030	Kerry County Council Greenway Strategy
North Kerry Blueway and Marine Activity Study 2018, North East West Kerry Development	Kilrush Tourism Destination Development Strategy, Kilrush Town Team
Developing Tourism in Tralee – Action Plan to 2025, Tralee Chamber Alliance	

Some of the key Plans / Programmes, which were subject to SEA and AA, are discussed further in the following sections.

5 Current State of the Receiving Environment (Environmental Baseline)

5.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the information on the baseline environment is focused upon the relevant aspects of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected and the likely evolution of the current environment in the absence of the CCDEDP. Being consistent with the strategic provisions of the CCDEDP, this section provides a strategic description of aspects of environmental components which have the greatest potential to be affected by implementation of the CCDEDP, if unmitigated.

The CCDEDP is focused on an area extending from Tralee across North Kerry to Loop Head Peninsula and Spanish Point in West Clare, see **Figure 5.1**.

Figure 5.1 Extent of the study area for the Cliff Coast DEDP (Source: Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan, Fáilte Ireland)



5.2 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of the Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan

The development plan for Kerry and Clare promote the development and strengthening of the overall value of tourism in this region as stated below.

The *Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028* states that:

KCDP 10-9 Facilitate and support the implementation of the Wild Atlantic Way Tourism Plans Fáilte Ireland Visitor /Destination Experience Development Plans, Heritage Town and Destination Town Plans and to support the continued collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and tourism stakeholders to ensure successful implementation and delivery of these tourism plans.

The *Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029* state that:

CDP 9.6 It is an objective of Clare County Council:

i) To work with Fáilte Ireland and other tourism stakeholders to support the successful implementation and delivery of Wild Atlantic Way Tourism Plans.

It is a requirement of the SEA Directive to consider – ‘the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.’ In the absence of the CCDEDP it is envisaged that the baseline environment would primarily evolve in line with the policies and objectives of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028, Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Local Area Plans (LAPs) for the County. The County Development Plans detail policies and objectives specific to tourism, however, the standalone CCDEDP provides significant opportunities for specific set of tourism-related mitigation measures and the associated likely positive environmental effects.

The CCDEDP is focused on an area extending from Tralee across North Kerry to Loop Head Peninsula and Spanish Point in West Clare. The CCDEDP will play a key role in how other DEDPs impact on visitor flow, dispersion into and around the destination and increase dwell time along the Wild Atlantic Way. It will serve as an important link to the Burren DEDP and connect North Kerry with the Dingle Peninsula and Killarney DEDP’s. Additional opportunities are presented through the connectivity with the Limerick Gateway Plan and how visitors will consider exploring North Kerry and West Clare from their Limerick City accommodation base.

The CCDEDP approach will capitalise on the opportunities provided by recent and future product investment while increasing the supply of saleable experiences for the visitor to engage with. Changing visitor perspectives on sustainability have accelerated the demand for sustainable tourism activity at a pace comparable to the digitalisation of businesses. This presents the destination with new opportunities to facilitate the visitor in achieving their personal sustainable goals while contributing to sustainable tourism destinations and communities.

Therefore while higher level environmental protection objectives – such as those of *County Development Plans* and various EU Directives and transposing Irish Regulations – would still apply, the absence of the CCDEDP would mean that new development would be less coordinated and controlled. Less coordinated and controlled development would be less certain to result in the positive effects provided for by the CCDEDP.

5.3 Description of the Environmental Baseline

The baseline data helps to assess the current state of the environment, facilitate the identification, evaluation and subsequent monitoring of the effects of the Plan. Thus, this information creates a platform whereby existing issues relevant to the study area can be quantified, where possible, or qualified thereby ensuring that the implementation of CCDEDP does not exacerbate identifiable problems.

Baseline data collection is a first step in the process of evaluating the sensitivity of the environment. The *SEA Directive* requires that information is provided on ‘*any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the Plan or programme...*’. Information is therefore provided on existing environmental problems which are relevant to the Plan, thus helping to ensure that the Plan does not exacerbate any existing environmental problems in the study area.

The environmental aspects are described in line with the legislative requirements, under the following headings:

- Biodiversity (including Flora & Fauna);
- Population and Human Health;
- Land, Soils and Geology;
- Water Quality;
- Air Quality, Noise and Climate;
- Cultural Heritage;
- Landscape & Visual;
- Material Assets;
- Interaction of the foregoing; and
- Cumulative Impacts.

The Regional Tourism Development Strategies 2023-2027 published by Fáilte Ireland provide a framework for sustainable tourism development across Ireland and include Regional Tourism Strategies for Ireland’s Ancient East, Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands and Dublin. The Regional Tourism Development Strategies will be activated across every region through a series of local area action plans, referred to as Destination and Experience Development Plans (DEDPs). Under the Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027, there is a requirement to prepare DEDP for the Cliff Coast (North Kerry & West Clare).

Therefore, as detailed previously the study area for this report includes North Kerry and West Clare and the environmental aspects are described in the sections below.

5.3.1 Biodiversity

Biodiversity plays a significant role in the provision of clean air, water, healthy soils and food as well as visually contributing to a plan area with its natural beauty and heritage.

The biodiversity within the study area underpins important economic sectors such as agriculture, tourism and recreation and is a core component of the green infrastructure. A number of areas in study area have been identified as being of exceptional importance for biodiversity at a national and/or international level and are protected through national and European legislation.

5.3.1.1 Designated European Sites

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

All designated European Sites located within the study area are listed in **Table 5.1** below. There are further SPAs and SACs within the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the study area listed in **Table 5.2** below. Also, refer to **Figure 5.2**.

Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs have been set for the habitats and species for which the sites have been selected. Site specific detailed conservation objectives are available on the NPWS website¹⁵. Any potential for impact on European Sites have been fully addressed in the NIS that accompanies the CCDEDP and SEA Environment Report.

Table 5.1 European sites located within the study area

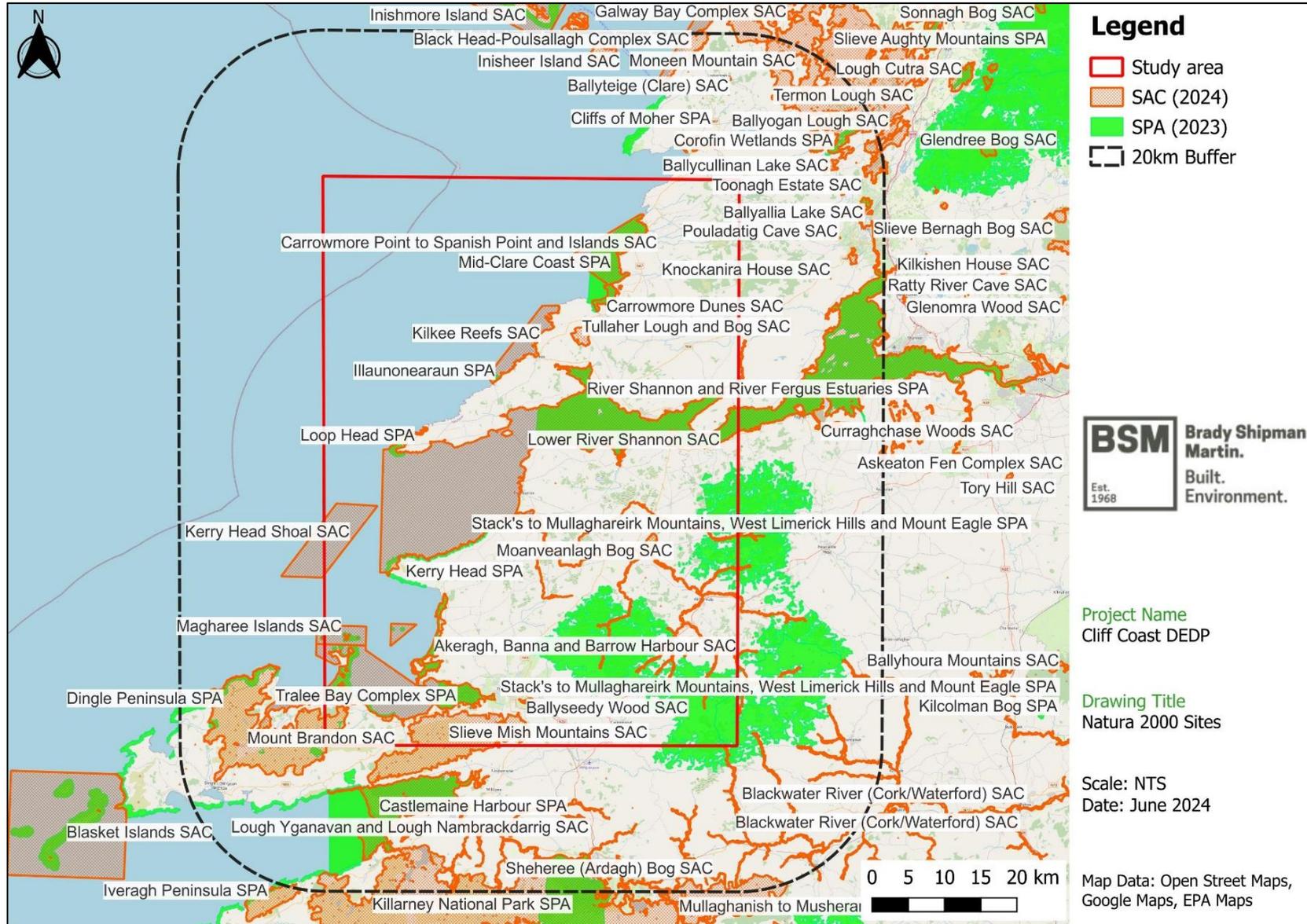
Site Code	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Site Code	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
004125	Magharee Islands SPA	002263	Kerry Head Shoal
004188	Tralee Bay Complex SPA	002261	Magharee Islands SAC
004153	Dingle Peninsula SPA	002070	Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC
004189	Kerry Head SPA	000375	Mount Brandon SAC
004161	Stacks to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA	002185	Slieve Mish Mountains SAC
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	002112	BallyseedyWood SAC
004182	Mid-Clare Coast SPA	002165	Lower River Shannon SAC
004114	Illaunonearaun SPA	002351	Moanveanlagh Bog SAC
004119	Loop Head SPA	002264	Kilkee Reefs SAC
		002343	Tullaheer Lough and Bog SAC
		002250	Carrowmore Dunes SAC
		001021	Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands SAC
		000332	Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC
		002170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC

¹⁵ NPWS website 2019: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives>

Table 5.2 European sites located within the zone of influence of the study area

Site Code	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Site Code	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
004154	Iveragh Peninsula SPA	000343	Castlemaine Harbour SAC
004029	Castlemaine Harbour SPA	000370	Lough Yganavan and Lough Nambrackdarrig SAC
004038	Killarney National Park SPA	000365	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC
004041	Ballyallia Lough SPA	000382	Sheheree (Ardagh) Bog SAC
004220	Corofin Wetlands SPA	000036	Inagh River Estuary SAC
004005	Cliffs of Moher SPA	002279	Askeaton Fen Complex SAC
004152	Inishmore SPA	000432	Barrigone SAC
		002318	Knockanira House SAC
		002091	Newhall and Edenvale Complex SAC
		000037	Pouladatig Cave SAC
		000014	Ballyallia Lake SAC
		002247	Toonagh Estate SAC
		000032	Dromore Woods and Loughs SAC
		002245	Old Farm Buildings, Ballymacrogan SAC
		002246	Ballycullinan, Old Domestic Building SAC
		000016	Ballycullinan Lake SAC
		001926	East Burren Complex SAC
		000019	Ballyogan Lough SAC
		000054	Moneen Mountain SAC
		000020	Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex SAC
		000994	Ballyteige (Clare) SAC
		001275	Inisheer Island SAC
		000212	Inishmaan Island SAC
		000213	Inishmore Island SAC

Figure 5.2 European Sites within the study area and in the surrounding zone of influence



5.3.1.2 Nationally Designated Sites

Nationally Designated Sites include *Natural Heritage Areas* (NHAs) which are legally protected areas that are considered important for their habitats or which holds species of plants and animals whose habitat needs protection. *Proposed Natural Heritage Areas* (pNHAs) are also of significance for wildlife and habitats but have not yet been statutorily designated. However, under the Wildlife Amendment Act (2000) NHAs are legally protected from damage from the date they are formally proposed for designation¹⁶.

Refer to **Tables 5.3** and **5.4** and **Figure 5.3** below for the NHAs and pNHAs within the study area and within the zone of influence of the study area.

Table 5.3 Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) within the study area and zone of influence

Site Code	Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) within study area	Site Code	Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) within zone of influence
002449	Mount Eagles Bogs NHA	000333	Anna More Bog NHA
002448	Knockatarriv/Knockariddera Bogs NHA	002454	Lough Gay Bog NHA
001352	Bunnaruddee Bog NHA	002399	Carrigkerry Bogs NHA
001014	Illaunonearaun NHA	002361	Moyreen Bog NHA
002400	Cragnashingaun Bogs NHA	002421	Lough Acrow Bogs NHA
002397	Slievecallan Mountain Bog NHA	002367	Lough Naminna Bog NHA

Table 5.4 Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the study area and zone of influence

Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within study area	Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within zone of influence
001963	Gurrig Island (Magharees) pNHA	001958	Smerwick Harbour Sandhills And Marshes pNHA
001965	Inishtooskert And Illaunimmil (Magharees) pNHA	001960	Burnham Inlet pNHA
001964	Illauntannig (Magharees) pNHA	001961	Emlagh East Salt Marshes pNHA
002070	Tralee Bay And Magharees Peninsula, West To Cloghane pNHA	000365	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks And Caragh River Catchment pNHA
000375	Mount Brandon pNHA	000343	Castlemaine Harbour pNHA
001962	Mucklaghmore Island pNHA	000370	Lough Yganavan And Lough Nambrackdarrig pNHA
001359	Illaunabarnagh Island pNHA	000382	Sheheree (Ardagh) Bog pNHA
000332	Akeragh, Banna And Barrow Harbour pNHA	000350	Doo Loughs pNHA
001341	Church Hill, Tralee pNHA	001072	Priory Wood, Lismire pNHA

¹⁶ NPWS website 2019: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/nha>

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Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within study area	Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within zone of influence
001349	Dooneen Wood pNHA	001431	Glenastar Wood pNHA
000374	Moanveanlagh Bog pNHA	000430	Ardagh Church, Newcastlewest (Disused) pNHA
001340	Cashen River Estuary pNHA	001425	Ballymorrishen Marsh pNHA
001386	Tarbert Bay pNHA	000432	Barrigone pNHA
000027	Clonderalaw Bay pNHA	000435	Inner Shannon Estuary - South Shore pNHA
000050	Derrygeeha Lough pNHA	001436	Sturamus Island pNHA
001025	St.Senan's Lough pNHA	001000	Cahiracon Wood pNHA
001332	Ballylongford Bay pNHA	002048	Fergus Estuary And Inner Shannon, North Shore pNHA
001911	Scattery Island pNHA	000035	Fort Fergus (Ballynacally) pNHA
001335	Beal Point pNHA	000062	Paradise House (Ballynacally) pNHA
000065	Poulnasherry Bay pNHA	001015	Gortglass Lough pNHA
000070	Tullaher Lough And Bog pNHA	001004	Cloonsnaghta Lough pNHA
000200	Farrihy Lough pNHA	002091	Newhall and Edenvale Complex pNHA
000045	Loop Head pNHA	001001	Cahircalla Wood pNHA
001007	White Strand/Carrowmore Marsh pNHA	000037	Pouladatig Cave pNHA
001021	Carrowmore Point To Spanish Point And Islands pNHA	000061	Newpark House pNHA
		000014	Ballyallia Lake pNHA
		001331	Lough Cleggan pNHA
		000032	Dromore Woods and Loughs pNHA
		000019	Ballyogan Lough pNHA
		000016	Ballycullinan Lake pNHA
		001926	East Burren Complex pNHA
		000054	Moneen Mountain pNHA
		000020	Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex pNHA
		000994	Ballyteige (Clare) pNHA
		000048	Lough Goller pNHA
		001024	Caherkinallia Wood pNHA
		000036	Inagh River Estuary pNHA
		000026	Cliffs of Moher pNHA
		001275	Inisheer Island pNHA
		000212	Inishmaan Island pNHA

Figure 5.3 Other Designated Sites within the study area and in the surrounding zone of influence

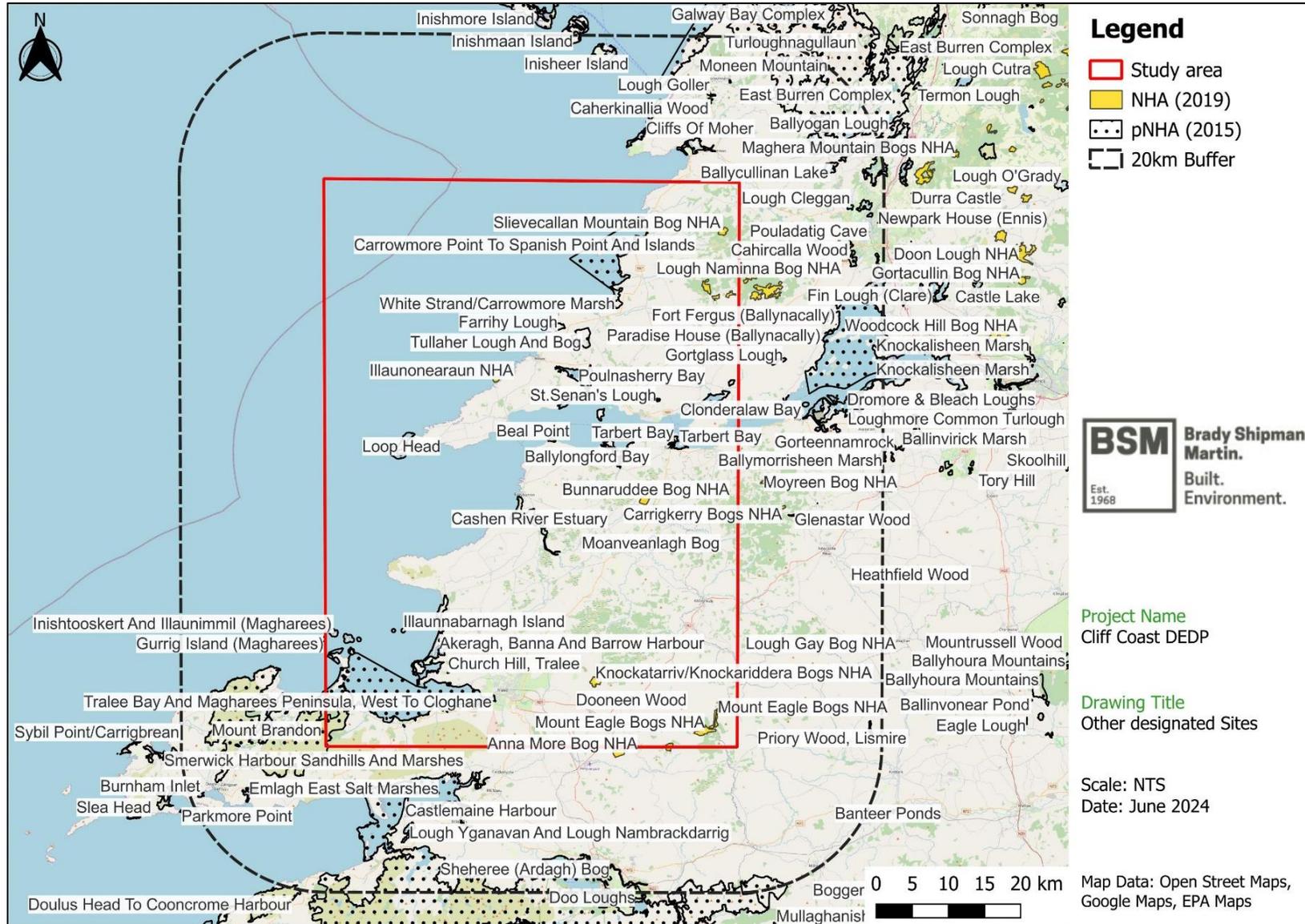
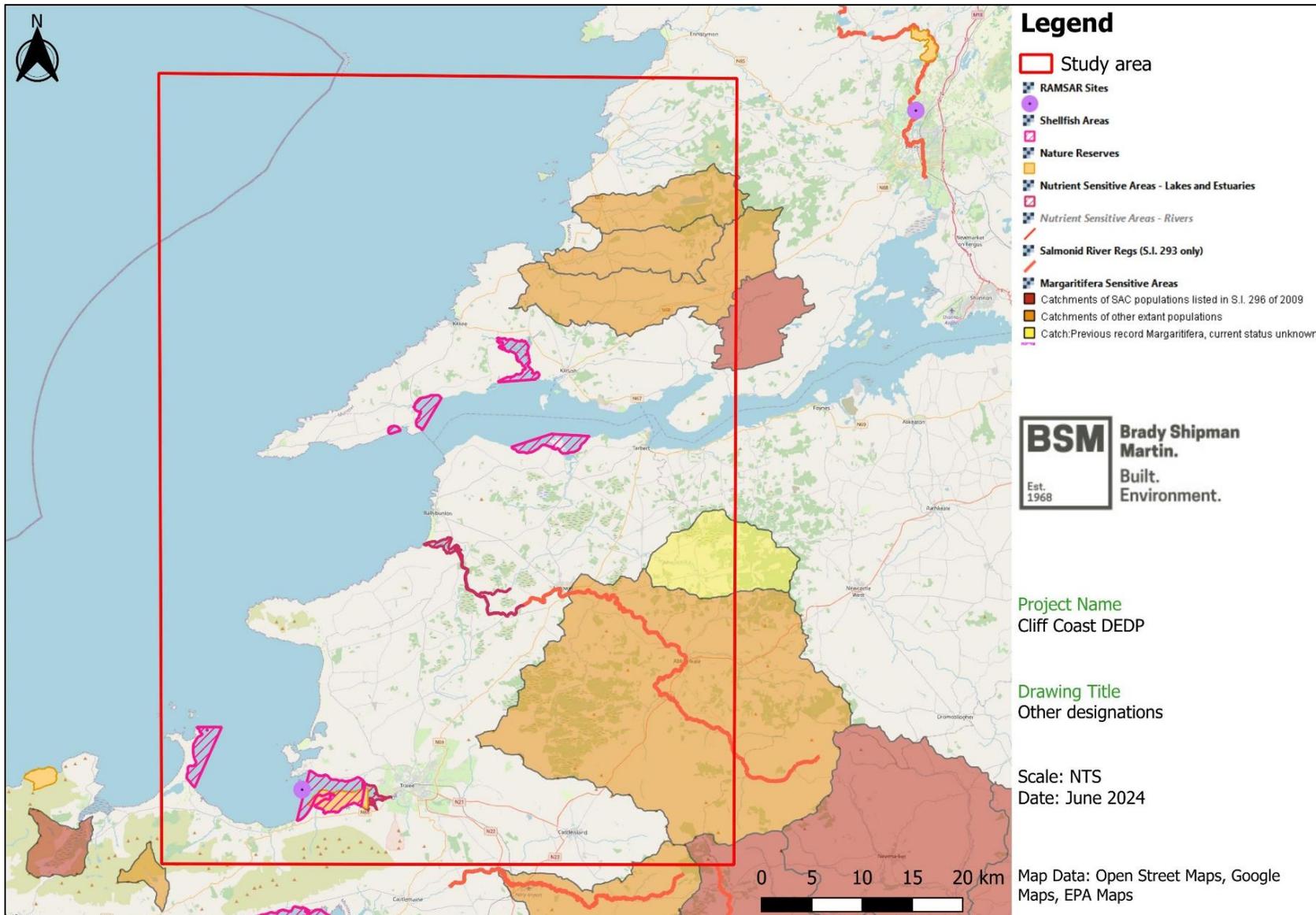


Figure 5.4 Other Designated Sites within study area and in the surrounding area



5.3.1.3 Ecological Networks and Connectivity

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

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

Hedgerows contribute significantly to biodiversity and landscape character. They have an important farming function, they are wildlife habitats, and corridors, between habitats, and they also have historical significance as townland and field boundaries. The rivers provide a rich landscape setting for the towns and village of the county and are the primary green infrastructure network in the study area.

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

5.3.1.4 National Biodiversity Action Plan

Ireland's fourth *National Biodiversity Action Plan* (NBAP) sets national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030. The Plan's vision for Ireland in 2050 is as follows:

Biodiversity in Ireland is valued, conserved, restored and sustainably used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.

The key objectives of the NBAP are as follows:

- Adopt a Whole-of Government, Whole of-Society Approach to Biodiversity;
- Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs;
- Secure Nature's Contribution to People;
- Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity;
- Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives.

5.3.1.5 Water Framework Directive (WFD) Register of Protected Area

Under the requirements of the *Water Framework Directive* (WFD) a number of waterbodies (or parts of) must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife have been listed on Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs). This register is split into five categories as outlined by the EPA:

- Areas designated for the abstraction of water intended for human consumption under Article 7;
- Areas designated for the protection of economically significant aquatic species (i.e. shellfish);

- Bodies of water designated as recreational waters, including areas designated as bathing waters under Directive 76/160/EEC;
- Nutrient-sensitive areas, including areas designated as vulnerable zones under Directive 91/676/EEC and areas designated as sensitive areas under Directive 91/271/EEC; and
- Areas designated for the protection of habitats or species where the maintenance or improvement of the status of water is an important factor in their protection, including relevant European sites (Natura 2000) designated under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 79/409/EEC.

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

- WFD RPA Nutrient Sensitive Areas (Lake, Coastal & Transitional waterbodies) – Cashen / Feale Estuary (IE_SH_060_0100), Feale Estuary Upper (IE_SH_060_0200).
- WFD RPA Nutrient Sensitive Areas (Rivers) – none within study area.
- WFD RPA Shellfish Areas – West Shannon Poulnasherry Bay (IE_SH_060_0000), West Shannon Carrigaholt (IE_SH_060_0000), West Shannon Rinevella (IE_SH_060_0000), West Shannon Ballylongford (IE_SH_060_0000), Tralee Bay (IE_SH_050_0000), Inner Bay Maharees (IE_SH_040_0000).
- Salmonid Rivers – Feale (IE_SH_23F010200), Brown Flesk (IE_SW_22B030250), Blackwater [Munster] (IE_SW_18B020075).

5.3.1.6 Designated Shellfish Waters

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

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

There are six areas of Shellfish waters within the study area - West Shannon Poulnasherry Bay (IE_SH_060_0000), West Shannon Carrigaholt (IE_SH_060_0000), West Shannon Rinevella (IE_SH_060_0000), West Shannon Ballylongford (IE_SH_060_0000), Tralee Bay (IE_SH_050_0000), Inner Bay Maharees (IE_SH_040_0000).

5.3.1.7 Salmonid Waters

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

The following rivers within the study area are designated Salmonid Water under the EU Freshwater Fish Directive - Feale (IE_SH_23F010200), Brown Flesk (IE_SW_22B030250), Blackwater [Munster] (IE_SW_18B020075).

5.3.1.8 Other Designations

RAMSAR Sites

Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention. Wetlands are important ecosystems, which improve water quality, provide storm protection, flood mitigation, stabilise shorelines, maintain biodiversity, and provide natural products such as fish and

shellfish. Ireland presently has 45no. RAMSAR sites. There is only one Ramsar site located within the study area – Tralee Bay (440). Relevant authorities are expected to manage their Ramsar Sites so as to maintain their ecological character and retain their essential functions and values for future generations.

Wildfowl Sanctuaries

Wildfowl sanctuaries are areas that have been excluded from the ‘Open Season Order’ so that game birds can rest and feed undisturbed. There are 68no. sanctuaries in the State¹⁷. Shooting of game birds is not allowed in these sanctuaries. The Lough Gill (WFS-28) wildfowl sanctuary is within the study area.

Nature Reserves

Other nature conservation designations are *Statutory Nature Reserves*, which are protected under Ministerial order.

Nature Reserves within the study area include the following:

- Tralee Bay – The site is of international importance for waterfowl especially the wintering populations of Brent geese. Pale-bellied Brent Geese spend from October to April in Ireland feeding on the Eelgrass and green seaweeds on the mudflats, and grazing in nearby fields and saltmarshes when this food is scarce. Birds of the bay include Turnstone, Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Redshank, Bar-tailed Godwit, Golden Plover and Curlew.
- Derrymore Island – The site includes a compound spit composed of a series of pebble beaches, one of the best spits in Ireland. It supports many rare plant communities mainly of a salt marsh type. Wigeon and Brent Geese graze the salt marsh on the eastern side of the spit. The white top of the spit is an important high tide roosting area.

Margaritifera Sensitive Area

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

Refer to **Figure 5.4**.

5.3.1.9 Biodiversity Issues

Ireland is currently experiencing a decline in floral and faunal populations. Implementation of measures to achieve the requirements of the Habitats Directive and the objectives of the WFD are likely to benefit protected sites in the future.

Certain developments and activities associated with urban developments, tourism and recreation that are located within, or close to, ecologically sensitive sites can give rise to significant environmental pressures. Within the study area, the protection of waterways, wetlands, coastal waters and the avoidance of the spread of invasive species are major issues.

¹⁷ NPWS (2021).

Existing biodiversity issues / pressures and threats on Ireland's habitats and species, which are also relevant to the study area, include:

- Direct habitat loss within European Sites e.g. developments occurring on undeveloped sites, recreational activity works.
- Indirect effects on the ecological networks supporting European Sites e.g. linear developments forming barriers to movements of mobile species or loss of sites that support an overall population of species.
- Construction and use of commercial and recreational infrastructure and areas. For example development within watercourses.
- Indirect threat to water quality including changes to surface and groundwater quality and volumes.
- Direct / indirect disturbance of sensitive habitats / species e.g. recreation at harbour or coastal sites, riverside walkways, pressure from increased visitor numbers etc.
- Direct / indirect threats to European Sites by invasive species.
- Direct / indirect threats to native flora and fauna from pathogens / diseases.
- Invasive Species and problematic species - continued control and management of invasive species. For example the loss of biodiversity as native species are shaded out, but also diseases and pathogens.

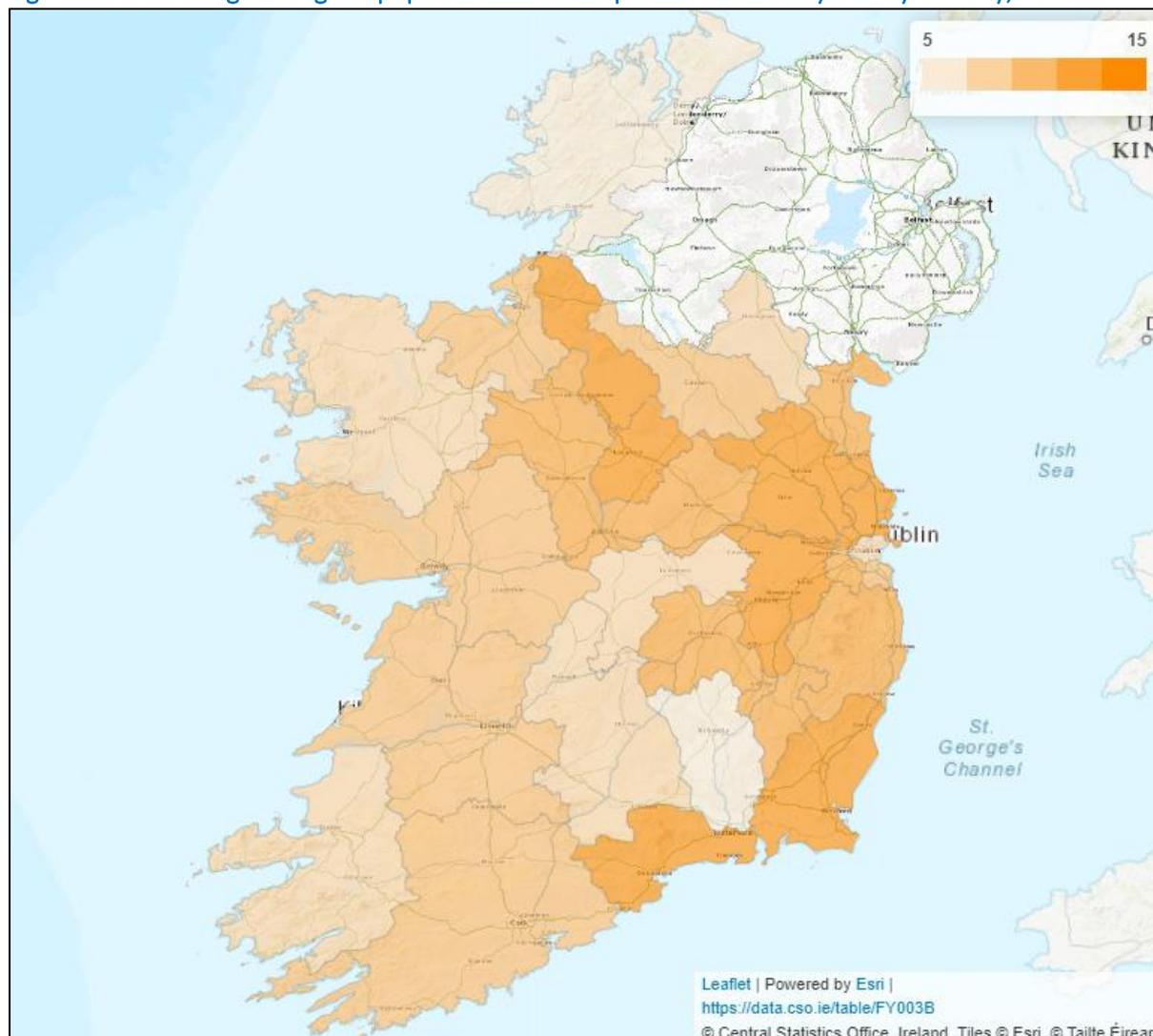
5.3.2 Population and Human Health

5.3.2.1 Population

The study area includes North Kerry and West Clare. These counties are surrounded by County Cork to the south and south-east, Limerick to east and County Galway and County Tipperary to the east and north-east and Southwestern Atlantic Seaboard to the west. The *National Planning Framework (NPF)* outlines that by 2040 there will be roughly an extra one million people living in Ireland.

The 2022 Census results showed that the percentage in population change for County Kerry was 5.9%, and for County Clare was 7.7%. There has been an increase in the population of the Counties from 2016 to 2022. Refer to **Figure 5.5** below for the overall population change for the Counties between 2016 to 2022.

Figure 5.5 Percentage change of population since the previous census by county and city, 2022¹⁸



5.3.2.2 Socio-Economic Trends

Tourism

The tourism industry has long been recognised as an important economic driver for the economy of the State. Tourism is particularly important in that it can assist in providing business and employment opportunities across regions and leads to jobs across the spectrum of skills requirements. The quality and diversity of tourism in the study area is particularly strong in relation to its rich heritage, quality rural landscape and many towns and villages, meaning the study area has a lot to offer as a tourist destination. The development plan for Kerry and Clare promotes the development and strengthening of the overall value of tourism in this region as previously stated. The counties have an objective to enhance the potential for economic development in the tourism sector.

5.3.2.3 Human Health

Human health has the potential to be impacted upon by environmental vectors (*i.e.* environmental components such as air, water or soil through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings).

¹⁸ <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-cpsr/censusofpopulation2022-summaryresults/populationchanges/>

Hazards or nuisances to human health can arise as a result of exposure to these vectors arising from incompatible adjacent land uses. The impact of development on human health is also influenced by the extent to which new development is accompanied by appropriate infrastructure and the maintenance of the quality of water, air and soil.

Infrastructure / Amenity and Human Health

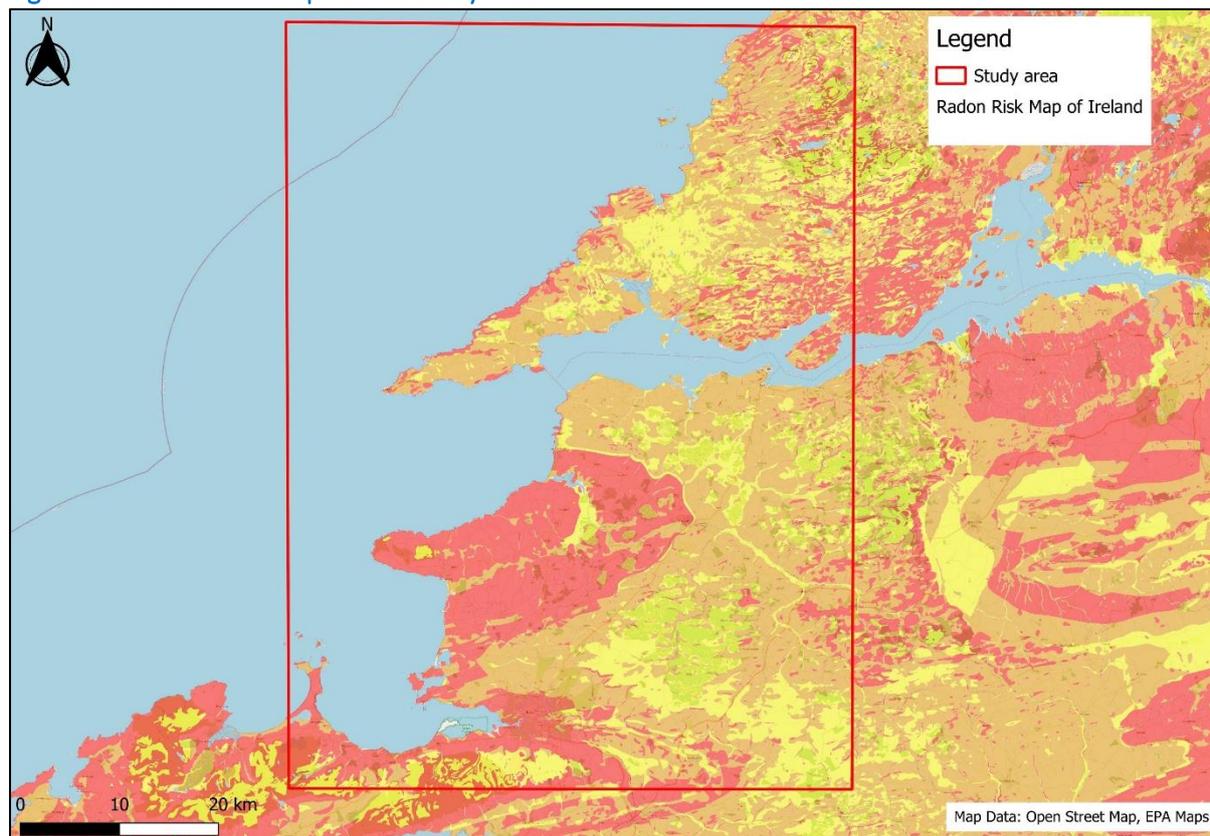
Sporting, leisure and recreational facilities are essential to promoting good health, social cohesion, a sense of community and enhancing quality of life and well-being. Nationally there has been, in recent years, an increased focus on fitness, sports and recreation generally.

There are a large number of built recreation and sporting facilities provided throughout the study area through a mix of public, private, schools, community facilities and voluntary organisations. Water sports cover a wide range of activities from tranquil uses such as angling, sailing, canoeing, rowing and sail boarding to powered activities such as jet skis, water-skiing and powerboat uses.

Radon and Human Health

Radon is a radioactive gas, which is naturally produced in the ground from the uranium present in small quantities in all rocks and soils. Tiny radioactive particles are produced by the gas which when inhaled can cause lung cancer. The risk of contracting lung cancer as a result of Radon depends on how much Radon a person has been exposed to over a period of time. Radon risk map levels in the Counties have been collated from the EPA *Radon Risk Map of Ireland* and are shown in **Figure 5.6** below. Areas in red are most at risk from radon and are called High Radon Areas, the areas of the map in orange and yellow are areas of medium and low risk respectively. However, a high radon level can be found in any home in any part of the country.

Figure 5.6 Radon Risk Map for the study area¹⁹



5.3.2.4 Existing Population and Human Health Issues

Existing population and human health issues / pressures on the population of study area, include:

- Health and Well-being - continue the development of recreation and leisure facilities.
- Support cycle and walking tourism initiatives, in tandem with the development of greenways and blueways in the study area.
- Radon - Radon risk map levels in the study area have been collated from the EPA Radon Risk Map of Ireland, refer to **Figure 5.6**.
- Flooding - Over the past number of years there have been significant instances where flooding has occurred in areas of the study area causing damage to homes and businesses. Refer to Section 5.3.4.
- Information on the status of drinking water, wastewater and climate change are provided in other sections of this Report.

5.3.3 Land, Soils & Geology

Soil is composed of mineral particles, organic matter, water, air and living organisms. Land degradation is a global problem, often caused by a combination of factors such as poor land management and unsustainable development. Land degradation may exacerbate the impacts of natural disasters.

5.3.3.1 Land

Forestry and Woodlands

¹⁹ EPA Radon Risk Map of Ireland- <https://gis.epa.ie/geonetwork/srv/eng/catalog.search#/metadata/3b2e9226-c40a-44c9-b4f0-7234c0810769>

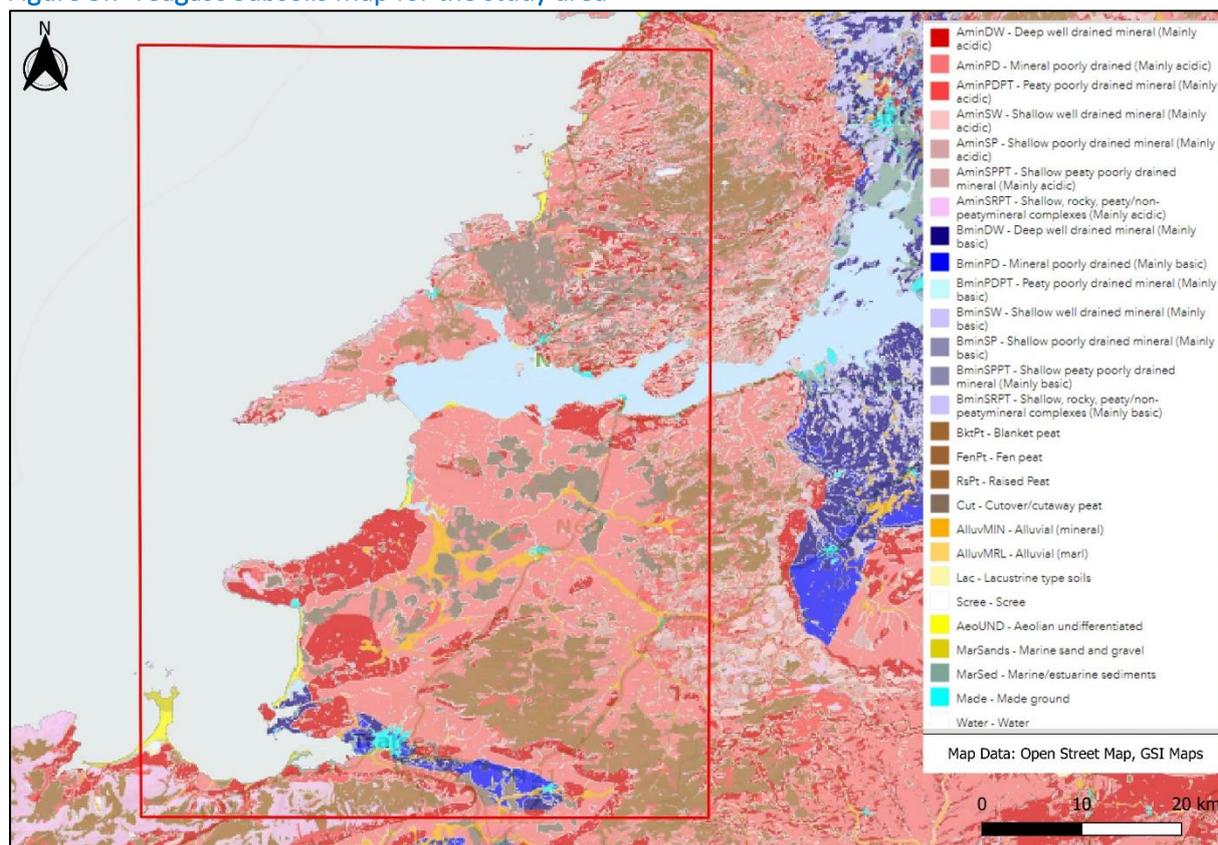
Woodlands provide recreational opportunities in addition to their heritage and economic benefits. They are also important as links in the county’s green infrastructure network. Coillte²⁰ have provided access to many of their forests and support the use of the forests for recreational uses and provide access to the following forests in the study area – Glanteenassig, Lyreacrompane and Ballygamboon.

5.3.3.2 Soils

Soil is a non-renewable resource that performs many vital functions: food, storage, filtration and transformation of many substances including water, carbon, and nitrogen. Soil has a role as a habitat and gene pool, serves as a platform for human activities, landscape and heritage and acts as a provider of raw materials. The *Irish Soil Information System (SIS)* concludes a 5 year programme, supported by the EPA and Teagasc, to develop a 1:250,000 scale national soil map. The Irish Soil Information System adopted a unique methodology combining digital soil mapping techniques with traditional soil survey application.

Fertile soils also provide the basis for a thriving agricultural and food sector. The study area comprises a mix of soil types, see **Figure 5.7** below. These soils can be impacted upon by development, land use changes and water quality.

Figure 5.7 Teagasc Subsoils Map for the study area²¹



Seveso Sites

The *Seveso III Directive* (European Directive 2012/18/EU) and the *European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations, 2000* (S.I. No. 476 of 2000) apply

²⁰ <https://www.coillte.ie/our-forests/recreation-map/>

²¹ EPA Maps - <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

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to companies where dangerous substances are present in quantities equal to or above specified thresholds. There are two thresholds, a lower one of 50 tonnes ('lower tier sites') and a higher one of 200 tonnes ('upper tier sites'). Lower tier sites are required to have a *Major Accidents Prevention Policy* and a *Safe Work Systems Plan*. Upper tier sites are required to carry out, in conjunction with the local competent authority (which includes the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Local Authority and An Garda Síochána) a *Major Accidents External Emergency Plan*.

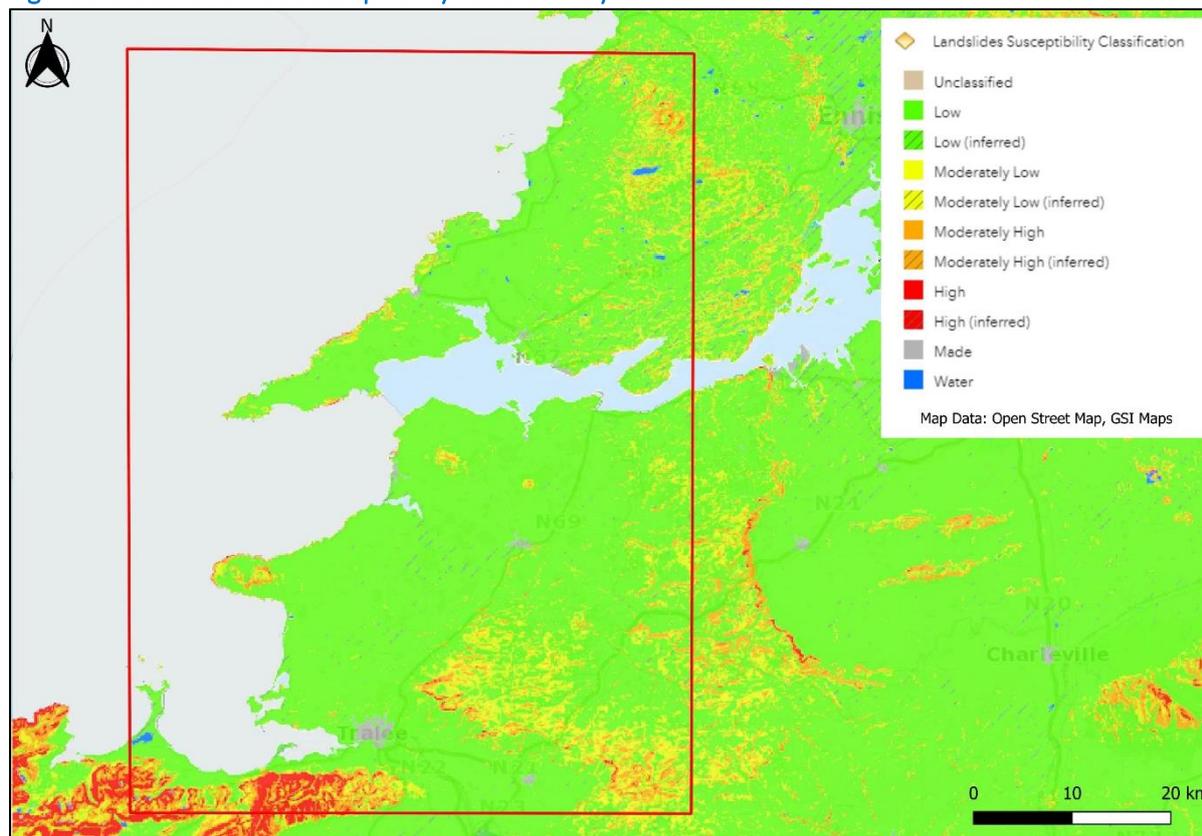
Emergency Plans must take full account of objectives established for nearby waters in river basin plans. The legislation deals with the prevention of major accidents. At present the Upper Tier Seveso (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) (Revocation) Regulations 2015 (S.I. No. 208 of 2015) sites in the study area include – The National Oil Reserves Agency Ltd. , Mainland Tankfarm, Tarbert Demesne, Tarbert, Co. Kerry and ESB Moneypoint, Carrowdotia, Killimer, Kilrush, Co.Clare. The Lower Tier Seveso Sites in the study area include- West Cork Distillers Limited, Bioatlantis, Clash Industrial Estate, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

The Councils will consult with the Health & Safety Authority when assessing proposals for development of, in or near sites which are identified under the COMAH (Seveso II) Directive.

Landslides

The study area has a low landslide risk as much of the county is low-lying ground. According to Geological Survey, Ireland landslide susceptibility mapping, the vast majority of the county has been rated as having 'low' landslide susceptibility, with the risk rising to 'moderately low' to 'moderately high' in isolated patches throughout the study area, especially towards the south-west of the study area. Refer to **Figure 5.8**. There are also several recorded landslide events in the south-west of the study area.

Figure 5.8 GSI Landslide Susceptibility for the study area²²



5.3.3.3 Geology

Geological Heritage

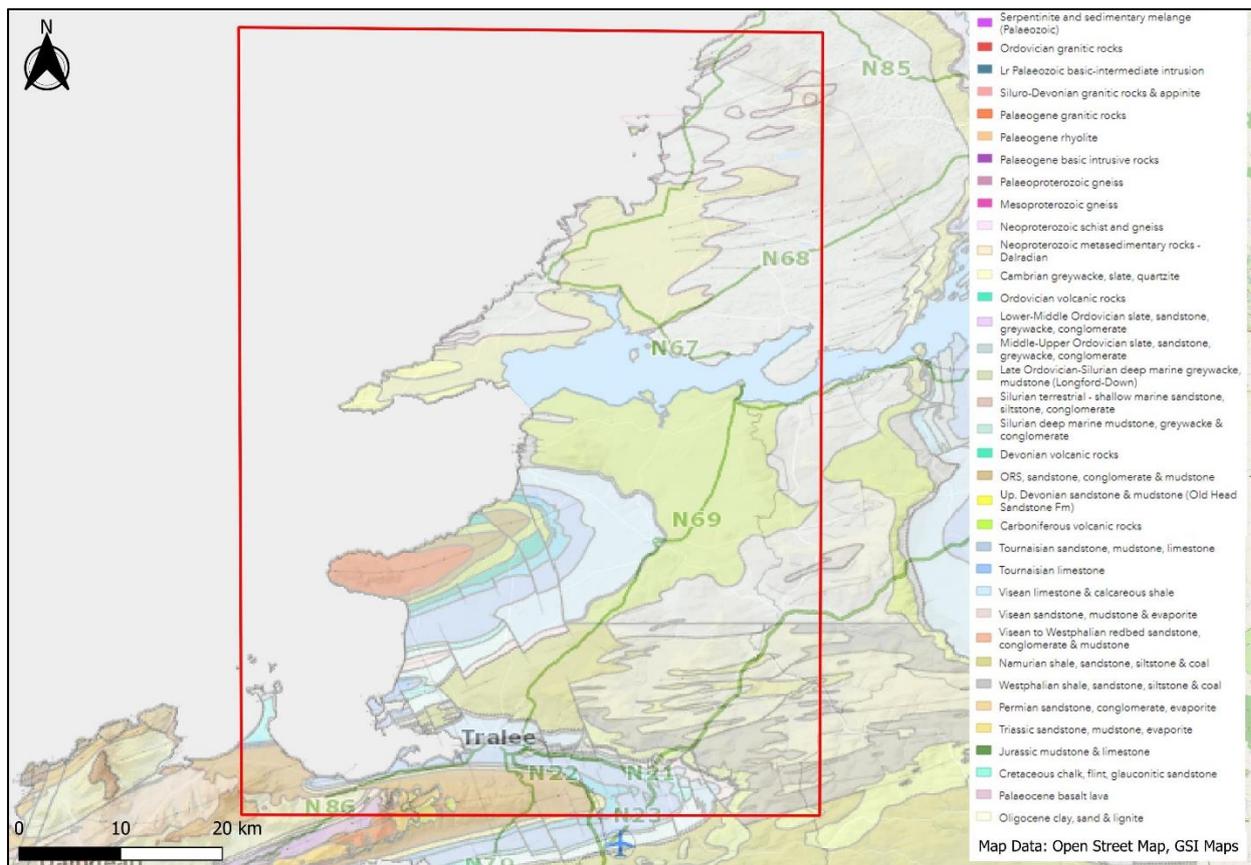
The *Geological Survey of Ireland* (GSI) provides information available on bedrock, subsoil, aquifer classifications and vulnerability. GSI has assessed the geological heritage of the study area and identified sites of geological and geomorphological importance. The bedrock foundation, with hundreds of millions of years in the formation and shaping, and the more recent history of geomorphological processes involving river channels and glaciers are what have created the underlying geological diversity, or geodiversity. The study area has a range of such natural and man-made sites.

The study area is underlain by several different rock formations²³ as shown in **Figure 5.9** below.

²² GSI Spatial Resources - <https://dcnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aaac3c228>

²³ GSI Bedrock Geology - <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/publications/Pages/Bedrock-Geology-of-Ireland-Map-Scale-1-to-1-Million.aspx>

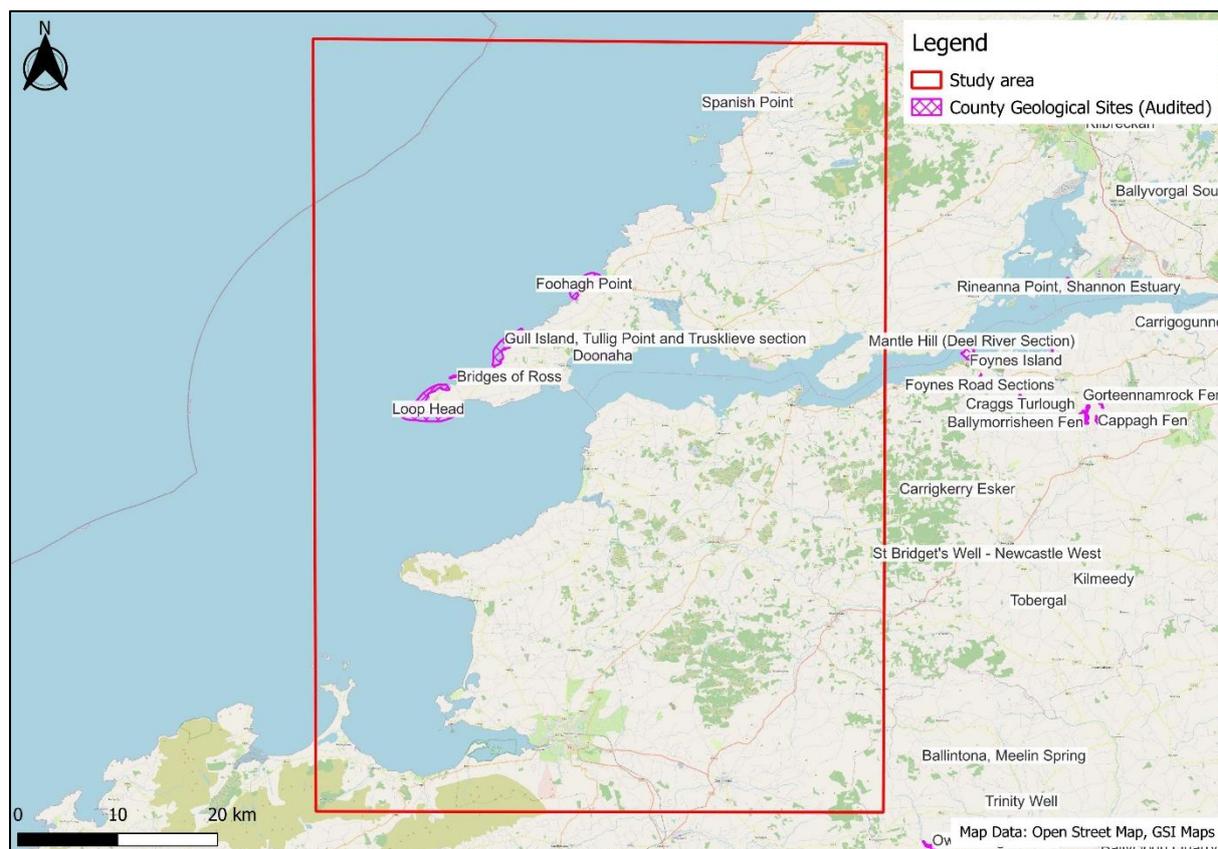
Figure 5.9 GSI Bedrock Geology (1 Million) for the study area²⁴



The identified geological sites within the study area which are important Irish Geological Heritage (IGH) sites are shown below in **Figure 5.10**. Geological Sites do not receive statutory protection like Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) but receive an effective protection from their inclusion in the planning system.

²⁴ GSI Spatial Resources - <https://dcnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aaac3c228>

Figure 5.10 Geological Heritage Sites in the study area²⁵



5.3.3.4 Existing Land, Soils, Geology & Hydrogeology Issues

Existing land, soil and geology issues / pressures with environmental considerations include:

- Soil - the loss / damage of soil from the construction of greenfield sites for development.
- Land Management - conversion of land / sites can release CO₂ into the atmosphere and further reduce areas of 'carbon sinks'.
- Land- management of woodlands for recreational purposes.
- Geological Heritage - the protection of sites of geological importance within the study area, see Figure 5.10.

5.3.4 Water Quality

Water is fundamental to all life; for humans, plants and animals alike. It is also critical in economic terms in generating and sustaining wealth in a number of key areas such as agriculture, fishing, power generation, industry, transport and tourism. However, it is also a fragile resource requiring continued protection. In general terms Ireland's waters are of good quality, however, preserving the high standard of water is essential for human health and the natural environment.

For the purposes of this section, the water environment is taken to include natural features such as lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater waterbodies. In addition flooding is also dealt within this section. The study area has a rich and extensive aquatic environment consisting of rivers, streams, harbour and ground waters.

²⁵ GSI – The Geological Heritage of the study area -

<https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aac3c228>

Wastewater treatment and drinking water are discussed under Material Assets in **Section 5.3.6** below.

5.3.4.1 Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The *EU Water Framework Directive* (WFD) (2000/60/EC) establishes a framework for the protection of both surface water and groundwater waterbodies. Since 2000, Water Management in the EU has been directed by the WFD 2000/60/EC, which was transposed into Irish law under the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003). This legislation requires governments to take a holistic approach to managing all their water resources based on natural geographic boundaries, *i.e.* the river catchment or basin. The WFD establishes a common framework for the sustainable and integrated management of all waters covering groundwater, inland surface waters, transitional waters and coastal waters. The WFD requires Member States to manage all of their waters and ensure that they achieve at least '*good status*' by 2015 and beyond. The ultimate deadline for Member States for achievement of '*good*' status is 2027 at the latest.

5.3.4.2 Surface Waterbodies

For the purpose of implementing the WFD, Ireland was divided into eight River Basin Districts (RBDs) or areas of land that are drained by a large river or number of rivers and the adjacent estuarine / coastal areas. The first cycle of the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) ran from 2009-2015, where the eight RBDs devised separate plans with the objective of achieving at least '*good*' status for all waters by 2015.

The second cycle of the RBMP 2018-2021 merged all eight RBDs to form one national RBD. The RBMP sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve '*good*' ecological status in waterbodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027. The third cycle of the RBMP 2022-2027 is currently being prepared by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in line with the *EU Water Framework Directive* (WFD) (2000/60/EC).

Water quality data is also collected by the EPA to provide an overall status of water quality. The monitoring programme, as part of the WFD, assesses water quality but also water trends of rivers in relation to ecological and physio-chemical quality. The WFD status of rivers ranges from '*high*' to '*bad*'. The EPA also undertakes water quality surveys for transitional and coastal waterbodies.

Water quality in Ireland has deteriorated over the past two decades. Overall, the water quality is declining and the number of water bodies in satisfactory condition (high or good status) across rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwaters has decreased under the last WFD monitoring cycle 2016-2021 as compared to the previous assessment which covered the period 2013-2018.

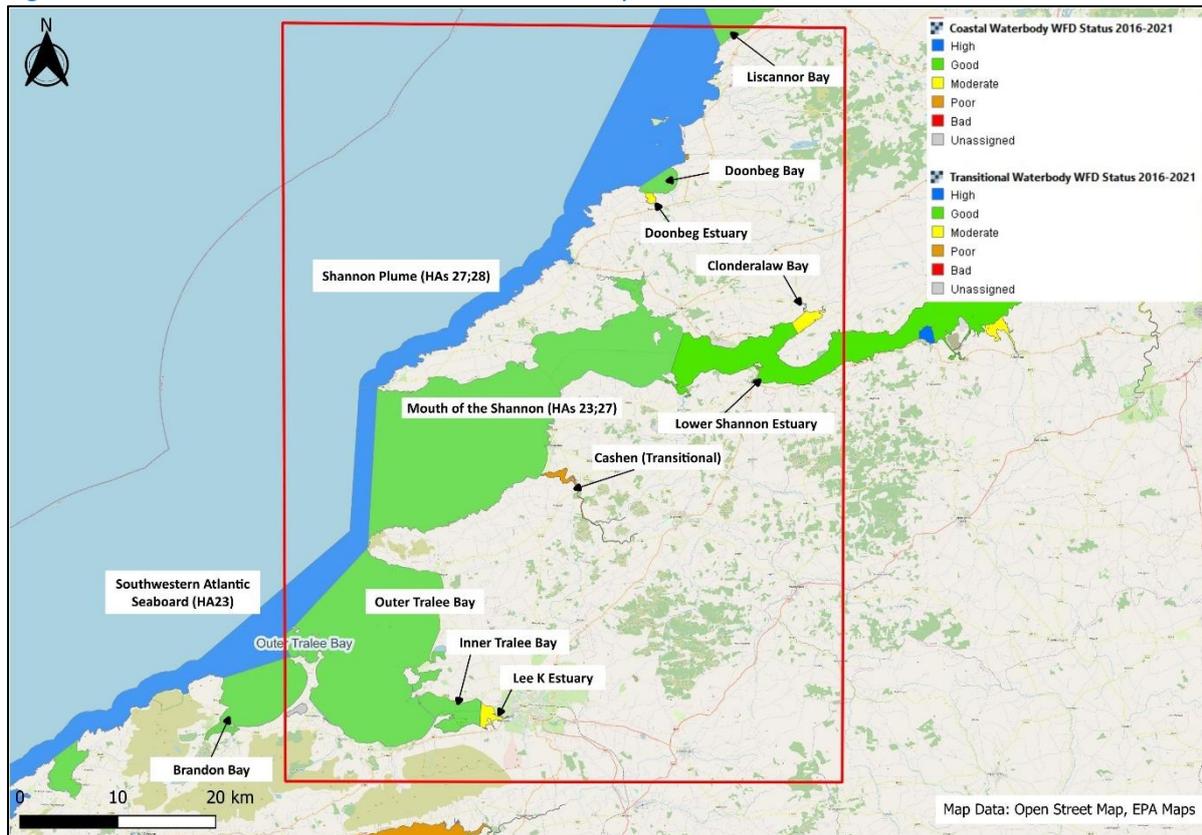
The study area covers the following WFD catchments – Mal Bay (28), Shannon Estuary North (27), Shannon Estuary South (24), Tralee Bay-Feale (23), Blackwater (Munster) (18), Laune-Maine-Dingle Bay (22).

5.3.4.3 Surface Water Quality

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

The status of the **river waterbodies** in the study area range from '*bad*' to '*high*', however the majority of the major river waterbodies range from '*poor*' to '*good*'.

Figure 5.12 WFD Transitional and Coastal Waterbody Status 2016-2021²⁷



5.3.4.4 Groundwater and Aquifer Vulnerability

The *EU Groundwater Directive* (2006/118/EC) uses a holistic approach to groundwater by addressing the relationships between groundwater, surface water and ecological receptors.

Groundwater Quality Status between 2016 and 2021 was generally ‘good’²⁸ across the groundwater bodies within the study area as shown in **Figure 5.13** below.

The groundwater vulnerability within the study area ranges from ‘low’ to ‘extreme’. The groundwater vulnerability within the study area is shown in **Figure 5.14** below.

²⁷ EPA Water Quality Data - <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

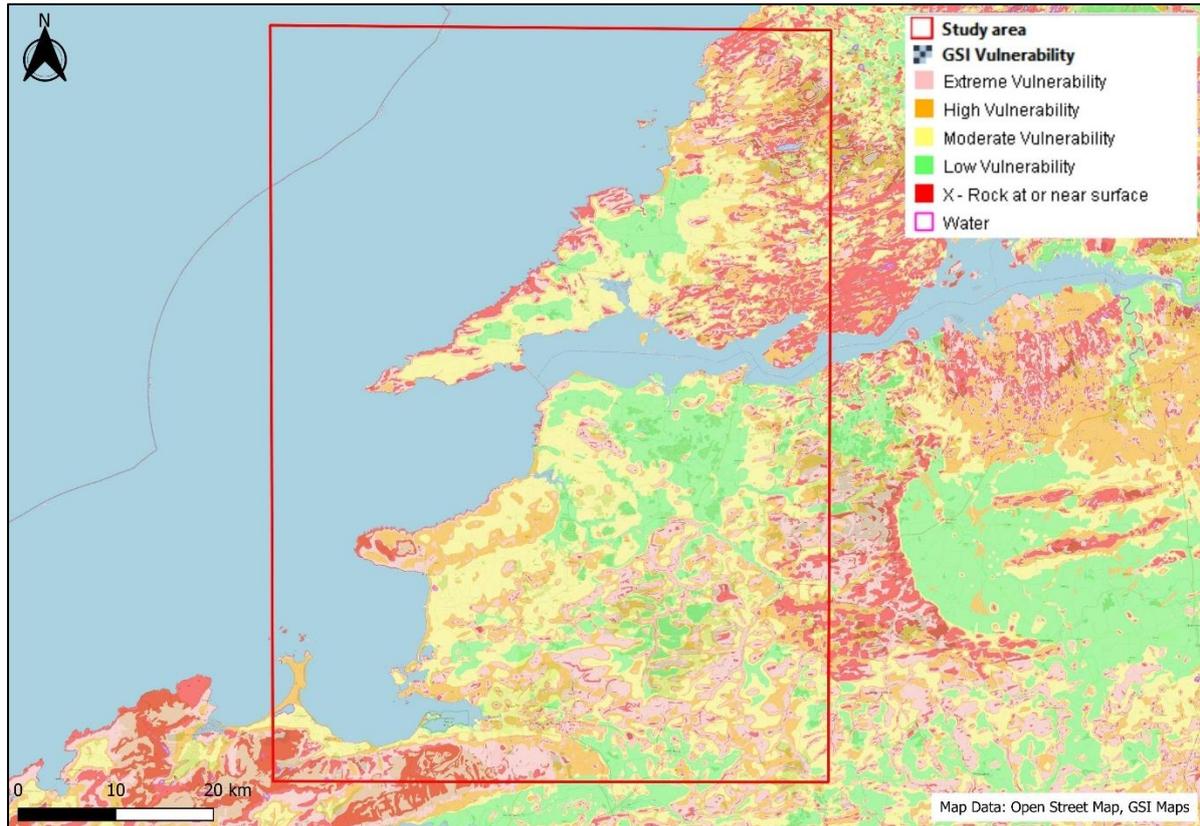
²⁸ EPA Groundwater Quality Data - <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

Figure 5.13 WFD Groundwater Waterbody Status 2016-2021²⁹



²⁹ <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

Figure 5.14 Groundwater Vulnerability in the study area³⁰



The GSI rates aquifers according to both their productivity and vulnerability to pollution. Aquifer vulnerability is the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter underground water. The study area is underlain with both regionally important and locally important bedrock aquifer and locally important gravel aquifer. Refer to **Figure 5.15**.

³⁰ GSI Spatial Resources- <https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aaac3c228>

Figure 5.15 Bedrock and Gravel Aquifer within the study area³¹



5.3.4.5 Flooding and Flood Risk

The underlying causes of flooding, heavy rain and high sea levels are, essentially uncontrollable. Floods are usually caused by a combination of events including overflowing river banks, heavy rains, coastal storms or blocked or overloaded drainage systems and an increase in development and impermeable surfacing.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the lead State body for flood risk management. As part of the Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Kerry County Development Plan 2023-2027, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been prepared.

In addition to this there is modelled Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and Flood Risk and Hazard mapping available from the OPW including through the National Catchment Flood Risk Management Programme. These mapping sources identify flood risk from various sources, including fluvial, pluvial, coastal and groundwater.

Any proposal that is considered acceptable in principle shall demonstrate the use of the sequential approach in terms of the site layout and design and, in satisfying the Justification Test (where required), the proposal will demonstrate that appropriate mitigation and management measures are put in place.

5.3.4.6 Existing Hydrogeology and Water Quality Issues

The principal threat to water is pollution which can adversely impact on all parts of the water cycle from groundwater to rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters. The Plan must comply with the requirements of the WFD and the Groundwater Directive and aim to drive improvement to water quality in both the

³¹ GSI Spatial Resources- <https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aac3c228>

short and long-term. Existing water quality issues / pressures with environmental considerations include:

- Water - the surface waterbodies within the study area need to be improved to achieve 'good' ecological status in waterbodies by 2027.
- Water - pressure on water sources include excessive nutrient enrichment which leads to eutrophication.
- Water - pressure on water sources also comes from land-use changes, water-based recreational sports, erosion, industry and urbanisation.
- Sustainable management of waterways and water-based recreation activities to ensure a balance between tourism development and conservation of natural resources and heritage areas.
- Water - water contamination arising through poor working practices, leakages or accidental spillage of materials if efficient pollution control measures are not fully implemented and maintained.
- Surface, ground, transitional & coastal waters - are at risk of pollution from septic tanks and wastewater treatment systems in the vicinity of waterbodies, potential pressures and impacts on water body status, water usage and flood risk from the construction projects i.e. increased sedimentation, groundwater recharge and accidental spillages. There is growing pressures from increasing population and increasing and sometimes conflicting social, economic and recreational uses.
- Flooding - flood risk to be considered as a key environmental criteria.

5.3.5 Air Quality, Noise & Climate

5.3.5.1 Air Quality

Air quality legislation³² in Ireland highlights the need 'to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole'. In addition, it requires that Local Authorities where appropriate 'shall preserve through appropriate measures the best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development'.

EU legislation on air quality requires that Member States divide their territory into zones for the assessment and management of air quality. The EPA manages the national ambient air quality monitoring network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants. The current trends in air quality in Ireland are reported in the EPA publication '2022 Annual Report on Air Quality in Ireland' which is currently the most up to date analysis of air quality data for Ireland. Four national air quality zones have been designated in Ireland, these are:

- Zone A is the Dublin conurbation;
- Zone B is the Cork conurbation;
- Zone C comprises of 23 large towns in Ireland with a population of >15,000; and
- Zone D is the remaining area of Ireland.

The study area is located within Zone C and Zone D, where Tralee is within Zone C while the remainder of the study area is located in Zone D. The designated zones have been defined to meet the criteria for air quality monitoring, assessment and management as defined in the aforementioned regulations. The air quality monitoring sites within the study area are located in Abbeyfeale (LK7) and Tralee (KY3).

³² S.I. No. 739/2022 – Ambient Air Quality Standards Regulations 2022 - <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2022/si/739/made/en/print>

The air quality index for health (AQIH) regions are calculated on an hourly basis at various locations around Ireland. The AQIH is based on measurements of air pollutants which can harm health. The five pollutants are:

- Ozone gas;
- Nitrogen dioxide gas;
- Sulphur dioxide gas;
- PM_{2.5} particles; and
- PM₁₀ particles.

Air Quality Map show whether air quality is 'good', 'fair', 'poor' or 'very poor' in each region. The current air quality across the study area is 'good'. Monitoring is done using continuous monitors for ozone and nitrogen oxides in various locations around Ireland. The pollutants of most concern are those whose main source is traffic such as Particulate Matter (PM) and Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). There is need to protect and improve (as appropriate), air quality in the study area, particularly in areas zoned for increased urban and transport related development.

5.3.5.2 Noise

The objectives of EU and Irish noise legislation is 'to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole', and this includes noise nuisance. The Noise Directive - Environmental Noise Directive (END) 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing community policy on noise reduction from source. The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:

- 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; and
- draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.

The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities. In accordance with *Environmental Noise Regulations (S.I. No. 140 of 2006)*, a *Noise Action Plan 2018* was prepared by Clare County Council and also a *Noise Action Plan 2019* was prepared by Kerry County Council. For these counties the major noise source for the purpose of this plan is road traffic noise.

The strategic noise maps are generated using noise modelling, which are the product of assimilating a collection of digital datasets. Strategic noise maps are available on the EPA website for Round 4 (2022), representing the annual average situation during 2021. The strategic noise maps include noise exposure levels for major roads, major rail, major airports and major cities and are available at EPA website³³.

During the implementation of the CCDEDP, consideration should be given to protect, where relevant, any designated quiet areas in open country.

5.3.5.3 Climate

Climate Change is a phenomenon that has widespread economic, health and safety, food production, security, and other dimensions. Climate change refers to a long term, large scale change in global or

³³ EPA Noise Maps - <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

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regional climate patterns. In recent years, global temperatures have been rising. Urgent action is needed to address climate change and to move Ireland towards a low carbon, climate resilient economy and society.

The ever increasing rate of carbon dioxide combustion, and the emission of other greenhouse gases (GHG) such as methane and nitrous oxide since the industrial revolution, has resulted in the 'greenhouse affect'. Most greenhouse gases emissions are related to the energy generation, transport, agriculture, and industry sectors.

In Ireland, the expected effects of Climate Change are increased frequency of extreme weather events within the next century. This will include a 20%-30% increase in precipitation, greater rainfall intensity coupled with flash floods and an average annual temperature increase of ~2°C. The potential impacts of Climate Change could have serious consequences for both people and infrastructure along Ireland's coastal areas as well as its rivers³⁴.

The recent *Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021* was established to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change. This aims at pursuing the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich and climate neutral economy by no later than the end of the year 2050. Ireland's *Climate Action Plan 2023* sets out Ireland's national and sectoral targets in this regard. The Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan *provides a strong focus on amenity and recreation use, and the potential for sustainable slow tourism and strategic trails development, unlocking the regenerative and commercial potential within the region*³⁵.

The IPCC Working Group II Report, published in February 2022, assesses the impacts of climate change, looking at ecosystems, biodiversity, and human communities at global and regional levels, and is more relevant to reviewing vulnerabilities, and the capacities and limits of the natural world and human societies to adapt to climate change. The report states that economic damage from climate change has been detected in climate-exposed sectors, with regional effects on agriculture, forestry, fishing, energy, and tourism³⁸.

The Action Plan supports the further development of sustainable tourism and sustainable destination management and provides for various measures that will contribute to climate mitigation, such as those relating to sustainable mobility, carbon pricing, electricity, agriculture and the built environment.

Future changes in climate and associated impacts on sea level, rainfall patterns/intensity and river flow will influence flooding frequency and extent in the future. Local Authorities in compliance with the *Regional Planning Guidelines* are attempting to adopt sustainable flood risk strategies in areas likely to be at risk of flooding in the future in the context of climate change and changing weather patterns. Changes to climate could lead to an increase in flooding events in Ireland. The OPW has undertaken a number of *Flood Risk Management Studies* for different River Basin Districts (RBDs) in Ireland. These studies have identified the areas which are most at risk and future management plans have been advised; these are adopted by the OPW. In some cases, mitigation measures will involve the construction of physical flood defences.

The *Climate Action Plan* identifies actions to decarbonise electricity generation, the built environment and transport and to move towards carbon neutrality for agriculture, forest and land use sectors.

³⁴ GOI (2019).

³⁵ Climate Action Plan 2023 – <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/270956/94a5673c-163c-476a-921f-7399cdf3c8f5.pdf#page=null>

5.3.5.4 Existing Issues

In urban areas, concern has clearly shifted to a range of pollutants associated with road traffic which may be considered relatively new in the context of air quality control. The most important of these pollutants are NO₂, particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀), carbon monoxide (CO) and a wide variety of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), including carcinogens such as benzene. Therefore, it is important that a good quality road infrastructure is provided and alternatives to the private car are encouraged as much as possible.

Tourists contribute to greenhouse gas emissions across the same sources/sectors as local and national populations, e.g. transport, heating and electricity, agriculture/food production and waste generation.

The potential effects of climate change resulting in an increase in the frequency and severity of weather events, including flooding, storms, heavy snowfall, and variation in temperature. Severe rainfall events, or very cold events with or without snowfall could adversely impact upon towns and people in the study area leading to water shortages, residential flooding and disruption to infrastructure and to movement. Therefore, it will be important to improve resilience of existing and planned critical infrastructure, systems and procedures to the effects and variability of climate change.

5.3.6 Material Assets

Material assets are resources that are valued and intrinsic to a development and the surrounding area. Material assets may be of either natural or human origin and the value may arise for economic or cultural reasons. Material assets include water supply, wastewater treatment infrastructure, waste disposal including recycling, transport infrastructure, energy, telecommunications and utilities infrastructure. The sustainable growth of the County is dependent on the provision of services and infrastructure.

5.3.6.1 Water Services and Water Supply

There have been significant changes in responsibilities for water supply and wastewater treatment services. As of January 2014 Uisce Éireann (formerly known as Irish Water) replaced local authorities as a single provider of water supply and wastewater services. Uisce Éireann have prepared the Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP), '*A Plan for the Future of Water Services*' and it provides for the first time at national level an opportunity to consider the way water services are delivered in Ireland. The WSSP sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services up to 2040.

Uisce Éireann is responsible for providing and developing public water services; and ensuring drinking water quality meets the standards in the Drinking Water Regulations. The EPA is the drinking water quality regulator, responsible for enforcing the Drinking Water Regulations. Private bored wells used as a source of water supply to single dwellings are the responsibility of the householder, and are therefore not regulated and Uisce Éireann has no regulatory function in this regard.

The latest *Drinking Water Quality in Public Supplies 2022*³⁶ was published by the EPA in 2023. The report provides a summary of assessment of drinking water quality in public supplies and public group water schemes in Ireland during 2022.

Practical water conservation measures including active leakage detection, demand management and pressure management played and will continue to play a major role in reducing the demand for potable

³⁶ EPA Drinking Water Quality - <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/drinking-water/annual-drinking-water-reports/drinking-water-quality-in-public-supplies-2022.php>

water, thus facilitating additional development and improving the level of service to existing consumers in the study area through the existing watermain networks.

5.3.6.2 Wastewater Services

The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) (amended by Directive 98/15/EEC) aims to protect the environment from the adverse effects of wastewater discharges by ensuring that wastewater is appropriately treated before it is discharged to the environment. Such treatment is essential in order to meet the requirements of the WFD.

There are currently 21 public wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in the study area³⁷. Uisce Éireann and County Councils are continually progressing sewer rehabilitation activities, capital maintenance activities, etc, and the Councils will continue to work with Uisce Éireann to monitor the performance of the networks and to advance and realise capital expansions and upgrades of wastewater infrastructure for the continued sustainable growth of the Counties.

In un-serviced areas and outside the main settlements, the main method of sewage disposal is by means of individual septic tanks and proprietary wastewater treatment systems. The requirements for these systems are set out in the EPA *Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment Systems and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses*³⁸.

5.3.6.3 Waste Management

Waste management in Ireland is regulated by the Waste Management Acts 1996 (as amended), which require Local Authorities to prepare detailed plans for the management of waste. Under the Waste Management Acts, a Development Plan is deemed to include the objectives of the Waste Management Plan (WMP) for its area.

EU and National waste management policy can be summarised by the waste hierarchy of prevention, recycling, energy recovery and disposal. For the purposes of waste management planning, Ireland is now divided into three regions: Southern, Eastern-Midlands and Connacht-Ulster. The study area is located within the Southern Region. The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices have issued the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (NWMPCE) 2024 - 2030 in March 2024, which supersedes the Regional waste management plan. The NWMPCE does not however dissolve the three regional waste areas. The NWMPCE sets the ambition of the plan to have a 0% total waste growth per person over the life of the Plan with an emphasis on non-household wastes including waste from commercial activities and the construction and demolition sector.

The European Commission's Circular Economy Action Plan: A New Circular Economy Action Plan for a Cleaner More Competitive Europe, March 2020, forms one of the main blocks of the European Green Deal. A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy³⁹ was published in 2020 and outlines Ireland's National Waste Policy for 2020-2025.

The Council will continue to promote awareness of and promote an increase in the amount of waste that is re-used and recycled to reflect the objectives of the waste hierarchy.

5.3.6.4 Transport

The maintenance and delivery of an efficient, integrated and coherent transport network in line with national and regional policy is essential to the future economic, social and physical development of the

³⁷ UWW Plant Locations - <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

³⁸ EPA, 2010: <https://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/water/wastewater/code%20of%20practice%20for%20single%20houses/>

³⁹ DCCA (2020).

County. Land-use planning and transport planning are inextricably linked and their proper integration is a key determinant to sustainable development. The Council's transport policy relates to active travel, road transport (including public transport) and rail transport as well as freight, ports and airport.

'National Sustainable Mobility Policy Action Plan 2022-2025' is a national document which seeks to achieve a shift to more sustainable means of transport by setting actions and timeline for Modal Change. This policy sets out a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel and public transport to support Ireland's overall requirement to achieve a 51% reduction in carbon emissions.

The Policy aims to improve the delivery of sustainable mobility by –

- *Implementing the accompanying action plan to 2025 and a reviewed and updated action plan for 2026 to 2030.*
- *Establishing a Leadership Group to oversee and drive implementation of the Policy and delivery of the action plan, and agree a programme of "pathfinder" projects at local level.*
- *Introducing a new annual National Household Travel Survey to measure progress against the Policy's targets.*
- *Convening a new National Sustainable Mobility Forum to provide a platform for collaborative engagement with national, regional and local stakeholders.*
- *Increasing public engagement around the benefits of sustainable mobility and raising awareness of the availability of alternative options to the private car.*
- *Establishing a new National Transport Authority Advisory Council to engage with the NTA around the discharge of its functions.*
- *Developing a transport research network to support existing research programmes and draw on the sustainable mobility expertise available across academia and industry, both in Ireland and internationally.*

The area to which the Strategy relates is served by rail, bus, cycle network, regional and strategic roads. Public transport to Wild Atlantic Way from Dublin and Galway Cities is strong with regular train and bus services operating. Public transport to facilitate circulation within the region, however, is weaker with relatively poor linkages between towns and the principal visitor attractions. It is very difficult for a visitor to tour the region by public transport. Some Local Link services are currently expanding their routes during the summer months to provide access to key visitor attractions from some towns.

The improved provision of alternatives to the private car should bring about a reduction in demand for private car journeys and a commensurate increase in public transport, walking and cycling. Providing public transport and a network of safe, well-lit and convenient footpaths and cycleways within local neighbourhood centres, public transport stops and workplaces will encourage walking and cycling.

The development of public transport is critical in achieving more sustainable travel patterns and a reduced reliance on the car. Bus Éireann and a number of private operators operate services throughout the study area.

Air travel is essential for industrial, commercial and tourism development. The study area is served by the Kerry Airport.

It is Council policy to support cycle and walking tourism initiatives, in tandem with the development of greenways and blueways in the study area as detailed in the CDPs.

5.3.6.5 Telecommunications

High-speed broadband and telecommunications is core to competitiveness. The National Broadband Plan 2019⁴⁰ (NBP) sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland. Ireland has made significant progress in recent years in terms of broadband connectivity at all levels: international connectivity, backhaul networks, Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs) and local access networks. Since its publication, significant investment has been made in upgrading and modernising networks which support the provision of broadband and telecommunications services, with significant additional investment expected over the coming years. The *'Harnessing Digital – The Digital Ireland Framework'* (2022) is intended to assist Ireland in maximising the socio-economic benefits from the digitisation trend.

5.3.6.6 Utilities

Gas and electricity are the energy utilities which have traditionally supported homes and businesses across the Country.

ESB Networks and EirGrid are the utility providers responsible for the electricity distribution and transmission systems. EirGrid manages the higher capacity electricity network which supplies power to industry and businesses that use large amounts of energy and electricity, whilst the ESB manages and operates the distribution network supplying electricity to homes, businesses, schools and institutions.

Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) are the utility provider responsible for the supply, transmission and distribution of natural gas.

Public lighting is an important component of placemaking and is essential for the operation of the city. While the city is generally an illuminated area, excessive light pollution can arise when external lighting is not properly designed or managed. Insensitive lighting can cause light pollution. Light pollution can have a negative impact on biodiversity by affecting the normal diurnal patterns of plants and animals.

5.3.6.7 Existing Material Asset Issues

The increased tourism will result in increasing demand for water, wastewater treatment, waste management, transport infrastructure / links and energy and telecommunications services at the Country level.

Existing material assets issues / pressures within the study area, include:

- Water Supply and Wastewater Services - increased tourist numbers will generate pressure on existing water and wastewater sources to meet demands. Inadequate infrastructure, including inadequate capacity, contribute to the contamination of receiving surface water and groundwater waterbodies.
- Transport - the movement of people is key to the success of new development and areas, where adequate transport infrastructure (i.e. road, rail, cycle and pedestrian routes) to these developments and accessibility throughout the development / area (safe footpath and cycle paths) is fundamental to the development of tourism in the study area. Sustainable development of blueways and greenways is essential to promote recreation and tourism.
- Waste - increased tourist numbers will pose challenge in providing sustainable recycling infrastructure and will put pressure on the local authorities to provide better waste management and access to waste services.

⁴⁰ DCCAE, 2019: <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/documents/Delivering%20the%20National%20Broadband%20Plan.pdf>

- Light Pollution - can arise when external lighting is not properly designed or managed which can in turn lead to inappropriate or excessive light spillage.
- Utilities - provide, protect and maintain adequate utilities to support existing and envisaged development.

5.3.7 Cultural Heritage

The physical traces left in the landscape by previous generations in archaeological monuments and sites and in historic buildings, townscapes and vernacular structures forms part of the tangible cultural heritage linking the past and present. The study area has a rich and varied built and cultural heritage resource. Archaeological sites and many other buildings and structures such as houses, shops, churches, bridges and mills are features of the study area's built heritage.

The archaeological heritage of an area includes structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, moveable objects, monuments of other types as well as their context, whether situated on or under land or water.

The *National Monuments Acts 1930-2014* provide for the protection of archaeological heritage. The *Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)* was established under *Section 12* of the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994* and structures, features, objects or sites listed in this Record are known as Recorded Monuments.

An archaeological landscape is a natural landscape that has been deliberately modified by a group (or groups) of people during a particular archaeological period (or periods).

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

In 2019, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht published the *Built & Archaeological Heritage Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan* (Prepared under the National Adaptation Framework). The adaptation strategy and accompanying action plan presented in the document aim to:

- Build adaptive capacity within the sector
- Reduce the vulnerability of built and archaeological heritage to climate change
- Identify and capitalise on the various potential opportunities for the sector

A *Protected Structure*, unless otherwise stated in the RPS, includes:

- the interior of the structure;
- the land lying within its curtilage;
- any other structures within the curtilage, and their interiors; and
- all fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures.

Owners or occupiers of a protected structure may request the Council to issue a declaration as to the type of works, which may or may not be permitted in their structure. The record of protected structures within the study area are presented in **Figure 5.16 and Figure 5.17** below. There are now approximately 1,400 (City and County) buildings, structures and features listed in the RPS.

An architectural conservation area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscape, taking account of building lines and heights, that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic,

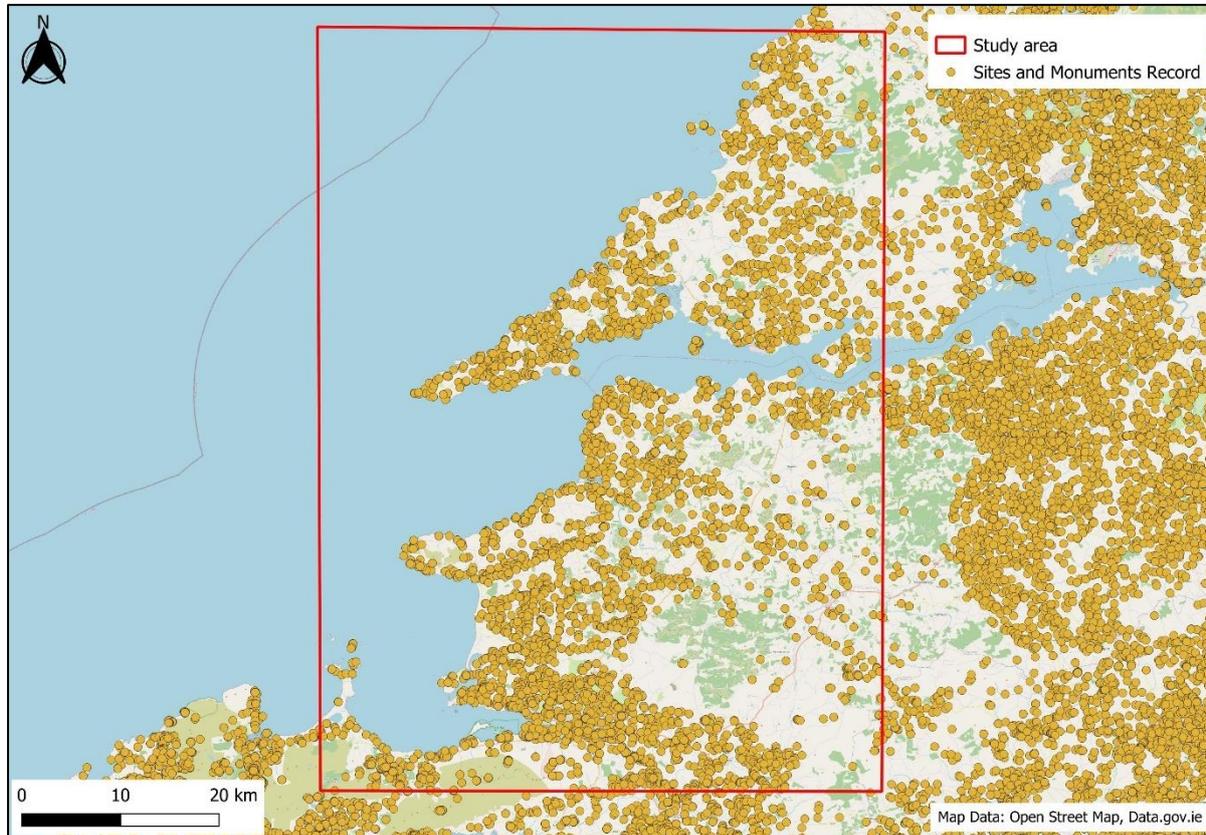
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cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or that contributes to the appreciation of a protected structure, and whose character it is an objective of the development plan to preserve.

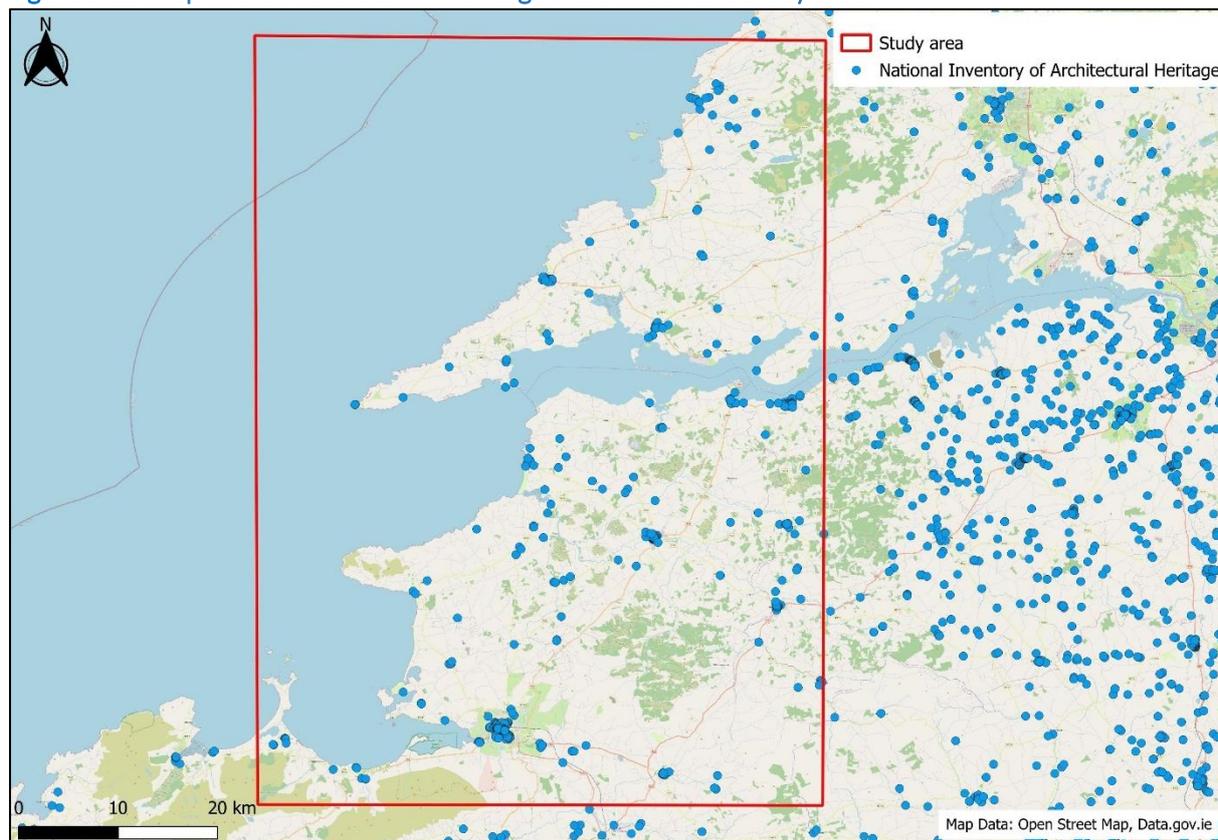
A positive approach to heritage management enhances quality of life and environmental sustainability and ensures that the cultural and natural heritage is a resource that helps the study area to compete as a cultural tourism destination.

Figure 5.16 Map of the Sites and Monuments Record within the study area⁴¹



⁴¹ National Monuments Service – Archaeological Survey of Ireland - <https://data.gov.ie/dataset/national-monuments-service-archaeological-survey-of-ireland>

Figure 5.17 Map of the Architectural Heritage Sites within the study area⁴²



5.3.7.1 Cultural Heritage Issues

Increased tourist activities have the potential for direct negative impacts on heritage features and their setting. Development of infrastructure, in addition to development resulting from economic growth and increasing population, can potentially impact on the integrity of sites or features of architectural, archaeological or cultural heritage interest. This could directly impact upon the cultural amenity resource and tourism potential of the study area.

Existing cultural heritage issues / pressures include:

- Development of infrastructure -increased visitor numbers can potentially impact on the integrity of sites or features and their views to / from architectural, archaeological or cultural heritage interest.
- Development in close proximity to sites and areas of cultural heritage may adversely impact upon the cultural landscape setting.
- Development has the potential to impact archaeological heritage which is sub-surface. This includes the insertion of services (e.g. cycleways), landscaping works, ground levelling and tree planting.
- Architecture - impact on heritage streetscapes of regional and local importance.
- Archaeology - impact on archaeological monuments and their settings including undiscovered sites / features.
- Risk - protection of built and archaeological heritage to identify the heritage assets at risk.

⁴² National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) National Dataset - <https://data.gov.ie/dataset/national-inventory-of-architectural-heritage-niah-national-dataset>

5.3.8 Landscape & Visual

Landscape is defined as an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and / or human factors (European Landscape Convention). Landscapes provide a sense of place and characterise the county for local residents and visitors alike both in terms of a place to live and also for recreational and tourism purposes.

A National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025⁴³ was published, in line with Ireland's obligations under the European Landscape Convention. The key objectives of this Strategy are the recognition of landscape in law and the provision of a policy framework to put measures in place for the management and protection of landscape, the production of a national Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) through data gathering and an evidence based description of character assessment, raising awareness and public consultation.

5.3.8.1 Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is a process that describes maps and classifies landscapes. Landscape character is defined as '*a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse*'. Defining landscape character enables an understanding to be formed of the inherent value and importance of individual landscape elements and the processes that may alter landscape character in the future. The cultural and ecological aspects of the landscape cannot be divorced from its physical and visual characteristics so all of these elements are considered.

Seascape Assessment is an extension of landscape character assessment and with 1,100km of coastline; seascape is a crucial element of the study areas' history, identity and culture. A number of changes have been occurring along coastlines including the need for coastal protection works, upgrading and proposals for new ports, marinas, proposals for aquaculture schemes and investigation of wind energy and other renewable energy projects offshore.

5.3.8.2 Landscape Character Types

Landscape Character Types (LCT) are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character and are generic in nature in that they may occur in different localities throughout the country. Nonetheless, where they do occur, they commonly share similar combinations of geology, topography, land cover and historical land use, *e.g.* Hills and Upland Areas.

Landscape Character Areas are units of the landscape that are geographically specific and have their own character and sense of place. Each has its own distinctive character, based upon patterns of geology, landform, landuse, cultural, historical and ecological features.

5.3.8.3 Landscape Character Values

Landscape values can be described as the environmental or cultural benefits (including services and functions) derived from various landscape attributes. The Landscape Character Assessment highlights the special landscape value of several of the Landscape Character Areas. Areas of High Landscape Value display an intrinsic landscape character and a special amenity value.

Within these High Value Landscapes considerable care will be needed to successfully locate large scale developments without them becoming unduly obtrusive. Therefore, the location, siting and design of large-scale developments within these areas will need careful consideration and any such developments should generally be supported by an assessment including a visual impact assessment

⁴³ National Landscape Strategy: <https://www.chg.gov.ie/app/uploads/2015/07/N-Landscape-Strategy-english-Web.pdf>

which would involve an evaluation of visibility and prominence of the proposed development in its immediate environs and in the wider landscape.

The landscape character areas and values are shown in **Figures 5.18, 5.19 and 5.21** below.

5.3.8.4 Landscape Character Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the Landscape Character Areas is defined as its overall resilience to sustain its character in the face of change and its ability to recover from loss or damage to its components. Sensitivity is evaluated using criteria ranging from 'Very High' to 'Low' and is based on the interaction of individual components such as landform, amount of evident historical features (time depth) and distribution of viewers. A highly sensitive landscape is likely to be vulnerable, fragile and susceptible to change whereas a landscape with low sensitivity is likely to be more robust and / or tolerant of change. Very high sensitivity landscapes are extra vulnerable landscapes (e.g. seascape area with national importance) which are likely to be fragile and susceptible to change.

5.3.8.5 Protected Views & Prospects

There is a need to protect and conserve views and prospects adjoining public roads and river valleys throughout the county where these views are of high amenity value. Landscape objectives of the current Development Plans aims to preserve the views and prospects and to protect views from development which would interfere unduly with the visual amenity and character of the landscape, so far as practically possible.

Many of these views are associated with heritage and tourism sites and provide vantage points over high quality landscapes. These scenic views are of an amenity and tourism value and contribute to our quality of life.

The protected views and prospects with the study area are shown below in **Figures 5.20 and 5.22**.

Figure 5.18 Landscape Character Areas within County Clare⁴⁴

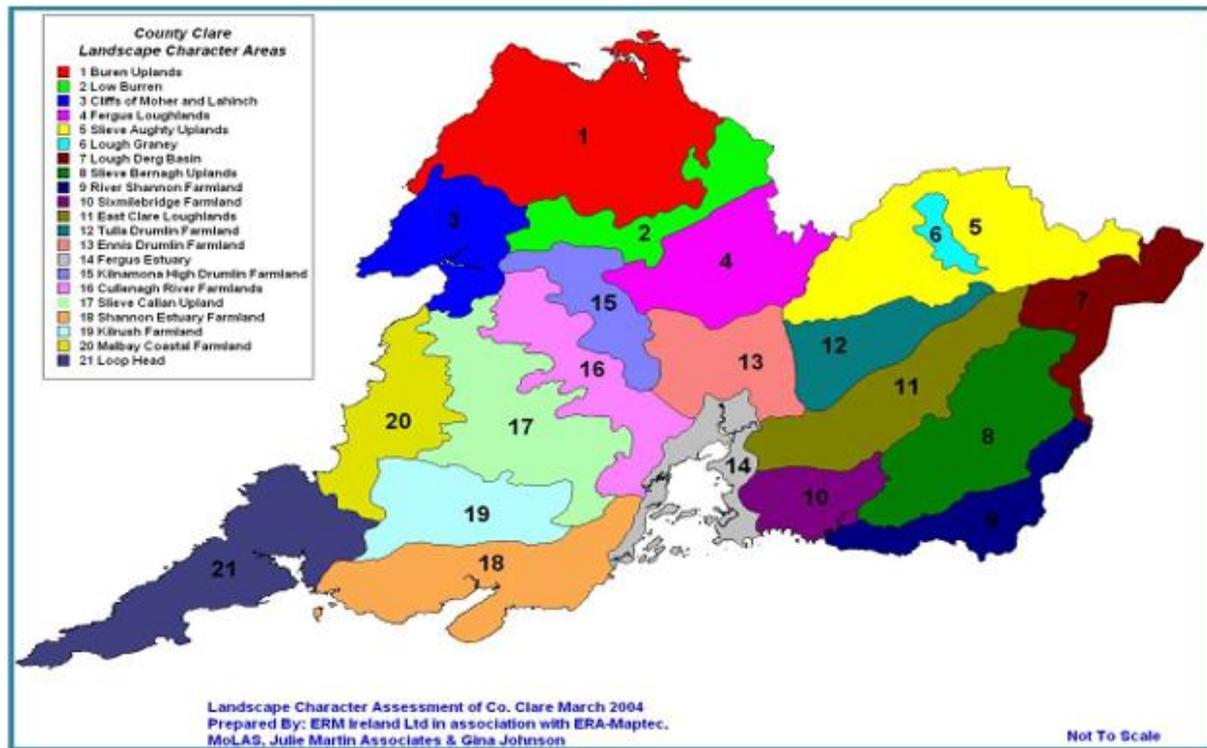
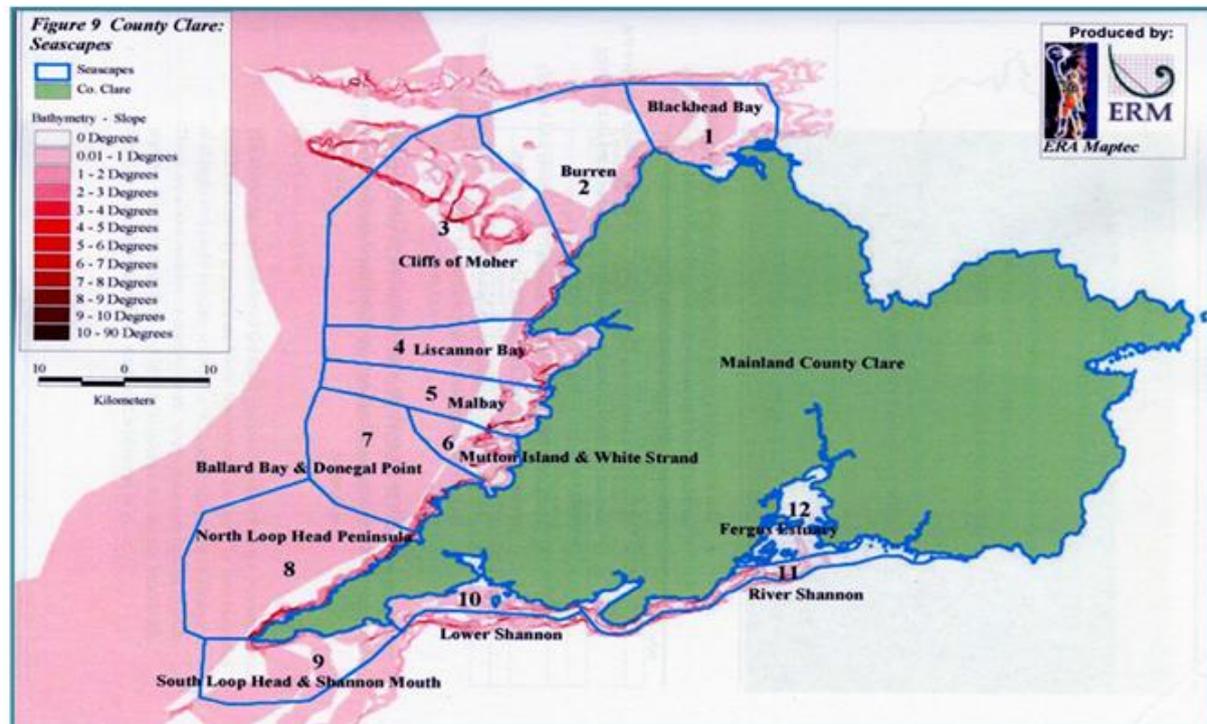


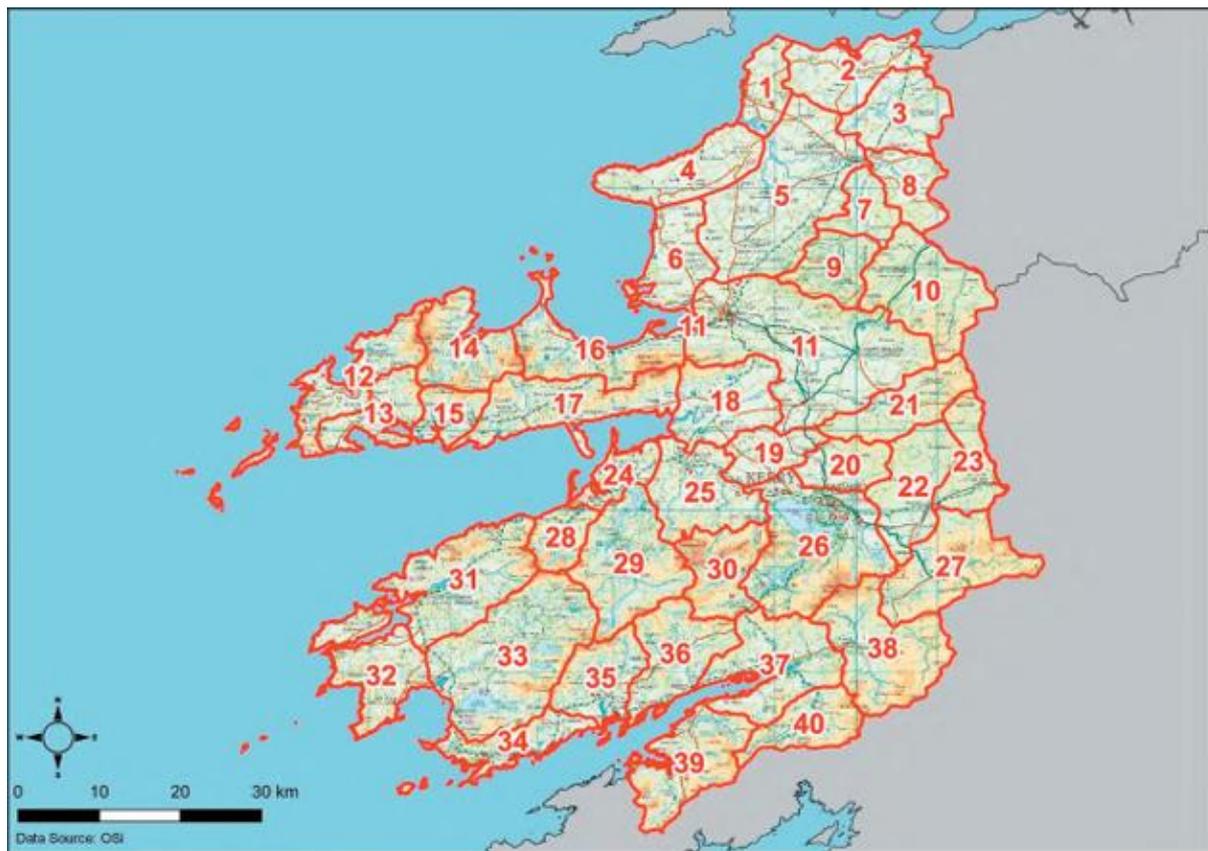
Figure 5.19 Seascape Character Areas within County Clare⁴⁵



⁴⁴ Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028 - <https://clarecdp2023-2029.clarecoco.ie/stage3-amendments/adoption/>

⁴⁵ Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028 - <https://clarecdp2023-2029.clarecoco.ie/stage3-amendments/adoption/>

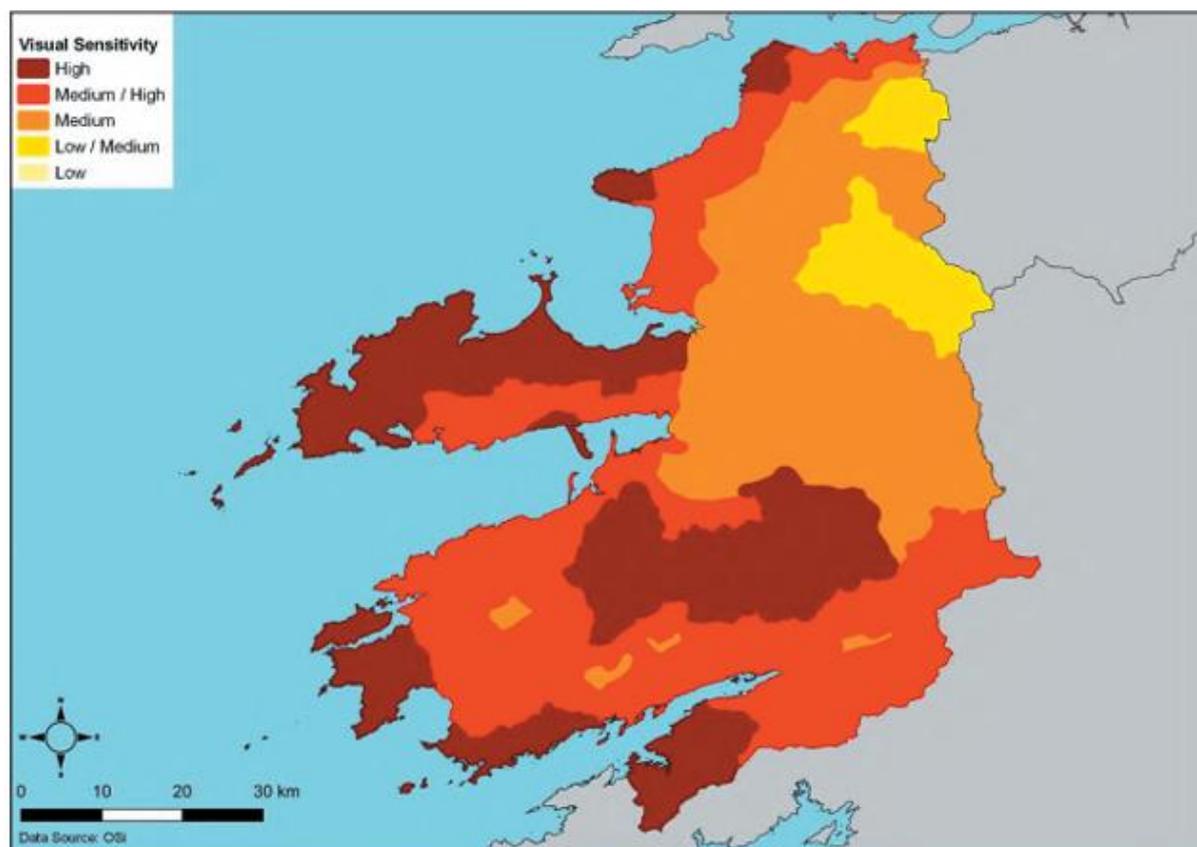
Figure 5.21 Landscape Character Areas within County Kerry⁴⁷



1. Beal Hill and Ballybunion
2. The Shannon Estuary
3. Bunharuddee Bog and Galey River
4. Kerry Head and Ballyduff
5. Listowel and The Cashen River
6. Banna and Ardfert
7. Smearlagh River Valley
8. River Feale Valley
9. Stack's and Glanaruddery Mountains
10. Mount Eagle and Owveg River Valley
11. Tralee and Castleisland
12. Blasket Islands, Smerwick Harbour and Mount Brandon
13. Ventry and Dingle Harbours
14. Brandon Bay
15. Garfinny and Owenalondrig River Valleys
16. Tralee Bay, The Maharees and Northern Slieve Mish Mountains
17. Annascaul, Inch and Southern Slieve Mish Mountains
18. Milltown and Castlemaine
19. Gweestin River Valley
20. Deenagh and Glanoragh River Valleys
21. The Brown Flesk River Valley
22. Quagmire and Ownyskeagh Rivers
23. River Blackwater and Rathmore
24. Rossbeigh and Cromane
25. Killorglin and Beaufort
26. Lough Leane and Killarney National Park
27. Clydagh River, The Paps and the Derrynasaggart Mountains
28. Coomasaharan Lake and Mountain Stage
29. Glencar, Caragh Lake and The Bridia Valley
30. MacGillycuddy Reeks and The Black Valley
31. Cahersiveen
32. Valentia Island and Saint Finan's Bay
33. Lough Currane and Mäistir Gaoithe
34. Derrynane and Castlecove
35. Sneem and Ardsheelhane River Valley
36. Blackwater and Ballaghbeama
37. Kenmare
38. Kilgarvan and Roughty River Valley
39. Healy Pass, Kilmakillog Harbour and Lough Inchiquin
40. Bonane and Sheen River Valley

⁴⁷ Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 - <https://www.kerrycoco.ie/kerry-county-development-plan-2022-2028/>

Figure 5.22 Visual sensitivity map for County Kerry⁴⁸



5.3.8.6 Existing Problems

Landscape can be considered a dynamic rather than static asset. It is constantly changing, and its changes are driven by nature itself, by direct human intervention, and indirectly through the consequences of human activity, notably Climate Change. All physical development undertaken by human impacts on the landscape.

Areas of a highly sensitive landscape have a low capacity to absorb new development and this can be a challenge to locate new development in these areas without it becoming unduly obtrusive.

Existing landscape and visual issues / pressures include:

- New development having adverse and visual impacts on the landscape and seascape.
- Green Infrastructure - protecting the existing green infrastructure network from fragmentation and loss due to pressures of urban development within and adjoining the network.
- Ecosystem Services - recognising and promoting the value of ecosystem services that the green infrastructure network provides to the study area.
- Protected views – development has potential to obstruct protected views and scenic routes.

⁴⁸ Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 - <https://www.kerrycoco.ie/kerry-county-development-plan-2022-2028/>

6 Strategic Environmental Objectives

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

A series of Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) have been prepared in line with current guidance and also with specific reference to the SEA for the CCDEDP (refer to **Table 6.1**). The SEOs provide a basis for the assessment of the environmental effects of the CCDEDP and are framed in such a manner as to enable the CCDEDP to be fully assessed in environmental terms.

SEOs are distinct from the strategic objectives within the CCDEDP, although they often overlap and are developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives. These high-level SEOs are paired with specific targets which can be monitored using indicators (see **Section 10** of this Report).

Table 6.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) for CCDEDP

Theme	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective
Biodiversity (Flora & Fauna) (B)	B_1	Ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and Annex habitats and species ⁴⁹ and no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function.
	B_2	Preserve, protect, maintain and where appropriate enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, including internationally, EU and nationally designated sites, habitats and protected species.
	B_3	Ensure CCDEDP does not contradict biodiversity protection, restoration and rehabilitation objectives in the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.
Population & Human Health (PHH)	PHH_1	Promote sustainable high quality tourism within the Counties that supports economic development and maximises potential for employment and investment.
	PHH_2	Improve health and wellbeing by provision of recreational and tourism-related activities.
Land, Soils & Geology (LSG)	LSG_1	Minimise green field development and protect land and soil resources from pollution and degradation.
Water Quality (WQ)	WQ_1	Protect, maintain and where necessary improve water quality and the management of watercourses, groundwater and the marine environment, in compliance with the requirements of the WFD objectives and measures.
	WQ_2	Implement and comply with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management and Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidelines to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding.

⁴⁹ ‘Annexed habitats and species’ refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

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

7 Assessment of Alternatives

7.1 Introduction

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

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

7.2 Alternative 1: Do-nothing / Do-Minimum

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

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

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

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

In essence the Plan would present a five-year sustainable tourism development plan for the Cliff Coast. The key objectives of the Plan would be:

- *Ensure local experiences are brought to life through the development of the optimal mix of hero and ancillary tourism products that attract visitors and retain them for longer in the destination.*
- *Unlock the economic growth potential of an area by progressing a range of key initiatives that will motivate tourists to explore the wider destination.*
- *Develop a sustainable basis for commercial tourism development centred on creating strong signature, supporting and ancillary experiences that are commoditised through the creation of saleable experiences that excite consumers and buyers alike.*
- *Create the conditions to attract leisure visitors on a year-round basis to North Kerry and West Clare to immerse themselves actively in the community, interacting with local people.*
- *Strengthen the value of tourism to the local community by providing sustainable employment opportunities.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.4 Assessment of Alternatives

Three reasonable alternatives for the CCDEDP have been identified and assessed as set out in **Table 7.1**. The potential effects of the reasonable alternatives on the SEOs categorised as follows:

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

7.5 Reasoning for Selection of the Preferred Alternative

Whilst unlikely to have negative environmental effects, Alternative 1 does not deliver positive benefits for tourism in North Kerry and West Clare.

Alternative 2A will deliver effective benefit and response for tourism in North Kerry and West Clare, whilst at the same providing for sustainable development and environmental protection.

Alternative 2B will deliver effective benefit and response for tourism in North Kerry and West Clare, but without ensuring environmental protection.

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

Table 7.1 Assessment of Alternatives for the Cliff Coast DEDP

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

8 Assessment of Effects of the Cliff Coast Destination Experience Development Plan

8.1 Introduction

The CCDEDP has been subject to an assessment for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Plan on the baseline environment as characterised and described in **Section 5** of this Report. The assessment is carried out having regard to the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) established for the aspects of the baseline environment which have potential to be impacted by the CCDEDP. These Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are detailed in **Section 6** of this Report.

The Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 states that-

‘CDP9.25 – It is an Objective of Clare County Council:

k.) To work with Fáilte Ireland in the preparation and implementation of the Cliff Coast Destination Experience Development Plan.’

The Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028, states that-

‘KCDP 10-9 - Facilitate and support the implementation of the Wild Atlantic Way Tourism Plans Fáilte Ireland Visitor /Destination Experience Development Plans, Heritage Town and Destination Town Plans and to support the continued collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and tourism stakeholders to ensure successful implementation and delivery of these tourism plans.’

It is noted that during its preparation the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029⁵⁰ and Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028⁵¹, was subject to full SEA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).

The environmental assessment of the ‘Strategic Objectives and Initiatives’ and of the ‘Catalyst Projects and Destination Supporting Projects/Enablers’ of the CCDEDP are set out separately in the following sections of this Report. The SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to include information on the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

8.2 Environmental Assessment of the Strategic Objectives and Initiatives of the Cliff Coast Destination Experience Development Plan

The finding of the environmental assessment of the overall Vision, Strategic Objectives & Strategic Initiatives of the CCDEDP is presented in **Table 8.1**.

⁵⁰ Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029- <https://clarecdp2023-2029.clarecoco.ie/stage3-amendments/adoption/>

⁵¹ Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 - <https://cdp.kerrycoco.ie/>

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Table 8.1 Environmental Assessment of Strategic Objectives of the CCDEDP

(SEO Key: B – Biodiversity, PHH – Population & Human Health, LSG – Land, Soils & Geology, WQ – Water Quality, ANC – Air Quality, Noise & Climate Change, MA – Material Assets, CH – Cultural Heritage, LV – Landscape & Visual)

Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Positive Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Potential Negative Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Uncertain Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	No Likely / Neutral Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Mitigation Required? Yes / No
<p>Vision</p> <p>The Destination Vision (10 year vision) for CCDEDP is:</p> <p><i>“The Cliff Coast is recognised as a leader in sustainable tourism where visitors clearly understand their role in contributing to community wellbeing and responsible tourism. The striking coastline is renowned for its cliff top walks and soul stirring views of a cliff coast brought alive through its vibrant communities and the opportunity to sample the best of local culture and traditional music. It is a leading family destination where the visitor has access to great indoor attractions and outdoor activities. The quality of the outdoor activity product and</i></p>	<p>This vision statement sets an overall context for destination experience and tourism in North Kerry and West Clare. This will support and underpin the local tourism economy, sustainable tourism and the quality of tourism. No specific projects are associated with the statement, and therefore the effect on the remaining environmental themes and SEOs will be neutral.</p>	<p>PHH (PHH1, PHH2)</p>			<p>B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2), LV (LV_1, LV2)</p>	<p>No</p>

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Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Positive Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Potential Negative Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Uncertain Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	No Likely / Neutral Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
<p><i>coastal tourism adventure encourages slow adventure exploration with greenways acting as the link between the land and water adventure clusters in Tralee Bay and West Clare. Visitors have access to world class coastal tourism and marine experiences from dolphin watching to water activities linking our islands and coastal communities."</i></p>						
<p>RTDS Strategic Objective 1: Grow the year-round appeal of the Wild Atlantic Way domestically and internationally ensuring we attract and disperse high value visitors into and throughout the region.</p>						
<p>1.1 Address the challenge of the area perceived as a transient destination in the international marketplace located between more mature tourism destinations.</p>	<p>This initiative will result in positive effects on population and human health by provision of enhanced visitor experience.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, development of any new and existing developments/ projects to address the challenge, might result in negative environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure</p>	<p>PHH (PHH1, PHH2)</p>	<p>B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV (LV_1, LV2)</p>	<p>CH (CH1, CH2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2),</p>		<p>Yes</p>

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Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Positive Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Potential Negative Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Uncertain Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	No Likely / Neutral Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
	<p>have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coastal/transitional waters. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management</p>					
<p>1.2 Develop the Cliff Coast as an activity destination providing visitors with access to great land and water based experiences.</p>	<p>This initiative will result in positive effects on population and human health by provision of enhanced visitor experience.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, this initiative could have the potential to result in negative or uncertain environmental effect on biodiversity, water quality, cultural heritage, land & soils, landscape and visual, material assets and air & noise. The development of new and existing land and water based activities might result in negative environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast/transitional waters. These works can</p>	<p>PHH (PHH1, PHH2)</p>	<p>B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV (LV_1, LV2)</p>	<p>CH (CH1, CH2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2)</p>		<p>Yes</p>

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Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Positive Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Potential Negative Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Uncertain Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	No Likely / Neutral Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
	also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.					
1.3 Maximise the potential of Tralee as a destination day and accommodation hub for the Cliff Coast.	<p>This initiative will enhance tourism opportunities and will have positive effect on population and human health.</p> <p>However, the development of existing and new accommodation infrastructure presents potential uncertain environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. This would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management which has potential to effect the receiving environment.</p>	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)		Yes
1.4 Create destination clusters for water adventure activities building on the existing potential of Tralee Bay and West Clare.	<p>This initiative will result in positive effects on population and human health by provision of enhanced visitor experience.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, this initiative could have the potential to result in negative or uncertain environmental effect on biodiversity, water quality, cultural</p>	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV (LV_1, LV2) ANC (ANC1, ANC2), CH (CH1, CH2)		Yes

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Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Positive Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Potential Negative Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Uncertain Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	No Likely / Neutral Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
	<p>heritage, land & soils, landscape and visual, material assets and air & noise. The development of new and existing water based activities might result in negative environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast/transitional waters. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>					
<p>1.5 Develop cliffs and coastal trails experiences to disperse visitors across the Cliff Coast and prepare for the future development of the Wild Atlantic Way Coastal Walk.</p>	<p>The development of new and existing greenways, trails and walking routes, has the potential to contribute to sustainable mobility, reduction in emissions and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations.</p>	<p>PHH (PHH1, PHH2)</p>		<p>B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), MA (MA1, MA2), CH (CH1, CH2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2)</p>		<p>Yes</p>

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Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Positive Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Potential Negative Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Uncertain Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	No Likely / Neutral Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
	<p>The development of these projects, however, may result in uncertain environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast.</p>					
<p>1.6 Examine how the destination will grow its volume of available accommodation stock to attract and retain visitors and ensure local economic impact from tourism.</p>	<p>This initiative will enhance tourism and result in positive effects on population.</p> <p>However, the new accomodation development presents potential uncertain environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.</p>	<p>PHH (PHH1, PHH2)</p>		<p>B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)</p>		<p>Yes</p>
<p>1.7 Develop the opportunity for the Cliff Coast to be recognised internationally for the quality and diversity of its marine tourism activities. Leveraging unique destination</p>	<p>This initiative will result in positive effects on population and human health by provision of enhanced visitor experience.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, the initiative could have the potential to result in negative or uncertain environmental effect on biodiversity, water quality, cultural</p>	<p>PHH (PHH1, PHH2)</p>		<p>B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV (LV_1, LV2) ANC (ANC1, ANC2), CH (CH1, CH2)</p>		<p>Yes</p>

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Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Positive Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Potential Negative Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Uncertain Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	No Likely / Neutral Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
opportunities such as Dolphin Watching.	heritage, land & soils, landscape and visual, material assets and air & noise. The development of new and existing marine tourism activities might result in negative environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure potentially will be located in ecologically and visually sensitive marine areas. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species.					
<p>RTDS Strategic Objective 2: Raise the international profile of the Northern half of the Wild Atlantic Way to increase visitation and revenue.</p>	<p>This initiative will result in positive effects on population and human health by provision of enhanced visitor experience.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, the objective could have the potential to result in negative or uncertain environmental effect on biodiversity, water quality, cultural heritage, land & soils, landscape and visual, material assets and air & noise. Increased visitation could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in sensitive areas. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>	<p>PHH (PHH1, PHH2)</p>		<p>B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV (LV_1, LV2) ANC (ANC1, ANC2), CH (CH1, CH2)</p>		<p>Yes</p>

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Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Positive Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Potential Negative Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Uncertain Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	No Likely / Neutral Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
RTDS Strategic Objective 3: Increase tourism revenue, visitor dispersion and season extension across the Southern half of the Wild Atlantic Way						
<p>3.1. Prepare the tourism industry and local communities for future opportunities provided by the capital investment in Greenways.</p>	<p>This goal will provide enhanced visitor experience and have positive effect to population and human health.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in sensitive areas.</p>	<p>PHH (PHH1, PHH2)</p>		<p>B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)</p>		<p>Yes</p>
<p>3.2 Examine the enhancement of existing walking and cycling trails and regenerate them to become refreshed trails experiences that enable the visitor explore the destination.</p>	<p>The development of new and existing greenways, trails and walking and cycling routes, including those within and between existing destinations, has the potential to contribute to sustainable mobility, reduction in emissions and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental</p>	<p>PHH (PHH1, PHH2), MA (MA3)</p>		<p>B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), MA (MA1, MA2), CH (CH1, CH2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2)</p>		<p>Yes</p>

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Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Positive Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Potential Negative Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Uncertain Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	No Likely / Neutral Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
	<p>components including habitats at certain locations.</p> <p>The development of these projects, however, may result in uncertain environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure in sensitive areas.</p>					
<p>3.3 Develop the capacity of existing attractions to attract and disperse visitors across the Cliff Coast through enhancement of the visitor experience and repurposing of key sites to act as a catalyst for destination development.</p>	<p>This initiative will result in positive effects on population.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, the increase in capacity presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects to arise from the use of these spaces and/or provision of ancillary infrastructure. This would also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure.</p>	<p>PHH (PHH1, PHH2)</p>		<p>B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)</p>		<p>Yes</p>
<p>3.4 Build on thematic and product linkages between North Kerry and West Clare to</p>	<p>This initiative will enhance tourism opportunities for the county and have</p>	<p>PHH (PHH1, PHH2)</p>		<p>B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1,</p>		<p>Yes</p>

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Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Positive Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Potential Negative Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Uncertain Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	No Likely / Neutral Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
grow the number of saleable day time experiences available through the destination e.g. maritime, rural, food, culture and activities.	positive effect on population and human health. However, the new experience development presents potential uncertain environmental effects that have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such experiences and/or their ancillary infrastructure.			LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)		
3.5 Grow the number of saleable visitor experiences (B2B and B2C) accessible across the destination supported by new approaches to packaging.	This initiative will enhance tourism opportunities for the county and have positive effect on population and human health. However, the new experience development presents potential uncertain environmental effects that have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such experiences and/or their ancillary infrastructure.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)		Yes
3.6 Examine how to develop authentic local community experiences to disperse visitors across the destination and meet local people through culture and heritage experiences.	This initiative will result in positive effects on population and human health by provision of enhanced visitor experience. However, in the absence of mitigation, the objective could have the potential to result in uncertain environmental effect on cultural heritage. The effect on the remaining environmental themes and SEOs will be neutral.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		CH (CH1, CH2)	B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV (LV_1, LV2)	Yes

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Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Positive Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Potential Negative Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Uncertain Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	No Likely / Neutral Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
RTDS Strategic Objective 4: Protect the authenticity and “wildness” of the Wild Atlantic Way						
4.1 Protect, sustain and enhance the natural environment of the CCDEDP area through the creation of new sustainable visitor experiences.	This initiative will result in positive effects across the majority of SEOs for environmental factors. No negative or uncertain environmental effects arise.	B (B1, B2, B3), PHH (PHH1, PHH2), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV (LV_1, LV2), CH (CH1, CH2)				No
4.2 Develop the international profile of the destination through its credibility as a responsible tourism area and the potential for ‘green’ experience innovation immersing visitors in responsible tourism experiences.	This initiative will support in raising awareness regarding sustainable tourism opportunities in North Kerry and West Clare. No negative or uncertain environmental effects arise.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)			B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV (LV_1, LV2), CH (CH1, CH2)	No
4.3 Examine new opportunities throughout the Cliff Coast to build on world class sustainability and marine bio	This initiative will result in positive effects on population and human health by provision of enhanced visitor experience.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV		Yes

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Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Positive Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Potential Negative Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Uncertain Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	No Likely / Neutral Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
experiences e.g. dolphin watching.	However, in the absence of mitigation, the initiative could have the potential to result in negative or uncertain environmental effect on biodiversity, water quality, cultural heritage, land & soils, landscape and visual, material assets and air & noise. The development of new and existing marine tourism activities might result in negative environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure potentially will be located in ecologically and visually sensitive marine areas. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species.			(LV_1, LV2) ANC (ANC1, ANC2), CH (CH1, CH2)		
RTDS Strategic Objective 5: Enable and assist the industry to grow its capacity and capability so that it can thrive over the period of this strategy						
5.1 Develop the capacity of the tourism industry to develop its online presence and commercial approach to online activity.	This initiative would result in positive effects for tourism industry and will not result in adverse environmental consequences.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)			B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV (LV_1, LV2), CH (CH1, CH2)	No

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Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Positive Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Potential Negative Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Uncertain Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	No Likely / Neutral Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
5.2 Develop a new tourism clusters approach building on established networks and creating new tourism networks where none exist.	The development of new and existing tourism clusters might give rise to uncertain environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)		Yes
5.3 Build on the association of North Kerry as a family destination and develop the profile to attract domestic and international visitors.	This initiative will enhance tourism opportunities for families and will have positive effect on population and human health. However, the new future development presents potential uncertain environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)		Yes
5.4 Work with the tourism industry to improve its capacity to deliver new and enhanced experiences aligned with the destination vision.	This initiative will provide enhanced visitor experience and have positive effect to population and human health. However, in the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing infrastructure presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)		Yes

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Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Positive Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Potential Negative Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Uncertain Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	No Likely / Neutral Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
	ancillary infrastructure. This could also result in increased visitor numbers and pressure.					
5.5 Develop the cultural opportunity across the Cliff Coast to create vibrant evening economy hubs for visitors.	<p>This initiative will enhance tourism opportunities for the county and have positive effect on population and human health.</p> <p>However, the new development presents potential uncertain environmental effects that have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.</p>	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)		Yes
RTDS Strategic Objective 6: Foster strong coalitions of industry and stakeholders with a common purpose in creating flourishing destinations and thriving communities.						
6.1 Work with the OPW to enhance the visitor experience at key sites within the Cliff Coast.	<p>This objective will promote collaboration with OPW, support efficient delivery of tourism experiences across a range of sites and have positive effect on population and human health.</p> <p>No specific projects are associated with the statement, and therefore the effect on the remaining environmental themes and SEOs will be neutral.</p>	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)			B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV (LV_1, LV2), CH (CH1, CH2)	No
6.2 Ensure tourism is integrated as a key element of	This initiative will enhance tourism opportunities for the counties and have	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)			B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ	No

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Strategic Objectives and Initiatives	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Positive Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Potential Negative Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Uncertain Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	No Likely / Neutral Effects on Environmental Theme & SEO	Mitigation Required ? Yes / No
future strategic development sites across North Kerry and West Clare to include future urban and rural regeneration activity.	positive effect on population and human health. No negative or uncertain environmental effects arise.				(WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)	
6.3 Grow the number of tourism enterprises operating in the destination supported by an environment that encourages new levels of tourism entrepreneurship.	This goal will enhance tourism opportunities for the county and have positive effect on population and human health. No negative or uncertain environmental effects arise.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)			B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)	No
6.4 Develop sustainable transport options to engage with the Cliff Coast and new approaches to visitor management with sustainability at the core.	This initiative will enhance connectivity and have positive effect to population and human health. However, in the absence of mitigation, the development of new and existing transport links, presents a variety of potentially uncertain environmental effects to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)		Yes

8.3 Environmental Assessment of the Catalyst Projects listed within the Cliff Coast Destination Experience Development Plan

The CCDEDP includes a list of catalyst projects and actions which will be delivered to support the above strategic objectives and initiatives of the DEDP. The environmental assessment of the effects of the actions plan and catalyst projects is detailed in **Appendix 1**.

The projects/actions where there is a requirement for development of existing and new infrastructure might also give rise to uncertain environmental effects on other environmental themes and SEOs that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. Refer to **Table 8.1A** in **Appendix 1** for the detailed assessment of effects of the catalyst projects and actions.

Mitigation measures are presented further in Section 9.

8.4 The Interrelationship between Environmental Factors

An overview of the key and minor / no interaction between environmental factors with potential for effects arising from the CCDEDP are set out in the matrix in **Table 8.2**.

Actions within the Plan that give rise to positive or negative environmental effects for one environmental component also have the potential to generate positive or negative environmental effects for inter-related environmental components – e.g. negative effect on soils can have a negative effect on biodiversity, water, and / or landscape. Likewise, actions supporting the delivery of SuDS will improve water quality, which in turn can have a positive effect on aquatic ecology.

An assessment of impact inter-relationships and interactions is already embedded in the evaluation of environmental effects that has been carried out in this environmental report. This ensures that there is adequate coverage of all potential environmental effects associated with the implementation of plan actions. In addition the mitigation measures set out in **Section 9.0** of this Report.

Table 8.2 Significant Interrelationships between Environmental Factors

Component \ Effect	Biodiversity	Population & Human Health	Land, Soils & Geology	Water Quality	Air Quality, Noise and Climate	Material Assets	Cultural Heritage	Landscape & Visual
Biodiversity		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Population & Human Health	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Land, Soils & Geology	✓	✓		✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Water Quality	✓	✓	✓		✗	✓	✗	✓
Air Quality, Noise and Climate	✓	✓	✗	✗		✓	✓	✗
Material Assets	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Cultural Heritage	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓		✓

Component \ Effect	Biodiversity	Population & Human Health	Land, Soils & Geology	Water Quality	Air Quality, Noise and Climate	Material Assets	Cultural Heritage	Landscape & Visual
Landscape & Visual	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Legend: Key Interaction ☑ Minor/No Interaction ☒								

8.5 Potential Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects can be described as the addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact.

There are 2 types of potential cumulative effects that have been considered, namely:

- Potential intra-Plan cumulative effects - these arise from the interactions between different types of potential environmental effects resulting from a plan, programme, etc. The interrelationships between environmental factors that help determine these potential effects are identified on **Table 8.2**.
- Potential inter-Plan cumulative effects - these arise when the effects of the implementation of one plan occur in combination with those of other plans, programmes, projects, etc.

The CCDEDP could have a relationship with other plans and programmes. However, these plans and programmes have also been subject to environmental assessment, including SEA and AA, for the purpose of preventing and mitigating potential negative environmental effects. **Table 8.3** lists the relevant plans and programmes that have potential for cumulative effects with the CCDEDP.

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

The Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 sets out policies and objectives for land use, settlement strategy, sustainable development, transport, infrastructure, environmental protection, and management, cultural heritage, climate change, etc. for the study area. Other higher-level international, national and regional plans are integrated within the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and have been assessed as such. The CCDEDP will comply with the provisions set within the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 which itself has been subject to standalone environmental assessment (SEA, NIR, etc.).

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

Table 8.3 Potential Cumulative Effects with other Plans and Programmes

Plan, Programme etc.	Potential Cumulative effect	Likely Cumulative Effect
<p>National Planning Framework (NPF) Project 2040</p> <p>National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2030 (<i>As part of Project Ireland 2040 the National Development Plan sets out the Government’s over-arching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030</i>)</p>	<p>The SEA and AA processes carried out during the preparation of the National Planning Framework have ensured that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the plan have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy</p>	<p>The SEA and AA processes carried out during the preparation of the RSES have ensured that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the RSES have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>National CFRAMS Programme</p> <p>South- eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study</p>	<p>Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Studies and their product – Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) – are at the core of national policy for flood risk management and the strategy for its implementation. These studies are required by The Floods Directive [2007/60/EC], which is being implemented in Ireland through the European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010 [S.I.122/2010]. Each FRMP is accompanied by an associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement. The SEA and AA processes carried out during the preparation of the FRMP have ensured that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the FRMP have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>National 4th Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030</p>	<p>The Biodiversity Action notes the requirements and purposes of AA and SEA and the vision of the plan to conserve and restored for the benefit of all sectors of society.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>National Sustainable Mobility Policy (2022)</p>	<p>The policy sets a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel and public transport to support Ireland’s overall requirement to achieve a 51% reduction in carbon emissions by the end of this decade. The projects which will be implemented as a result of this national policy will be subject to their individual environmental impact assessment and appropriate assessment processes (as appropriate) and hence there would be no potential adverse effects on the overall receiving environment.</p>	<p>No</p>

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Plan, Programme etc.	Potential Cumulative effect	Likely Cumulative Effect
River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for Ireland 2022-2027	The SEA and AA processes carried out during the preparation of the RBMP have ensured that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Plan have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	No
County Development Plans (Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028, Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028)	The County Development Plan (CDP) provides the principal planning strategy document for the development of a local authority area over the statutory time period of the plan. Each of the CDP within the Zone of Influence of the study area has been subject to SEA and AA processes to ensure that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Plan have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	No
Regional Tourism Development Strategies 2023-2027 – Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027	The SEA and AA processes carried out during the preparation of the Strategy have ensured that the potential significant environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Strategy have been identified and that these impacts have been given appropriate consideration.	No

8.6 Overview

The environmental assessment of the provisions of the CCDEDP (**Section 8**) identifies potential uncertain effects on the environment as set out in **Table 8.1**. Much of this relates to uncertainty in the likely outcome of objectives and the potential nature and scope of any development, which may or may not, derive from the implementation of catalyst projects and the Plan. Therefore, measures are detailed in the following which will set the context for the avoidance and / or reduction of any such potential environmental effects.

In working with the SEA process, the Plan acknowledges the requirement for any development to adhere to best practice in terms of environmental governance. Indeed protection and enhancement of the environment is a critical pillar underpinning the core objectives and success of the CCDEDP.

In this context any proposals for development arising from the CCDEDP must meet the proper planning and sustainable development policies, objectives and development management provisions of the statutory Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

9 Mitigation Measures

9.1 Overview

The finding of the environmental assessment in **Section 8.0** (and Appendix 1) of this Environmental Report is that, if unmitigated, a number of the actions of the Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan have potential for uncertain or negative effects on aspects of the environment. These potential negative and / or uncertain effects, which derive from potential works resulting from the relevant action, focus primarily on biodiversity, water, cultural heritage, material assets and landscape. This section of the Environmental Report identifies measures for the mitigation and avoidance of potential uncertain or negative environmental effects.

9.2 Mitigation Measures

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

The projects included in this Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with the various provisions of legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which this Plan is not part and does not contribute towards. The Plan includes requirements for environmental protection and management including the ones set out in the **Regional Tourism Development Strategies 2023-2027** especially the **Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy**.

As stated in the CCDEDP these include:

- **Infrastructure Capacity** - *With respect to infrastructure 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 is encouraged.*
- **Visitor Management** - *Those receiving funding shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance, including ensuring that new projects are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities.*
Extensive research by Fáilte Ireland has shown improved environmental outcomes (including improved attainment of conservation objectives) in areas with visitor management strategies. Visitor management strategies will be required for proposed plans, programmes and projects that are to receive funding as relevant and appropriate.
- **Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services** - *Those receiving funding shall contribute towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and its ecosystem services, taking into account the output of the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services project being undertaken by the NPWS. Proposals for the development of any green infrastructure should demonstrate the synergies that can be achieved with regard to the: provision of open space amenities; sustainable management of water; protection and management of biodiversity; protection of cultural heritage; and protection of protected landscape sensitivities.*

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The majority of the mitigation measures are achieved through the detailed environmental protective policies and objectives as set out in the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029. The Development Plans provide for sustainable planning and management control of all development in North Kerry and West Clare – including the delivery of Destination Experience Development Plans through continued collaboration with Fáilte Ireland.

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

Therefore, the key environmental protection measures included in the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029, provide for appropriate and detailed mitigation of potential uncertain environmental effects of the CCDEDP. These measures include the following selected aims / policies / objectives as detailed in **Table 9.1** below.

Table 9.1 Protective objectives as detailed in the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028	Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
Protective Objectives	Protective Objectives
Biodiversity (including Flora & Fauna)	
<p><i>KCDP 5-21 Ensure that all developments are in compliance with normal planning criteria and environmental protection considerations.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 3.3 It is an objective of the Clare County Council:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) To require compliance with the objectives and requirements of the Habitats Directive, specifically Article 6(3) and where necessary 6(4), Birds, Water Framework, and all other relevant EU Directives and all relevant transposing national legislation;</i> <i>b) To require project planning to be fully informed by ecological and environmental constraints at the earliest stage of project development and any necessary assessment to be undertaken, including assessments of disturbance to species, where required together with the preparation of both statutory and non-Statutory Ecological Impact Assessments (EclA);</i> <i>c) To protect, manage and enhance ecological connectivity and improve the coherence of the Natura 2000 Network;</i> <i>d) To require all proposals to ensure there is ‘no net loss’ of biodiversity within developments;</i> <i>e) To ensure that European sites and Natural Heritage Areas (designated proposed NHAs) are appropriately protected;</i> <i>f) To require the preparation and assessment of all plans and projects to have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report contained in Volume 10 of this development plan; and</i> <i>g) To require compliance with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and support the implementation of the 3rd Cycle River Basin Management Plan (and any other iteration during the lifetime of the plan).</i>

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Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028	Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
<p>KCDP 9-79 Support the protection of water quality, key habitat, and other natural resource requirements necessary to safeguard coastal, estuarine and freshwater fisheries.</p>	<p>CDP 9.4 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>c) To ensure that development of new or enhanced tourism infrastructure and facilities include an assessment of the environmental sensitivities of the area including an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) if required in order to avoid adverse impacts on the receiving environment;</p>
<p>KCDP 9-82 Ensure that proposals for economic development associated with the marine sector are cognisant of the sensitivities of Kerry’s coastal locations and that relevant environmental issues are appropriately considered.</p>	<p>CDP 9.8 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>f) To ensure that development of new or enhanced tourism infrastructure and facilities includes an assessment of the environmental sensitivities of the area including and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) if required in order to avoid adverse impacts on the receiving environment.</p>
<p>KCDP 9-84 Support the export, fisheries, marine tourism and marine economy potential of ports and harbours in the county. All development proposals will be subject to environmental assessment, implementation of mitigation measures outlined in applicable SEAs and AAs and feasibility studies to establish that any expansions can be achieved without adverse effects on any European sites and within the carrying capacity of the receiving environment of the ports.</p>	<p>CDP 9.13 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To support the development of tourism activities in lakeland areas and along waterways subject to normal planning and environmental requirements. All proposed developments shall be in accordance the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EC Directives.</p>
<p>KCDP 9-88 Ensure that adequate measures are taken to protect designated shellfish areas as an important economic and employment sector.</p>	<p>CDP 11.15 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>p) To ensure that all mitigation measures set out in the NIR and SEA contained in Volumes 10(a) and 10(b) of this Plan are complied with;</p>
<p>KCDP 11-1 Ensure that the requirements of relevant EU and national legislation, are complied with by the Council in undertaking its functions, including the requirements of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives.</p>	<p>CDP 11.21 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p>

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Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028	Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
	<p><i>e) To ensure the development/enhancement of infrastructure facilitating water-borne transport is in compliance with the environmental requirements of objective CDP 3.3 of this plan.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 11-2 Maintain the nature conservation value and integrity of Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs). This shall include any other sites that may be designated at national level during the lifetime of the plan in co-operation with relevant state agencies.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 11.42 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <p><i>a) To require proposals for development that include the provision of external lighting, to clearly demonstrate that the lighting scheme is the minimum needed for security and working purposes;</i></p> <p><i>b) To ensure that external lighting and lighting schemes are designed so that the incidence of light spillage is minimised ensuring that the amenities of adjoining properties, wildlife and the surrounding environment are protected; and,</i></p> <p><i>c) To require that external lighting is designed taking the Bat Conservation Ireland Guidance Notes, Bats and Lighting Guidance Notes for Planners, Engineers, Architects and Developers, into consideration, together with EUROBATS Guidelines for consideration of bats in lighting projects.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 11-3 Work with all stakeholders in order to conserve, manage and where possible enhance the County's natural heritage including all habitats, species, landscapes and geological heritage of conservation interest and to promote increased understanding and awareness of the natural heritage of the County.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 13.8 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To work with local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 11-4 Promote nature-based solutions to meet national objectives towards achieving a carbon neutral economy by 2050.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 13.10 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To facilitate the sustainable development of marinas and associated amenities at appropriate locations along the Atlantic coastline, ensuring that such developments shall not adversely affect species and habitats designated by the Birds and Habitats Directives and is in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation as outlined in Objective CDP3.1 of this plan.</i></p>

Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028	Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
<p>KCDP 11-5 Support and facilitate the actions in the National Biodiversity Action Plan and Kerry County Councils Biodiversity Action Plan 2022 – 2028.</p>	<p>CDP 13.13 It is an objective of the Development Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To permit maritime development on sites either on or adjacent to any beach area, only where such developments would not significantly interfere with the recreational use of the area or would not cause damage or degradation of the beaches or sand dune system; b) To assist all relevant stakeholders to proactively monitor and manage the dune systems in the County in full compliance with the EU Habitats Directive; and c) To protect the structure and function of sand dunes within the County, (which include Annex I habitats and Annex II species), and to ensure that any permitted development would support the integrity (ecological and visual) of these areas and comply with the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directive.
<p>KCDP 11-11 Work with NPWS and other partners to support the Kerry UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and the implementation of initiatives contained in the Periodic Review 2017.</p>	<p>CDP 13.15 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To support and facilitate infrastructure, and access/landing facilities, and development proposals that will contribute to the long-term social, heritage, ecological and cultural development of the islands; b) To have regard to any environmental and/or heritage related designation in the assessment of all applications for development on the islands; c) To preserve appropriate and sustainable access to all islands, including uninhabited ones; d) To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation as outlined in Objective CDP3.1 of this plan.
<p>KCDP 11-13 Support the sustainable use of wetlands, including our Ramsar sites, for educational, recreational and or tourism uses where appropriate and compatible with environmental protection designations.</p>	<p>CDP 15.1 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To implement the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025, the EU A Farm to Fork Strategy 2020, the County Clare Heritage Plan 2017-2023 and the County Clare Biodiversity Plan 20172023, or any subsequent plans, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders;

Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028	Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
	<p><i>b) To review the Clare County Heritage Plan 2017-2023 and to prepare a new plan, which will be set within the context of the National Heritage Plan "Heritage Ireland 2030", upon the expiry of the existing adopted Plan;</i></p> <p><i>c) To support National Biodiversity Week and events such as Bioblitz in order to increase awareness of biodiversity and its benefits to the community;</i></p> <p><i>d) To ensure that features of importance to local biodiversity are retained as part of developments and projects being undertaken in the County;</i></p> <p><i>e) To identify ecological buffer zones, where appropriate, in the Plan area; and</i></p> <p><i>f) To support current and future projects with the aim of restoration/rehabilitation of natural habitats and species.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 11-16 Ensure invasive species are managed in compliance with the provisions of the EC (Birds and Habitats) Regulations (SI 477 of 2011), as amended, particularly Sections 49, 50 and the Third Schedule. Best practices, as produced and updated by relevant authorities, are to be adhered to in the management of invasive species particularly on sites proposed for development.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 15.3 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <p><i>a) To afford the highest level of protection to all designated European sites in accordance with the relevant Directives and legislation on such matters;</i></p> <p><i>b) To require all planning applications for development that may have (or cannot rule out) likely significant effects on European Sites in view of the site's Conservation Objectives, either in isolation or in combination with other plans or projects, to submit a Natura Impact Statement in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive and the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended); and</i></p> <p><i>c) To recognise and afford appropriate protection to any new or modified SPAs or SACs that are identified during the lifetime of this Development Plan through the planning application process bearing in mind proposals for development outside of a European site may also have an indirect effect.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 11-29 Work with stakeholders to protect and sustainably enhance the biodiversity and where appropriate the landscape and recreational interests of woodlands in the County.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 15.4 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <p><i>a) To implement Article 6(3) and where necessary 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and to ensure that Appropriate Assessment is carried out in relation to works, plans and projects likely to impact on European sites (SACs and SPAs), whether directly or indirectly or in combination with any other plan(s) or project(s); and</i></p>

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Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028	Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
	<p><i>b) To have regard to Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 or any updated version.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 11-42 Require proposals for development that include the provision of external lighting, to clearly demonstrate that the lighting scheme is the minimum needed for security and working purposes and also to ensure that external lighting and lighting schemes are designed so that the incidence of light spillage is minimised ensuring that the amenities of adjoining properties, wildlife and the surrounding environment are protected.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 15.5 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <p><i>a) To actively promote the conservation and protection of areas designated as NHA's (including proposed sites) and to only consider proposals for development within or affecting an NHA where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposed development will not have a significant adverse effect on the NHA or pNHA; and</i></p> <p><i>b) To identify and afford appropriate protection to any new, proposed or modified NHA's identified during the lifetime of the Development Plan;</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 11-43 Support the Kerry International Dark-Sky Reserve and ensure that all new external lights comply with the objectives of the Kerry International Dark Sky Reserve.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 15.8 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <p><i>a) To ensure the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological networks/corridors of biodiversity value outside of designated sites throughout the County and to require an ecological assessment to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species;</i></p> <p><i>b) To ensure that available habitat mapping is taken into consideration in any ecological assessment undertaken;</i></p> <p><i>c) To complete the Habitat Mapping of the County (in accordance with A Guide to Habitats in Ireland - The Heritage Council 2000) in order to identify and record the natural habitats of the County at a detailed level and afford appropriate protection to areas of importance as required; and</i></p> <p><i>d) To implement and monitor the actions as set out in the Clare Biodiversity Action Plan and the National Biodiversity Action Plan.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 11-46 Take an ecosystems-based approach to the assessment of the potential impact of development proposals on coastal and maritime areas. Proposals will be required to demonstrate that there will be no likely significant adverse impact on key environmental attributes.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 15.9 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To be responsive to environmental challenges and to ensure the protection of natural heritage when considering proposed service infrastructure and proposed road works (both realignments and new roads) located in, in close proximity to, or nearby protected species or sites of importance in terms of biodiversity.</i></p>

Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028	Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
<p>KCDP 11-47 Support and implement the objectives of the National Marine Planning Framework 2021 (NMPF).</p>	<p>CDP 15.10 It is an objective of the Development Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To implement the EIA Directive, ensuring that all elements/stages or components of the project are included in one overall assessment and all reasonable alternatives are taken into consideration in choosing the option with the least environmental impact; b) To have regard to “Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments (2018) when considering proposals for which an EIA is required; and c) To ensure full compliance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive, SEA Directive and associated legislation/regulations, including the associated European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) regulations 2004-2011, and the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989 – 2011 (or any updated/superseding legislation).
<p>KCDP 11-48 Ensure alignment, and consistency between land use and ocean-based planning, and to ensure co-ordination, which supports the protection of the marine environment and the growth of the marine economy.</p>	<p>CDP 15.12 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To protect and promote the sustainable management of the natural heritage, flora and fauna of the County both within protected areas and in the general landscape through the promotion of biodiversity, the conservation of natural habitats, the enhancement of new and existing habitats, and through the integration of Green Infrastructure (GI), Blue Infrastructure and ecosystem services including landscape, heritage, biodiversity and management of invasive and alien species into the Development Plan; b) To promote the conservation of biodiversity through the protection of sites of biodiversity importance and wildlife corridors, both within and between the designated sites and the wider Plan area; c) To support the implementation of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, National Biodiversity Action Plan and National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan;

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	<p>d) To ensure there is no net loss of potential Lesser Horseshoe Bat feeding habitats, treelines and hedgerows within 2.5km of known roosts;</p> <p>e) To implement and monitor the actions as set out in the Clare County Biodiversity Plan; and</p> <p>f) To promote biodiversity net gain in any new plans/projects/policies to promote development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before.</p>
<p>KCDP 11-56 Prohibit the removal of beach material, aggregates, sand and gravel, including the removal of material from sand dune ecosystems.</p>	<p>CDP 15.13 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To encourage and, where appropriate, enhance the provision of biodiversity features in urban areas through the preparation of local areas plans/settlement plans, green infrastructure strategies, ecosystem services, and through the development management process;</p> <p>b) To support investment in the on-going maintenance and enhancement of facilities in existing green infrastructure and to support the provision of new public, parks, green space corridors and other public open spaces in tandem with projected population growth to create green, healthy settlements throughout the County;</p> <p>c) To ensure that plans for new public parks and associated facilities are informed by environmental assessment and green infrastructure objectives;</p> <p>d) To ensure that any new lighting proposals and upgrades to existing lighting infrastructure are designed in a manner which considers any sensitive species within the area, such as bats and their roosts; and</p> <p>e) To encourage (where appropriate) swift nesting areas in new or retrofitted urban buildings and to protect existing nesting locations.</p>
<p>KCDP 11-57 Protect the sand dunes of the County, (which include annexed habitats), and prohibit any development that would damage the integrity (ecological and visual) of these areas.</p>	<p>CDP 15.14 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>(a) To ensure that development proposals support and enhance the connectivity and integrity of habitats in the Plan area by incorporating natural features into the design of development proposals.</p>

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	<p><i>(b) To ensure that the potential impacts upon the migratory routes of fauna including birds and bats and the movement of species between European Sites are fully considered within the relevant ecological assessment. These assessments shall fully consider flight collision risks, habitat fragmentation and barrier risk as required.</i></p>
	<p><i>CDP 15.17 It is an objective of the Development Plan:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) To have regard to the potential impacts of developments within or in close proximity to the Cloon River freshwater pearl mussel catchment including impacts arising downstream within the Shannon Estuary and Clonderlaw Bay;</i> <i>b) To have regard to the Cloon Freshwater Pearl Mussel SubBasin Management Plan in the assessment of planning applications;</i> <i>c) To ensure careful consideration is given to all proposed developments within the Doonbeg, Shannon – Graney/Scarriff and the Shannon – Woodford Freshwater Pearl Mussel sensitive areas; and</i> <i>d) To ensure full compliance with Objective CDP3.3 in relation to any future developments in close proximity to a freshwater pearl mussel catchment or sensitive area.</i> <p><i>CDP 15.18 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To protect and enhance the valuable peatland resource in County Clare including protecting the heritage and environmental value of these peatland areas.</i></p> <p><i>CDP 15.19 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) To preserve and conserve individual or groups of trees identified in Volume 2 of this Plan as ‘Trees for Preservation’ which will enhance the character and appearance of an area;</i> <i>b) To carry out tree survey work during the lifetime of this Plan to identify future trees of importance in the County and facilitate their future protection;</i> <i>c) To protect individual or groups of trees within the Plan area which are important for environmental, recreational, historical, biodiversity and/or</i>

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	<p><i>aesthetic reasons or by reason of contribution to sense of place, including groups of trees which correspond with protected habitats, or which support protected species, under the Habitats Directive;</i></p> <p><i>d) To work with landowners, local communities and other relevant groups to promote the retention and conservation of existing trees and hedgerows and encourage development proposals that enhance the landscape through positive management and additional planting/sensitive replanting of native tree species;</i></p> <p><i>e) To protect woodlands and hedgerows from damage and/or degradation and to prevent disruption of the connectivity of woodlands and hedgerows of the County;</i></p> <p><i>f) To ensure, where required, applications for development include proposals for planting / leave a suitable ecological buffer zone, between the development works and areas/features of ecological importance;</i></p> <p><i>g) Where hedgerows are required to be removed in the interests of traffic safety or where breaches to hedgerows occur due to river drainage/maintenance works and flood repair, to require the applicant/developer to reinstate the hedgerows with a suitable replacement of native species to the satisfaction of the Council;</i></p> <p><i>h) To require each green space in new residential developments to have at least one native oak tree, or other naturalised tree species of similar stature and lifespan, integrated into the agreed planting/landscaping scheme; and</i></p> <p><i>i) To require, where possible, that all trees felled as a result of development proposals be replaced at a minimum ratio of 10 new native species per 1 tree felled.</i></p> <p><i>CDP 15.22 It is an objective of the Development Plan: To manage, enhance and protect the wetlands in County Clare having regard to the County Clare Wetlands Survey (2008), the map of Irish Wetlands (www.wetlandsurveyireland.com), the Irish Wetland Types – An Identification</i></p>

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	<p><i>Guide and Field Survey Manual, EPA 2018, the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and ‘Drainage and Reclamation of Wetlands – Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2011’ and any subsequent guidance documents.</i></p>
	<p><i>CDP 15.29 It is an objective of the Development Plan:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) To raise awareness of the threat of alien invasive species and how they can spread, and take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of non-native invasive species and noxious weeds in the Plan area, including requiring landowners, developers and boat operators to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to their control;</i> <i>b) To require all development proposals to address the presence of invasive alien species on the proposed development site and to require an Invasive Species Management Plan where such species are present;</i> <i>c) To carry out surveys of invasive species across the County;</i> <i>d) To implement the requirements of EU Regulations 1143/2014 on the Prevention and Management of the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Alien Species and to manage invasive hydrological connectivity issues to European Sites to prevent the spread of invasive species to sensitive sites; and</i> <i>e) To facilitate the work of agencies addressing the issue of terrestrial and aquatic invasive alien species.</i>
	<p><i>CDP 16.6 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To protect habitats and species when considering proposed works to buildings which are likely to impact on protected ecological sites and protected species and to ensure that decision-making on heritage related projects and developments is informed by an appropriate level of environmental assessment.</i></p>
<p>Population and Human Health</p>	

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<p><i>KCDP 3-1 Promote the Sustainable Development of the County in line with the Strategic Core Principles of the Core Strategy.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 9.1 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To support the implementation of the County Clare Tourism Strategy 2030 which establishes a vision for the development of tourism in County Clare and provides for the sustainable and efficient provision and management of Clare's tourism resource.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 4-40 Ensure that developments have regard to the Ministerial Guidelines, Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments - Guidelines for Planning Authorities the DHPLG (2020), Urban Development and Building Heights – Guidelines for Planning Authorities DHPLG (2018) and Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns & Villages) DEHLG (2009).</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 12.9 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To facilitate and promote the sensitive and sustainable use of the Shannon Estuary's assets in an integrated manner to develop a dynamic and sustainable tourism, recreation and leisure sector that delivers maximum social and economic benefit to the communities of the estuary while safeguarding valued landscape, heritage and environmental interests. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EC Directives.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 10-1 Adhere to the principles of sustainable tourism and have regard to its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts on local infrastructure, sensitive areas and sites, water quality, biodiversity, soils, ecosystems, habitats and species, climate change.</i></p>	
<p>Land, Soils and Geology</p>	
<p><i>KCDP 11-82 Seek to preserve and protect important features of geological interest and to maintain the conservation value of those features or areas of geological interest.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 15.6 It is an objective of the Development Plan:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) To recognise the importance of Geological Heritage Sites and to conserve, manage and where possible to enhance the character and integrity of these sites and to promote increased understanding and awareness of the natural heritage of the County; and</i> <i>b) To promote and facilitate the development of geo-tourism in County Clare in accordance with Development Plan Objectives CDP15.3 and CDP15.4.</i>
<p>Water Quality</p>	

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<p>KCDP 13-1 Ensure compliance with the Water Framework Directive.</p>	<p>CDP 2.8 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To support the implementation of the EU Floods Directive 2007/60/EC to manage flood risks; and b) To implement the recommendations of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS) programme as it relates to County Clare and to ensure that flood risk management policies and infrastructure are progressively implemented.
<p>KCDP 13-2 Achieve water quality targets by implementing the national River Basin Management Plan (and associated programmes of measures).</p>	<p>CDP 11.26 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To facilitate the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 and any subsequent plan for ground, surface, estuarine, coastal and transitional waters in the Plan area as part of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive; b) To protect groundwater and surface water resources in accordance with the statutory requirements and specific measures as set out in the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027, and any subsequent management plans; c) To achieve and maintain at least good water quality status for all water bodies except where more stringent obligations are required such as Blue Dot/High Status Objective Water Bodies; d) To consider development proposals where it can be clearly demonstrated that the development will meet the requirements of the River Basin Management Plan; and, e) To work with and support LAWPRO and support improvements/recommendations within Priority Areas for Action, Blue Dot/High Status Objective catchments and any additional areas identified within subsequent River Basin Management Plans.
<p>KCDP 13-5 Ensure that planning applications are assessed with regard to the Groundwater Protection Scheme and the potential impacts the development may have on groundwater quality.</p>	<p>CDP 11.27 It is an objective of the Clare County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To support the protection and improvement of the quality of drinking water sources in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive;

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	<p>b) To ensure that developments that would have an unacceptable impact on water resources, including surface water and groundwater quality and quantity, designated sources protection areas, estuarine, coastal transitional waters, river corridors and associated wetlands will not be permitted;</p> <p>c) To ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment;</p> <p>d) In areas of potable groundwater resources or over vulnerable aquifer areas, to consider development proposals only if the applicant can clearly demonstrate that the proposed development will not pose a risk to the quality of the underlying groundwater;</p> <p>e) To protect groundwater resources, in accordance with statutory requirements and specific measures as set out in the National River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027; [.....]</p>
<p>KCDP 13-6 Protect all sources and potential sources of public water supply, including their zones of contribution within the County from pollution resulting from any development and/or land use.</p>	<p>CDP 11.29 It is an objective of the Clare County Council: [....]</p> <p>d) To ensure that development proposals comply with Uisce Éireann’s standards and requirements in relation to water and wastewater infrastructure to facilitate the proposed development.</p>
<p>KCDP 13-7 Protect existing and potential water resources for the county, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the current National River Basin Management Plan and any amending or replacement version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the provisions of the Groundwater Protection Scheme for the county and any other protection plans for water supply sources, with an aim to improving all water quality.</p>	<p>CDP 11.33 It is an objective of the Clare County Council: [....]</p> <p>b) To liaise with Uisce Éireann to ensure adequate wastewater treatment facilities are available to accommodate population growth in the county;</p> <p>c) To ensure that the assimilative capacity of the receiving environment is not exceeded and that increased wastewater discharges from population growth</p>

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	<p><i>does not contribute to degradation of water body status or give rise to adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network;</i></p> <p><i>d) To support Uisce Éireann to eliminate untreated discharges from settlements in the short-term, while planning strategically for the long-term in tandem with Project Ireland 2040 and the RSES and in increasing compliance with the requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive;</i></p> <p><i>[....]</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 13-8 Protect rivers, streams and other watercourses and where applicable ensure developments follow guidelines outlined in the IFI's Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment, 2020.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 12.10 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To support and facilitate the sustainable use of the Estuary by the cruise ship industry by maintaining and safeguarding critical navigational channels, anchorage and berthing facilities. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive, Invasive Alien Species Regulations and Shellfish Waters Directive, Floods Directive and EIA Directive.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 13-12 Promote water conservation and responsible use of water by introducing and facilitating the provision of demand reduction measures.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 12.16 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To facilitate the sustainable development of marinas and associated amenities at appropriate locations along the Shannon Estuary ensuring that all such developments shall not adversely affect species and habitats designated by the Birds and Habitats Directives and is in compliance with all relevant environmental objectives.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 13-18 Ensure that development proposals comply with the standards and requirements of the Irish Water: Code of Practice for Wastewater Infrastructure, (December 2016), and any updated version of this document during the lifetime of the Plan.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 13.1 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <p><i>a) To promote the sustainable development of the potential of the marine environment;</i></p> <p><i>b) To foster opportunities for innovation in the maritime economy and drive forward the County as a first mover under the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) and the Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan II (or any finalised version of same), while preserving the environmental and ecological conservation status of our marine natural resource. Close</i></p>

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	<p><i>interaction between higher education, state agencies, and enterprise will be facilitated in this regard; and</i></p> <p><i>c) To require proposals for development which may impact on a European site to undertake and submit a Natura Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Assessment Report should it be deemed necessary as part of any planning application in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats and EIA Directives.</i></p>
	<p><i>CDP 13.12 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <p><i>a) To support and implement the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021;</i></p> <p><i>b) To support the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) in the consenting and licensing of the maritime area.</i></p> <p><i>CDP 13.11 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <p><i>a) To engage with the OPW so it develops appropriate strategies for the management of identified coastal flood and erosion hazards and associated risks;</i></p> <p><i>b) To have regard to the Clare County Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, CFRAM Flood Risk Management Plans, the OPW Coast Protection Strategy Study, and any updated version/more detailed local studies, in the assessment of development applications in coastal areas;</i></p> <p><i>c) To permit developments only where the Council is satisfied that they will not be at risk from coastal erosion or inundation in the future;</i></p> <p><i>d) To permit developments only where the Council is satisfied that it will not result in an increase in coastal erosion or increase the risk of inundation, either at the subject site or at another location in the vicinity;</i></p> <p><i>e) To only permit development outside the boundaries of existing settlements where such development can be adequately defended over the lifetime of the development without the need to construct additional or new coastal defences;</i></p>

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	<p><i>f) To support and facilitate the carrying out of coastal defence works based on the outcome of detailed Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Management Studies undertaken in areas identified as being at risk from coastal flooding;</i></p> <p><i>g) To ensure full compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and overarching environmental Objective CDP3.1 of this plan with regard to development in the coastal area;</i></p> <p><i>h) To have regard to any future adopted Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for the coastal and estuarine areas of the County, undertaken in accordance with the Habitats and SEA Directive.</i></p> <p><i>CDP 13.14 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <p><i>a) To support coastal initiatives such as the Green Coast Award, Clean Coasts and Blue Flag scheme and seek to ensure that coastal areas and bathing waters are maintained to the highest levels; and</i></p> <p><i>b) To work to retain Blue Flag and Green Coast status on beaches currently awarded this status whilst seeking to increase the present number of such beaches.</i></p> <p><i>CDP 15.16 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <p><i>a) To work with all relevant stakeholders to protect from degradation and damage and manage inland waters, river corridors and their floodplains, turloughs, lakes, fens and other water bodies, and to recognise and promote them as natural assets and key elements in the green infrastructure network in the County;</i></p> <p><i>b) To protect riparian areas, where appropriate, in the Plan area;</i></p> <p><i>c) To ensure that, where development occurs within a riparian zone, it does not have a negative impact on associated habitats and species and to have regard for Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance ‘Planning For Watercourses In The Urban Environment’ and any updated versions;</i></p>

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	<p>d) To work with all relevant stakeholders to protect and improve appropriate access to waterways and river corridors whilst ensuring their conservation and the protection of the resource and water quality;</p> <p>e) To encourage development proposals to I. Maintain an appropriate width for the riparian zone to be protected; II. Improve appropriate access and compatible leisure activities; III. Maintain and enhance the fishing potential for both local interests and tourism by protecting the natural spawning beds of trout and salmon; and</p> <p>f) To protect the County’s valuable inland fishery resource and support its sustainable development through the protection of water quality and facilitation of ancillary infrastructure at appropriate locations.</p>
Air Quality, Noise and Climate	
<p>KCDP 2-1 Support and implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the NPF Strategy and National Policy Objectives (NPOs) on sustainability and the RSES Strategic Statements, as appropriate.</p>	<p>CDP 2.1 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To support the implementation of the National Climate Action Plan 2023 and the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (and any subsequent versions thereof), and to work with the Regional Climate Action Offices to enable County Clare to transition to a low carbon and climate resilient county;</p>
<p>KCDP 2-2 Facilitate and support national climate change objectives contained in the Climate Action Plan 2021 and the actions contained in the KCC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and successor strategies, and to consider a variation of this development plan, if necessary, to align with the approach recommended in the guidelines: Development Plans, Guidelines for Planning Authorities.</p>	<p>CDP 11.40 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To promote the proactive management of noise where it is likely to have significant adverse impacts on health and the environment; and,</p> <p>b) To ensure that all proposals for development with regard to transportation infrastructure shall comply with the provisions of the Clare Noise Action Plan (2018) and any subsequent plans.</p>
<p>KCDP 11-31 Improve and maintain good air quality and support measures to prevent harmful effects on human health and the environment in our urban and rural areas.</p>	<p>CDP 11.41 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To achieve and maintain good air quality and help prevent harmful effects on human health and the environment in our urban and rural areas;</p>

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	<p>b) To support local data collection in the development of air quality monitoring; and,</p> <p>c) To implement the provisions of national policy and air pollution legislation, in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate.</p>
<p>KCDP 11-36 Ensure that any application with the potential to create noise nuisance is appropriately assessed and that suitable measures to mitigate any nuisance are proposed and implemented.</p>	<p>CDP 11.52 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To support and promote energy efficiency savings in all sectors in support of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan and the objectives of the Clare Renewable Energy Strategy in Volume 5 of this plan.</p>
<p>KCDP 11-37 Support the KCC’s 2019 Noise Action Plan, Round 3 and future iterations over the lifetime of this plan.</p>	
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	
<p>KCDP 4-3 Preserve the architectural heritage of towns and villages and promote conservation-led regeneration and the re-use of buildings where possible.</p>	<p>CDP 8.8 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To facilitate, encourage and appropriately manage the development of the natural resources of the County and to ensure that this is done in a sensitive way, eliminating any significant adverse effects on the natural and built environment, negative impacts on archaeological heritage and in compliance with all relevant legislation and planning requirements.</p>
<p>KCDP 5-24 Enhance, integrate, and protect the special physical, social, economic, and cultural value of built heritage assets through appropriate and sensitive use now and for future generations.</p>	<p>CDP 9.4 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>d) To work with the relevant authorities to develop specific monitoring protocols for visitor pressure on the county's natural, archaeological and built heritage asset and to ensure that tourism activities are maintained within sustainable limits for the European sites in the county.</p>
<p>KCDP 8-10 Collaborate with Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland to sustainably support and promote our Gaeltacht areas as key Irish Language Tourism destinations.</p>	<p>CDP 15.26 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To collaborate with landowners, local communities and other relevant stakeholders to identify sites of global significance in County Clare that may be</p>

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	<p>added to Ireland’s World Heritage Tentative List*, and in due course achieve full world Heritage status by being inscribed onto the world Heritage List.</p> <p>b) To protect the attributes that convey the potential Outstanding Universal Value of sites that are included on Ireland’s Tentative List.</p> <p>c) To protect the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, and</p> <p>d) To engage with other national and international initiatives which promote the special built, natural and cultural heritage of places in the County.</p>
<p>KCDP 8-24 (i) Secure the preservation in situ of all sites, features, protected wrecks and objects of archaeological interest within the county. In securing such preservation the Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the National Museum of Ireland, and the County Archaeologist. (ii) Ensure that proposed development (due to location, size, or nature) which may have implications for the archaeological heritage of the county will be subject to an Archaeological Assessment (including Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment) which may lead to further subsequent archaeological mitigation – buffer zones/exclusion zones, monitoring, pre-development archaeological testing, archaeological excavation and/or refusal of planning permission. This includes areas close to archaeological monuments, development sites which are extensive in area (half hectare or more) or length (1km or more) or include potential impacts on underwater cultural heritage and development that requires an Environmental Impact Assessment.</p>	<p>CDP 16.1 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To ensure the protection of the architectural heritage of County Clare through the identification of Protected Structures, the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas, the safeguarding of historic gardens, and the recognition of structures and elements that contribute positively to the vernacular and industrial heritage of the county; and</p> <p>b) To ensure that the archaeological and architectural heritage of the county is not damaged either through direct destruction or by unsympathetic developments.</p> <p>c) To support and promote architectural vernacular skills training and facilities in the county</p>
<p>KCDP 8-25 Ensure the protection and preservation of archaeological monuments, wrecks and features, not yet listed in the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP), Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) or Wreck Inventory of Ireland Database and such unrecorded, through on-going review of the archaeological potential of the plan area. In securing such protection the</p>	<p>CDP 16.2 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To protect, as set out in the Record of Protected Structures, all structures, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest; and</p>

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<p><i>council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of The National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the County Archaeologist</i></p>	<p><i>b) To review the Record of Protected Structures periodically and add structures of special interest as appropriate, including significant elements of industrial, maritime or vernacular heritage and any twentieth century structures of merit.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 8-26 Protect and preserve and promote the underwater archaeological heritage of the county. In assessing proposals for development, the Council will take account of the Archaeological Potential of rivers, lakes, intertidal and sub-tidal environments. Where flood relief schemes are being undertaken the Council will have regard to the Archaeological Guidelines for Flood Relief Schemes (DHLGH and OPW 2021).</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 16.3 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To protect and preserve buildings and features of industrial heritage such as mills, bridges, lighthouses and harbours, amongst others. Proposals for refurbishment works to, or redevelopment/conversion of, these sites will be subject to a full architectural and archaeological assessment together with an ecological assessment with respect to the presence of protected species.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 8-27 Ensure that development (including forestry, renewable energy developments and extractive industries) within the vicinity of a recorded monument, zone of archaeological potential or archaeological landscape does not detract from the setting of the feature and is sited and designed appropriately and sympathetically with the character of the monument/feature/ landscape and its setting.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 16.5 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) To ensure that new developments within or adjacent to an ACA respect the established character context of the area and contribute positively to the ACA in terms of design, scale, setting and material finishes;</i> <i>b) To protect from demolition or removal and nonsympathetic alterations, existing buildings, structures, groups of structures, sites, landscapes and features such as street furniture and paving, which are considered to be intrinsic elements of the special character of the ACA;</i> <i>c) To ensure that all new signage, lighting, advertising and utilities to buildings within an ACA are designed, constructed and located in a manner that does not detract from and is complementary to the character of the ACA; and</i> <i>d) To ensure that external colour schemes in ACAs enhance the character and amenities of the area and reflect traditional colour schemes.</i>
<p><i>KCDP 8-30 Protect and preserve the industrial, military, maritime, riverine, lacustrine and post-medieval archaeological heritage of the county as reflected in such sites as mills, lighthouses, harbours, Valentia cable station, gun batteries, towers, and demesnes. Proposals for refurbishment, works to or redevelopment of these sites should be subject to a full architectural and</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 16.8 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) To safeguard sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally;</i> <i>b) To secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in situ or in exceptional cases preservation by record) of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National</i>

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<p><i>archaeological assessment including, where appropriate, Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment.</i></p>	<p><i>Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological and historical interest generally;</i></p> <p><i>c) In securing such preservation, to have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department of the Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht;</i></p> <p><i>d) To have regard to the government publication Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999 in relation to protecting sites, features and objects of archaeological interest; and</i></p> <p><i>e) To advocate for greater financial assistance for the maintenance and improvement of features of archaeological interests in County Clare.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 8-40 Ensure that any development, modification, alteration, or extension affecting a protected structure and/or its setting including designed landscape features and views, is compatible with the special character of that structure.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 16.9 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To protect and preserve archaeological sites discovered since the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 8-44 Ensure developments in an ACA have a positive impact on the intrinsic character of the area, respect the existing streetscape and layout, and are compatible in terms of design, materials, traffic, views, and intensity of site use.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 16.10 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To ensure that decisions relating to development (including infrastructure associated with broadband, telecommunications, renewable energy, major road/ rail infrastructure, flood relief schemes and other services) which may have implications for Recorded Archaeological Monuments/Sites, Zones of Archaeological Potential or undiscovered archaeology, are informed by an appropriate level of archaeological investigation undertaken by qualified persons and the case of flood relief schemes have regard to archaeological Guidelines for Flood Relief Schemes (DHLGH and OPW2022).</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 10-61 Protect and promote the County's built heritage assets and towns and villages that are the focus for tourism development and seek opportunities to sustainably enhance their tourism potential while adhering to best practice standards in relation to the environmental management of tourism enterprises.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 16.13 It is an objective of Clare County Council</i></p> <p><i>a) To protect, preserve and promote the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites in rivers, lakes, coastal, marine, intertidal and sub tidal environments; and</i></p>

Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028	Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
	<p><i>b) To support the further exploration of the underwater archaeology of County Clare, including the San Marcos project, and any subsequent projects that may arise during the lifetime of this Plan.</i></p>
<p>Landscape & Visual</p>	
<p><i>KCDP 11-77 Protect the landscapes of the County as a major economic asset and an invaluable amenity which contributes to the quality of people’s lives.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 14.5 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <p><i>To require that all proposed developments in Heritage Landscapes demonstrate that every effort has been made to reduce visual impact. This must be demonstrated for all aspects of the proposal - from site selection through to details of siting and design. All other relevant provisions of the Development Plan and the RSES must be complied with. All proposed developments in these areas will be required to demonstrate;</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I. That sites have been selected to avoid visual prominence</i> <i>II. III. That site layouts avail of existing topography and vegetation to minimise visibility from scenic routes, walking trails, public amenities and roads;</i> <i>That design for buildings and structures minimises height and visual contrast through careful choice of forms, finishes and colour and that any site works seek to reduce the visual impact of the development.</i>
<p><i>KCDP 11-78 Protect the landscapes of the County by ensuring that any new developments do not detrimentally impact on the character, integrity, distinctiveness or scenic value of their area. Any development which could unduly impact upon such landscapes will not be permitted.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 14.6 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) To require that it be demonstrated that every effort has been made to visually integrate any proposed development within a Seascape Character area. This must be demonstrated by assessing the proposal in relation to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Views from land to sea;</i> <i>• Views from sea to land;</i> <i>• Views along the coastline.</i> <i>b) To ensure that appropriate standards of location, siting, design, finishing and landscaping are achieved.</i>
<p><i>KCDP 11-80 Facilitate the sustainable development of existing and the identification of new Viewing Points along the route of the Wild Atlantic Way</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 14.7 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p>

Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028	Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
<p><i>in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, while ensuring the protection of environmental attributes in the area through the implementation of environmental protection objectives, standards and guidelines of this Plan.</i></p>	<p><i>a) To protect sensitive areas from inappropriate development while providing for development and change that will benefit the rural community;</i> <i>b) To ensure that proposed developments take into consideration their effects on views from the public road towards scenic features or areas and are designed and located to minimise their impact; and</i> <i>c) To ensure that appropriate standards of location, siting, design, finishing and landscaping are achieved.</i></p>
<p>Material Assets</p>	
<p><i>KCDP 4-15 Promote the guidance principles set out in the ‘Urban Design Manual – A Best Practice Guide’ (2009), and in the ‘Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets’ (2019) and promote a more pedestrian friendly environment through the provision of traffic calming measures and improved pedestrian infrastructure.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 11.35 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <p><i>a) To support and facilitate the implementation of the EU circular economy action plan ‘A New Circular Economy Action Plan For a cleaner more competitive Europe’ (2020), the EU Raw Material Initiative, A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy – Ireland’s National Waste Policy 2020-2025 and the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021;</i> <i>b) To support and promote circular economy principles prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery, to support a healthy environment, economy and society;</i> <i>c) To encourage and facilitate the development of new options and technological advances in relation to waste management;</i> <i>d) To support the development of waste recycling facilities at appropriate locations in County Clare as a means of facilitating a reduction in the quantity of waste that goes to landfill disposal sites;</i> <i>e) To promote environmental awareness measures and action programmes to ensure good environmental awareness and practices, the recycling of waste, water management, and energy conservation;</i> <i>f) To have regard to Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Resource Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects (EPA 2021) and any subsequent guidelines in the management of waste from construction and</i></p>

Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028	Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
	<p>demolition projects and to require the submission of a construction and demolition waste management plan for projects in excess of the following thresholds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New residential developments of 10 houses or more, • Other new developments, including institutional, educational, health and other public facilities, with an aggregate floor area in excess of 1,250m²; • Demolition/renovation/refurbishment projects generating in excess of 100m³ in volume of construction and demolition waste; • Civil engineering projects producing in excess of 500m³ of waste, excluding waste materials used for development works on the site. <p>The Council may also require the submission of construction and demolition waste management plans for other developments, and this will be managed through the preplanning consultation and planning application processes;</p> <p>g) To require proposals for brownfield regeneration in strategic locations to be accompanied by a site risk assessment and a clear waste plan for any wastes arising, including consideration of hazardous or contaminated material; and,</p> <p>h) To support and facilitate the repurposing of previous landfill sites and where appropriate their reuse for community or recreational purposes.</p>
<p>KCDP 4-22 Protect, enhance and ensure that existing and proposed developments located within or adjacent to areas of Green Infrastructure incorporate any important biodiversity features into the overall development in a sustainable manner.</p>	<p>CDP 11.37 It is an objective of Clare County Council: To implement the provisions of the Clare County Litter Management Plan 2022-2024 and any updated version of this Plan.</p>
<p>KCDP 12-12 Promote energy conservation and efficiency through reduced consumption and incorporating renewable energy technology into building design standards.</p>	<p>CDP 11.38 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To require that a C&D Waste Management Plan is prepared by the developer having regard to the 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Resource Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects' (EPA 2021) and any subsequent guidelines for new construction or demolition projects and to</p>

Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028	Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
	<p><i>require that where appropriate the maximum amount of waste material generated on site is reused and recycled;</i></p> <p><i>b) To promote the production and reuse of aggregates from C&D waste and their use in construction projects in the Region; and,</i></p> <p><i>c) To encourage the development of C&D waste recycling facilities at suitable sites, including quarries, subject to normal planning and environmental considerations.</i></p>
<p><i>KCDP 13-27 Ensure the implementation of the Regional Waste Management Plan with particular emphasis on waste reduction, reuse and recycling and the sustainable disposal of residual waste in the most appropriate manner.</i></p>	<p><i>CDP 15.28 It is an objective of Clare County Council: a) To identify areas within the County that possess starry nights and a nocturnal environment of exceptional quality and to explore the potential of establishing a Dark Sky Reserve in the County; and b) Subject to resources, to replace public lighting systems throughout the County with more energy efficient, money saving, dark-sky compliant lighting.</i></p>
	<p><i>CDP 16.4 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i></p> <p><i>[....]</i></p> <p><i>(c) To ensure that visitor pressures from tourism associated with built and cultural heritage do not impact negatively on the capacity of local services (including water, waste water) or facilities such as car parking.</i></p>

10 Monitoring

10.1 Introduction

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

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives (**Section 6**) used in the assessment. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the targets. The monitoring programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues - including unforeseen effects - as they arise. Such issues may be identified by the Council or identified to the Council by other agencies.

Fáilte Ireland is responsible for monitoring and the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, clear resolution plan will be produced with assigned responsibilities, timelines and monitoring to address environmental damage and cause of the same. It is recommended that the monitoring for the CCDEDP is undertaken utilising the outputs of monitoring and reviews of the Kerry and Clare Development Plans for efficiency and given that similar data sets will be used to measure the progress of each plan.

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

Refer to **Table 10.1** below for the monitoring programme set for the SEA which includes details on the indicators, targets and data sources to monitor the progress of the CCDEDP.

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Table 10.1 Environmental Monitoring Programme

SEO Ref.	SEO Description	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources and Monitoring Frequency
Biodiversity (Flora & Fauna) (B)				
B1	Ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and Annex habitats and species ⁵² and no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function.	Conservation status of habitats and species protected under European and International legislation.	Maintenance of favourable conservation status for habitats and species protected under European and International legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Plan.	<p>Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's National Monitoring Report for the Birds Directive under Article 12 (every 3 years)</p> <p>Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years)</p> <p>Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS) data.</p> <p>EPA State of the Environment reporting.</p> <p>Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.</p> <p>Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities.</p>
B2	Preserve, protect, maintain and where appropriate enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, including internationally, EU and nationally designated sites, habitats and protected species.	Conservation status of habitats and species protected under International and National legislation.	Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under International and National legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Plan.	<p>EPA State of the Environment reporting.</p> <p>Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.</p>

⁵² 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

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SEO Ref.	SEO Description	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources and Monitoring Frequency
B3	Ensure CCDEDP does not contradict biodiversity protection, restoration and rehabilitation objectives in the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.	To comply with the biodiversity policies and objectives of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.	No contravention of the biodiversity policies and objectives of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.	Kerry & Clare County Council monitoring for likely significant environmental effects of the developments and compliance with policies and objectives of the CDP.
Population & Human Health (PHH)				
PHH1	Promote sustainable high quality tourism within the County that supports economic development and maximises potential for employment and investment.	To comply with the tourism and economic development policies and objectives of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.	No contravention of the tourism and economic development policies and objectives of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.	Central Statistics Office (CSO) census data. Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities. Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.
PHH2	Improve health and wellbeing by provision of recreational and tourism-related activities.	Occurrence of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors resulting from the CCDEDP, as identified by the Health Service Executive (HSE) and / or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).	No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of the CCDEDP.	Publicly available data from HSE and EPA to be reviewed. EPA State of the Environment reporting. Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities. Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.

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SEO Ref.	SEO Description	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources and Monitoring Frequency
Land, Soils & Geology (LSG)				
LSG1	Promote urban infill / brownfield development and protect land and soil resources from pollution and degradation.	Extent of conversion of land cover / green field to developed / artificial surfaces.	Contribute towards the target of the SEA for the National Planning Framework's (2018) to <i>"Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4%."</i>	CORINE mapping surveys (every 5 years). EPA State of the Environment reporting. Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.
Water Quality (WQ)				
WQ1	Protect, maintain and where necessary improve water quality and the management of watercourses, groundwater and the marine environment, in compliance with the requirements of the WFD objectives and measures.	<p>Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 272 of 2009).</p> <p>Groundwater compliance with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC, subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD.</p> <p>Reference to EPA WFD Monitoring programme and status of surface waterbodies, groundwater bodies reported.</p>	No deterioration in the status of any groundwater or surface water, or adverse effect upon the ability of any groundwater or surface water to achieve 'good status' as a result of the CCDEDP.	<p>Information issued under the Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme for Ireland (multi-annual).</p> <p>Review of WFD status of Bathing Waters, green flag / blue flag for beaches.</p> <p>EPA State of the Environment reporting.</p> <p>Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.</p>

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SEO Ref.	SEO Description	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources and Monitoring Frequency
WQ2	Implement and comply with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management and Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidelines to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding.	Flood-related incidences related to the CCDEDP.	Compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and to ensure that any new developments granted planning permissions are on appropriately zoned lands.	Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities. Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes. Review of planning applications for any new infrastructure to be accompanied by standalone flood risk assessment report in sensitive areas.
Air Quality, Noise & Climate (ANC)				
ANC1	Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality and noise emissions through the reduction of emissions.	Demonstration of compliance with air quality and noise provisions. Number of exceedances of ambient air quality standards in the County, as monitored under the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network.	To maximise the amount of measures relating to air quality and noise minimisation being implemented.	EPA State of the Environment reporting. Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes. Review of Kerry and Clare Air Quality Dashboard for air quality monitoring data results and EPA data for air quality monitoring.
ANC2	Contribute towards climate adaptation and mitigation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with National targets, including Ireland's commitment to realising a climate neutral economy by 2050.	Demonstration of compliance with provisions relating to climate adaptation and mitigation.	To maximise the amount of measures relating to climate adaptation and mitigation being implemented.	EPA State of the Environment reporting. Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.
Material Assets (MA)				
MA1	To contribute towards the protection of public assets and infrastructure, ensure new developments are served with adequate and appropriate critical	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned	No incompatible development (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned material assets infrastructure.	Review of Annual Environmental Reports prepared by Uisce Éireann.

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SEO Ref.	SEO Description	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources and Monitoring Frequency
	infrastructure with sufficient capacity (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) that does not present a danger to human health.	infrastructure, including water supply, wastewater management, energy and transport infrastructure.		Review of publicly available data from EPA monitoring. EPA State of the Environment reporting. Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.
MA2	Promote sustainable waste management, minimisation and recovery.	Tonnes of hazardous waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually. Tonnes of W.E.E.E. waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually. Tonnes of Bulky waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually. Tonnes of garden waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.	Increase waste recycling in the County. Reduce waste generation in the County.	EPA State of the Environment reporting. Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.
MA3	Promote sustainable transportation including increased use of public transport and active travel measures.	% change in modal split. Kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Kilometres of permanent integrated cycling network. Number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the county.	Percentage increase in the number of public transport users in the Counties Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network.	Review delivery of sustainable transport projects via Kerry & Clare County Council / NTA. Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities. Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.

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SEO Ref.	SEO Description	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources and Monitoring Frequency
		Total Area of road reallocated for sustainable alternatives.	Increase number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the county. Increase Total Area of road reallocated for sustainable alternatives	
Cultural Heritage (CH)				
CH1	Protect and avoid impact on places, features and landscapes of cultural and archaeological importance, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).	Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places protected from significant adverse effects arising from the Plan.	No adverse effects on archaeological or cultural heritage resulting from implementation of the Plan.	Review of data available from National Monuments Section of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.
CH2	Protect and avoid impact on places, features, buildings and landscapes of architectural heritage, (including entries to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAHs)).	Percentage of entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from the Plan.	No adverse effects on architectural heritage resulting from implementation of the Plan.	Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities.
Landscape & Visual (LV)				
LV1	To protect landscape character, minimise the loss of historic landscape features such as mature trees and hedgerows and scenic views.	Number of unmitigated conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in Development Plans and other statutory land-use plans.	No unmitigated conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape, including those included in Development Plans and other statutory land-use plans.	Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.

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SEO Ref.	SEO Description	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources and Monitoring Frequency
LV2	Avoid impacts on the statutory landscape & visual designations as identified in the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.	<p>Status of High Amenity Zones and Views and Prospects.</p> <p>Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse impacts on High Amenity Zones and Views and Prospects.</p>	<p>All action and development proposals supported by the plan must comply with policy objectives relating to the protection of High Amenity Zone and Views and Prospects defined in the Development Plans.</p> <p>No development supported by the plan should have an adverse impact on High Amenity Zones and Views and Prospects.</p>	<p>Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.</p> <p>Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities.</p>

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11 References

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12 Appendices

Appendix 1: Detailed Assessment of Environmental Effects of the Catalyst Projects and Destination Supporting Projects / Enablers listed within the Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan

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Table 8.1A Environmental Assessment of the Action Plan of the CCDEDP

(SEO Key: B – Biodiversity, PHH – Population & Human Health, LSG – Land, Soils & Geology, WQ – Water Quality, ANC – Air Quality, Noise & Climate Change, MA – Material Assets, CH – Cultural Heritage, LV – Landscape & Visual)

(New text added to the Plan based on the responses received on the draft Plan during the consultation period are presented in green in the table below)

No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
CATALYST PROJECTS							
1	CATALYST PROJECT 1 : Cliff Coast Water Adventure Hub						
1	Cliff Coast Water Adventure Hubs Masterplan - Tralee Bay and West Clare	<p>Develop a masterplan approach to develop the coastal tourism and water activity opportunity for the Cliff Coast. The masterplan will identify the requirements to leverage planned investment in Tralee Bay and West Clare and establish the additional infrastructure investment requirements to establish the destination as nationally recognised centre for water adventure and coastal tourism activity. It will also establish the local industry capacity building requirements to develop the Cliff Coast activity experience clusters.</p> <p>Assess the feasibility of developing the adventure and activity tourism potential of the Tralee Bay area, in a sustainable manner and with opportunities for accessible and 'Tourism for All' initiatives. Tourism opportunities will be maximised through the delivery of the objectives of the Tralee Urban Regeneration Project (URDF), the Fenit Village Design Master Plan, Platforms for Growth, TII Greenway Strategy and other funded projects.</p> <p>Explore the potential to develop a sustainable lighthouse experience in Fenit.</p> <p>The assessment of the West Clare proposition will examine the development of a coastal tourism activity cluster maximising opportunities through Platforms for Growth, linking to future</p>	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		ANC (ANC1, ANC2), CH (CH1, CH2)	B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3)	Yes

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		Greenway investment, enhancing existing marine tourism amenities, local activity hubs and experiences. It will also identify future investment priorities to enable coastal tourism activity e.g slipways, sea water pools and additional water access infrastructure. The immediate areas of focus will include Kilkee, Kilrush, Cappagh and Carrigaholt.					
<p>SEA Evaluation: The listed projects and associated actions will result in positive effects on population and human health. While the overall intention is positive, resulting actions (e.g. water-based activities) could have negative or uncertain effects for biodiversity, water, land & soils, landscape and visual, material assets and air & noise.</p> <p>The development of these projects, however, might result in negative environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>							
2. CATALYST PROJECT 2: Greenways							
2	Greenways - Clare	<p>Maximise the tourism potential of planned and future greenway investment West Clare in a sustainable manner and examine opportunities to link the route to adjoining communities and facilities. Greenway development will be in line with DTTAS National Greenway Strategy and Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways and will be subject to fund sourcing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the next phases of the West Clare Greenway in accordance with the development timeline. This will include the progression of the concept, feasibility, <i>environmental assessment</i> and option selection phases. Develop the town based trail head experiences in Kilkee and Kilrush in preparation for the launch of initial phase of the West Clare Greenway. 	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)		Yes

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the Greenway route in Miltown Malbay and examine future opportunities to link the route to adjoining communities and facilities. 					
3	Greenways - Kerry	<p>Maximise the tourism potential of the county's greenways in a sustainable manner and examine opportunities to link the route to adjoining communities and facilities. Greenway development will be in line with DTTAS National Greenway Strategy and Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways and will be subject to fund sourcing.</p> <p>Maximise the marketing potential to promote the Kingdom of Kerry Greenways to both domestic and international visitors.</p> <p>Complete the Abbeyfeale-Listowel route and Tralee-Fenit route of the Greenway supported by the completion of the trail head / facilities and Interpretation Plan implemented.</p> <p>Progress the concept, feasibility, <i>environmental assessment</i> and option selection phases of a Tralee-Listowel Greenway. Undertake the feasibility analysis of connecting the Kerry Greenways to the Limerick Greenway.</p>					
4	Greenway Communities Capacity Building	Undertake sustained local capacity building development programmes among the Greenways communities introducing visitors to local community experiences and prompting consideration of new associated commercial development opportunities.					
5	Greenway Visitor Experience	Undertake an Interpretation, Wayfinding and Amenities scheme for each greenway project to deliver a consistent visitor experience across the destination.					
		SEA Evaluation: The development of new and existing greenways, including those within and between existing destinations, has the potential to contribute to sustainable mobility, reduction in emissions and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations.					

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
	The development of these projects, however, may result in uncertain environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. Increased tourism in these location would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management and the effect on material assets and water quality is also uncertain.						
3.	CATALYST PROJECT 3: Developing Visitor Hubs in Key Towns						
6	Developing Tralee – Destination Town	Develop Tralee as a Destination Town and evening economy hub in a sustainable manner, to maximise its potential as an accommodation centre and exploration base for North Kerry area through the delivery of the Destination Town Tralee Project, the Tralee Urban Regeneration Project (URDF) and continued work on creating a safe and thriving location at night for all.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		ANC (ANC1, ANC2), CH (CH1, CH2)	B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV (LV_1, LV2)	Yes
7	Developing Tralee – Destination Town	Explore the feasibility of developing Tralee Town Square as a year-round all-weather outdoor amenity space.					
8	Developing Listowel	Prioritise activity and cultural tourism as a sustainable key economic driver and growth sector for Listowel and North Kerry through the delivery of the Listowel Rural Regeneration Project (RRDF). Maximise the potential of the Greenway in order to enhance the attractiveness of the town as a slow tourism destination. Explore the re-establishment of the Town Square as the cultural heart and economic centre of Listowel and the positioning of the town as a hub for activity and cultural tourism in North Kerry.					
9	Developing Listowel	Examine the requirements to link Listowel town centre to the town park and Greenway trailhead/ facilities, through enhanced visitor orientation.					
10	Developing Listowel	Continue to support the local business and community sector to maximise the tourism potential of the Greenway including training and marketing resources sharing.					

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
11	Developing Listowel	Develop the number of literary and cultural tourism experiences in Listowel that include St John's Theatre, Kerry Writers Museum and examination of the feasibility of a daytime cultural experience linked to the areas associations with renowned writers.					
12	Developing Ballybunion	Progress the actions of the Ballybunion Development Plan, work on developing the town in a sustainable manner and as a Universal Access tourism destination and deliver a shared-beach facility for water-based activities under Platforms for Growth.					
13	Developing Ballybunion	Examine the opportunity to develop a shop front scheme for Ballybunion adopting a coherent coastal town presentation approach.					
14	Developing Ballybunion	Examine the requirements to undertake remediation works to the Ballybunion Cliff Walk.					
15	Developing Ballyheigue	Assess the feasibility of developing Ballyheigue's potential as a sustainable tourism hub for North Kerry focused on coastal tourism its opportunity to develop as an exploration base for walkers and hikers, given its key location between the North Kerry Way and the Shannon Way. Examine the future requirements for a shared-beach facility for Ballyheigue Beach and explore funding opportunities.					
16	Developing Kilkee	Examine the requirements to develop extended Cliff Walks around Kilkee to Loop Head and Poulnasherry Bay, delivered in phases.					
17	Developing Kilkee	Maximise the local tourism opportunity through the development of the Platforms for Growth Facilities Centre in Kilkee as the basis for developing year round outdoor recreation activity and local saleable experiences.					
18	Developing Kilkee	Develop Kilkee as a Universal Access tourism destination activated through the development of a Universal Access Tourism plan to engage the tourism industry, local community and agencies to contribute to the delivery of the vision.					
19	Developing Kilrush	Implement the priority actions in the Kilrush Sustainability Plan and Kilrush Tourism Strategy contributing to the vision to become					

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		Ireland's most sustainable town and great place to live and visit. The action plan focus will also align with the guidance of Fáilte Ireland destination town guidelines and link to the destination development focus of the DEDP.					
20	Developing Kilrush	Deliver the link between Vandeleur Gardens to the Kilrush Marina via Coillte forest lands with the further integration of existing and future walking and heritage trails around Kilrush to develop an integrated town experience and encourage further exploration of the town by visitors. A programme of local community and tourism industry capacity building will be delivered to develop saleable visitor experiences that motivate the visitor to explore the town and grow the ability of ancillary services such as retail benefit from the visitor economy.					
21	Developing Kilrush	Develop Kilrush as a cycling trail hub supported by satellite hubs such as Kilkee, Kilbaha and Miltown Malbay. This will include the development of a local business and community capacity to deliver supporting services and cycling experiences to contribute to the development of the town as a cycling town.					
22	Developing the Night-time Economy	Grow the range and quality of evening time experiences within Cliff Coast visitor hubs and local communities.					
23	Developing the Night-time Economy	Examine the feasibility of <i>sustainably</i> developing niche evening time events at key OPW sites across the Cliff Coast.					
<p>SEA Evaluation: This objective will enhance tourism opportunities and will have positive effect on population and human health.</p> <p>However, the new attraction and development presents potential uncertain environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast.</p> <p>Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>							

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
4. CATALYST PROJECT 4: Beach Management Facilities							
24	Blue Flag Beaches	Undertake an audit of the visitor services and facilities (e.g. parking, accessibility) required in all Cliff Coast destination Blue Flag beaches as a guide for sustainable tourism planning across the destination.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2) MA (MA3)			B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2), CH (CH1, CH2)	Yes
25	Platforms for Growth	Develop <i>sustainably</i> the shared-beach and water-based activity centres in Ballybunion, Fenit and Kilkee under the Platforms for Growth investment. Support the development of the centres with the appropriate training and capacity building.					
<p>SEA Evaluation: This objective will enhance tourism opportunities and will have positive effect on population and human health.</p> <p>However, the new attraction and development presents potential uncertain environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the coastal and transitional waters.</p> <p>Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>							
5. CATALYST PROJECT 5: Developing Trails							
26	Cliffs and Coastal Walks	Develop a master planning approach to map the requirements to develop an integrated destination Cliffs and Coastal Walk linking accessible cliff trails and walks across North Kerry and Loop Head Peninsula aligned with the proposed Wild Atlantic Way Coastal Walk project.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)			B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA	Yes
27	Cliffs and Coastal Walks	Examine the requirements to develop new visitor experiences linked to the Cliffs and Coastal Walks examining opportunities such as environmentally sensitive placemaking eco-art trails, wellbeing, sunset and sunrise experiences.					

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
28	Destination Cycle & Walking Trails	Develop the opportunity around the Eurovelo route as the basis for growing the reach of local cycling trails and the development of cycling itineraries associated with local cycling hubs and communities.			(MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)		
29	Destination Cycle & Walking Trails	Examine the potential to repurpose the former Shannon Cycle Route in West Clare and North Kerry to create a new cycling trail across the destination.					
30	Loop Head Trail	Explore the potential to <i>sustainably</i> redevelop the Loop Head Trail to become a Loop Head Experience Route linking unique Loop Head experiences through slow tourism experiences and introducing visitor to the uniqueness of peninsula life.					
31	Clare Walking Trails	Review and assess the quality of existing trails in the area and examine their potential for upgrade and enhancement to provide access to a range of walking trail options to explore local communities. This will also include the examination of linking rural communities through future infrastructure investment or thematic linkages i.e. linking Doonbeg, Miltown Malbay, Cooraclare trails with Loop Head, Kilrush.					
32	Kerry Cycle & Walking Trails	Review and assess trails in the area and examine potential to upgrade and enhance existing trails including The Shannon Way and North Kerry Way.					
33	Pilgrim Way Trail	Undertake a Feasibility Study for the Pilgrim Way and the incorporation of key sites with the Cliff Coast to include sites such as Rattoo tower, Abbeydorney Abbey and Ardfert Cathedral. The study will examine potential linkages to sites in West Clare such as Scatterry Island and Holy Wells sites across the destination.					
34	Slieve Callen Trails	Examine the requirements to develop off road cycling and walkway trails at Slieve Callen.					
35	Kerry Trails Development	Support the role of the RRO/ Trails and Walks officer for North Kerry. Support the roll out of GPS mapping of walks for North Kerry and the usage of the Kerry Trails Map					

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
	<p>SEA Evaluation: The development of new and existing cycle and walking trails, including those within and between existing destinations, has the potential to contribute to sustainable mobility, reduction in emissions and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefiting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations.</p> <p>The development of these projects, however, may result in uncertain environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. Increased tourism in these location would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management and the effect on material assets and water quality is also uncertain.</p>						
6.	CATALYST PROJECT 6: Developing Destination Attractions						
36	Loop Head Lighthouse Masterplan	Develop and implement the masterplan for the Loop Head Lighthouse site to maximise the sites opportunity to become a catalyst for sustainable tourism development activity across the destination.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2),			B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2)	Yes
37	Vandeleur Gardens Commercial Development Plan	Develop and implement a commercial plan to support the investment in Vandeleur Gardens, expansion of visitor experiences, site usage and links to other attractions in the destination.					
38	Blennerville Heritage and Activity Centre	Support the upgrade of Blennerville Windmill, maximising its potential as a sustainable tourism attraction and exploring the feasibility of connecting it to existing greenways/trails and providing facilities for users.					
39	Scattery Island	Develop the potential of Scattery Island as an exemplar sustainable visitor attraction through a new vision for the visitor experience and a planned approach to developing a compelling visitor experience integrating all aspects of the Scattery Island experience. A shared visitor experience development plan and attraction vision and roadmap will be developed linked to managed sustainable visitor growth and the identification of future investment requirements.					
40	Scattery Island	Develop a new Scattery Island interpretative plan and undertake a Biodiversity Plan in 2024 for the island.					

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
41	Scattery Island	Develop a Scattery Island conservation management plan. Undertake a hen harrier management plan for the island in 2023.					
42	Visitor Attractions Experience Development	Undertake an audit of commercial and community led visitor attractions in North Kerry and West Clare examining the requirements to improve the visitor experience to attract and appeal to multigenerational audiences. The audit should include training and capacity building requirements supported by a programme of training to address key gaps, together with examining the feasibility of integrating niche destination experiences into existing visitor sites e.g. potential Rose of Tralee cultural experience, Marconi Story.					
<p>SEA Evaluation: The listed projects and associated actions will result in positive effects on population and human health.</p> <p>The projects where there is a requirement for development of existing and new infrastructure might also give rise to uncertain environmental effects on other environmental themes and SEOs that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.</p>							
7. CATALYST PROJECT 7: Developing Digital Capacity							
43	Industry Digital Capacity	Undertake a digital audit of the Cliff Coast tourism industry focused on existing attractions, activities and accommodation. Identify the priority actions required to provide a training and capacity building programme and businesses for inclusion in Digital that Delivers programme activity. Work with other enterprise / training and education agencies to accelerate the digital capacity of the tourism industry and provide sustained training supports to advance their skillset.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)	B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), LV (LV_1, LV2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), CH (CH1, CH2)			No

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
<p>SEA Evaluation: This actions will enhance visitor experience and promote tourism resulting in overall positive or neutral effects on the environmental themes and SEOs.</p> <p>No negative or uncertain environmental effects arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.</p>							
8. CATALYST PROJECT 8: Accomodation Growth							
44	Accomodation Development	Work on the outputs of the destination accommodation audit and identity accommodation development opportunity sites to attract private sector investment in accommodation across the Cliff Coast destination.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV (LV_1, LV2), CH (CH1, CH2)		Yes
45	Attracting Accomodation Investment	Develop a dedicated accommodation growth programme and advisory supports to attract and work with the private sector to invest in accommodation across North Kerry and West Clare.					
46	Accomodation Development	Undertake a review to <i>sustainably</i> develop camper van sites in less trafficked rural areas to disperse visitors into rural communities linked to activities such as Greenways and Blueway's.					
<p>SEA Evaluation: This action will result in positive effects on population and human health.</p> <p>The development of new and existing accommodations might result in uncertain environmental effects on the environmental themes and SEOs that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.</p>							
9. CATALYST PROJECT 9: Transport Connectivity							
47	Transport Plan	Undertake an audit and review of existing transport access into and around the destination as the basis for the creation of an initial pilot programme to increase transport connectivity.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1),		Yes

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
48	Smart Plan	Examine the opportunities to link Cliff Coast communities through improved public transport using Local Link as a model for sustainable transport for visitors.			WQ (WQ1, WQ2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV (LV_1, LV2), CH (CH1, CH2)		
49	Sustainable Transport	Support the development of the Tralee Mobility Project as a sustainable means of transport for visitors and locals					
50	Ferry Transport	Maintain and if feasible, sustainably improve the ferry service to incorporate an experience for visitors, without significant adverse effects on the environment of the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. This ferry service plays a critical role in connecting West Clare & North Kerry keeping the link and route along the Wild Atlantic Way and will play an important part in the future connectivity of Greenway developments in Limerick, Kerry & Clare and future developments in improving opportunities for creating cycle loops. – Maintain ferry terminal visitor facilities as the terminals represent exit and entry points and are important ‘touch-points’ in the visitor experience.					
<p>SEA Evaluation: The listed projects and associated actions will result in positive effects on population and human health.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, the actions could have the potential to result in uncertain environmental effect on cultural heritage. The projects where there is a requirement for development of existing and new infrastructure might also give rise to uncertain environmental effects on other environmental themes and SEOs that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.</p>							
ENABLING & DESTINATION PROJECTS							
51	Lighthouse and Coastal Lights Experience Journey	Develop a Cliff Coast Lighthouse Experience Trail accessible by water, bike and hike with the lighthouse as the core experience while introducing other sites such as castles and defence batteries linked to the core Lighthouse elements at Loop Head, Scattery Island and Fenit. Fenit Lighthouse and An tOilean Beag (Samphire Island) is within Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula. West to Cloghane SAC (2070),	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), ANC		Yes

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		designated for, amongst others, the habitat types reefs (1170) and Atlantic sea cliffs (1230). (“Subject to any required environmental constraints”)			(ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV (LV_1, LV2), CH (CH1, CH2)		
52	Spanish Armada Story	Undertake a feasibility analysis with the Irish Armada Network to identify historically accurate visitor experiences and trails linked to the Cliff Coast, from Tralee, Banna Beach, Scatterry Island, Doonbeg, Quilty, and Spanish Point. Develop <i>sustainably</i> a programme of seasonal experiences around the story of the Armada linked to local visitor attractions e.g. the storms of the Armada experience at Loop Head.					
53	Spanish Armada Story	Examine the potential for existing visitor attractions such as Loop Head Lighthouse to incorporate VR/AR interpretation of the Armada journey.					
54	Castle Visitor Experiences	Undertake a review of the requirements to enhance the visitor experience at Carrigafoyle Castle.					
55	Castle Visitor Experiences	Undertake a review of the requirements to enhance the visitor experience at Carrigaholt Castle					
56	Heritage Sites	Develop the capacity of key heritage sites to offer visitor experiences linked to 'viewing at heights' as a unique destination experience e.g Cliff Coast Views Trail linking castles, lighthouses combined with coastal cliffs viewing points.					
57	Maritime and Military trails	Examine the opportunity to link the Cliff Coast Battery Forts of North Kerry and West Clare as part of a maritime and military trail experience.					
58	Maritime and Military trails	Review the requirements to include North Kerry War Monuments in existing trails as a visitor experience.					
59	Heritage Sites	Examine the opportunity to cross promote experiences and develop itineraries through OPW sites across the Cliff Coast and adjoining urban areas e.g linking Scatterry Island with Carrigaholt Castle.					

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
60	Heritage Sites	Undertake a programme of guide training to cross promote other OPW and local sites.					
51-60	<p>SEA Evaluation: The listed projects and associated actions will result in positive effects on population and human health.</p> <p>However, in the absence of mitigation, the actions could have the potential to result in uncertain environmental effect on cultural heritage. The projects where there is a requirement for development of existing and new infrastructure might also give rise to uncertain environmental effects on other environmental themes and SEOs that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>						
61	Blueways	Assess the feasibility and requirements to link the River Feale Blueway to the Greenway.	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)				Yes
62	Kilrush Blueway Feasibility	Undertake a feasibility study to develop a Blueway in Kilrush.					
63	Activity Clusters	Examine the tourism enterprise development requirements to grow the levels of saleable experiences linked to the Cliff Coast coastal tourism activity clusters in Tralee Bay and West Clare. Work with local providers to increase the volume of “learn to” experiences for visitors e.g. learning to surf, kayak, open water swimming, coastal adventures.					
64	Marine & Eco Experiences	Examine the requirements to develop new and enhance existing saleable experiences through marine and eco boat experiences linking North Kerry through Saleen Pier and West Clare through Kilrush, Scatterry Island and Carrigaholt.					
65	Distinctive Wellbeing Cluster	Examine the feasibility of developing a niche industry network of ‘Signature Wellbeing Experiences’ and Wellbeing exploration points across North Kerry and West Clare.					

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
66	Distinctive Wellbeing Cluster	Develop a Restorative Tourism pilot programme in Ballybunion and Spanish Point to create a cluster of Signature Wellbeing experiences and calendar of events.					
67	Distinctive Wellbeing Cluster	Examine the potential to develop a unique restorative tourism experience in Listowel through the development of existing community centre wellbeing activity to attract domestic and international visitors.					
68	Seaweed Experience Trail	Explore the potential to adopt the Seaweed theme as the basis for an immersive Seaweed experience trail linking all elements from foraging, bathing to food preparation.					
69	Cliff Coast Food and Drink Experiences	Grow the number of Cliff Coast food and drink experiences and examine the potential to develop a network of Agri and rural tourism partners in the creation of a series of drink and agri-food experiences and also explore the opportunity to develop ultra-lux experiences.					
70	Cliff Coast Food and Drink Experiences	Review the potential to expand the Ballybunion Relish event to become a North Kerry Relish seasonal calendar of mini food events linked to a North Kerry Taste Trail.					
71	Cliff Coast Food and Drink Experiences	Develop the Tralee Fenit Gourmet Trail linking local food and drink experiences to the Greenway.					
72	Cliff Coast Food and Drink Experiences	Explore the opportunity for the Listowel Food Hub to become the catalyst for food and agri tourism experience development across North Kerry.					
73	Cliff Coast Food and Drink Experiences	Examine the feasibility of establishing a whiskey experience in West Clare as a brand home to JJ Corry delivering a range of visitor experiences including ultra lux.					
74	Marine Life Experiences – Dolphin and Whale Watching	Undertake a visitor experience planning approach to grow the opportunities for visitors to engage with the destinations association with Dolphin and Whale Watching. Examine the requirements to <i>sustainably</i> develop the areas international marine observation					

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
		profile through the development or enhancement of marine life observation experiences and new approaches to visitor education.					
75	Sustainable Tourism experience innovation	Develop a Cliff Coast Signature Green Tourism Experience pilot programme to deliver quality responsible tourism experiences including outdoor activities, food and accommodation providers. As part of the pilot programme an industry training programme will be developed for local industry partners to 'Green' their visitor experiences and grow the number of destination Signature Green Tourism Experiences.					
75	DPDZ Gateway	Develop Blennerville Windmill and Tralee Bay Wetlands Eco & Activity Park as gateway/ information hubs for the Dingle Peninsula Decarbonisation Zone.					
77	Biodiversity - Hubs of Exploration	Examine the feasibility of developing a network of Environmental and Ecology Discovery Points linking biodiversity trailways and eco experiences across the Cliff Coast.					
78	Biodiversity - Hubs of Exploration	Develop a series of ornithology experiences linked to local Cliff Coast trails as the basis for developing nature based itineraries throughout the Cliff Coast. The Cliff Coast area is within the (a) Kerry Head SPA (Site Code: 004189), (b) Loop Head SPA (Site Code: 004119), (c) Mid-Clare Coast SPA (Site Code: 004182), and near (d) Illaunonearaun SPA (Side Code: 004114). ("Subject to there being no significant adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites" is recommended)					
79	Siamsa Tire	Examine the opportunity to further develop Siamsa Tire, the National Folk Theatre, with an expanded range of day and evening time cultural activities.					
80	Siamsa Tire	Undertake an assessment of the potential for new visitor experiences in Siamsa Tire and the examination of requirements to develop an immersive family focused experience and multi lingual day time experience.					

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No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
81	Tinteaín Theatre, Ballybunion	Support the development of the Tinteaín Theatre as a catalyst for generating off season visitor activity for Ballybunion and North Kerry.					
82	Blennerville Steam Railway	Explore the feasibility of restoring the Tralee- Blennerville Steam Railway.					
83	Con Houlihan Cultural Centre	Examine the feasibility of redeveloping Con Houlihan's home as a cultural/heritage centre for Castleisland.					
84	Kerry County Museum	Undertake an assessment of the requirements to upgrade the Kerry County Museum visitor experience and its capacity to orientate visitors to authentic Cliff Coast community experiences.					
85	Ratoo Round Tower	Examine the development of new ladder access from the lower level to the first floor internally and the design of external access stairs					
86	Ardfert	Review the requirements needed to enhance the footpaths in the immediate proximity to Ardfert Cathedral and link with the nearby Friary.					
87	Ardfert	Complete the installation of the glass lobby in the visitor centre					
88	Cliff Coast Music Trail	Develop a Cliff Coast music trail linking traditional music to contemporary music venues in North Kerry with West Clare					
89	Art on the Loop	Examine the requirements to develop Artists on the Loop visitor experiences introducing visitors to local art experiences.					
90	Genealogy	Develop the genealogy network within the Cliff Coast linking sites such as Kilrush and Blennerville incorporating the activities of local historical societies.					
61-90	<p>SEA Evaluation: While the overall intention is positive, resulting actions (e.g. blueways, marine experiences etc.) could have negative or uncertain effects for biodiversity, water, land & soils, landscape and visual, material assets and air & noise. Some of the above actions could also have the potential to result in uncertain environmental effect on cultural heritage</p> <p>The development of these projects, however, might result in negative environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure have potential to be located in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along the coast. These works can also potentially result in the spread of invasive species. Increased tourism in these locations would also require provision of welfare facilities, wastewater and waste management.</p>						

Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan

SEA Environmental Report

No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
91	Family Destination	Develop a Cliff Coast family experience cluster and develop the tourism industry's capacity to target and grow the family market through new <i>approaches to packaging and collaboration to deliver new family experiences. Develop a North Kerry and West Clare collaborative network to deliver a Family Experience Cluster linked to the development of the activity cluster, sustainably developing the experience at visitor attractions and unique destination experiences such as Dolphin and Whale watching.</i>	PHH (PHH1, PHH2)		B (B1, B2, B3), LSG (LSG1), WQ (WQ1, WQ2), ANC (ANC1, ANC2), MA (MA1, MA2, MA3), LV (LV_1, LV2), CH (CH1, CH2)		Yes
92	Accessibility / Tourism for all	Develop a network of attractions, communities, businesses and activities based on creating accessible tourism for all experiences across the destination.					
93	Industry Training and Development	Deliver the required training and capability programmes to enable the tourism industry to grow their capacity to build on the opportunities provided by the CCDEDP. The training requirements will be identified on an annual basis in line with emerging opportunities from the CCDEDP.					
94	Wayfinding / In destination signage	Repurpose existing or derelict local tourist information signage / information points to develop a coherent destination approach to provide way finding information on local trails and routes.					
95	Smart Tourism	Develop a SMART technology based solution to map the network of trails, routes and walks for ease of communication for visitors					
96	Smart Tourism	Examine pilot sites for the incorporation of SMART tourism initiatives across the Cliff Coast.					
97	Measuring Sustainable Tourism Impact	Develop a Sustainable Tourism pilot programme for the Cliff Coast destination to measure the impact of tourism across the Cliff Coast and the creation of destination wide data to inform sustainable tourism development impact.					

Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan

SEA Environmental Report

No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
98	Authentic Community Experiences	Develop a network of rural and agri tourism community experiences linked through a training development programme focused on authentic community experiences and rural hospitality.					
99	Authentic Community Experiences	Integrate authentic community 'meet the local' experiences with the network of trails and active travel resources across the destination.					
100	Authentic Community Experiences	Create a programme of Rambling House activity as part of the authentic community programming using Teach Siamsa as a focal point for Authentic Community experiences.					
101	Unique Events	Support the existing calendar of events across the Cliff Coast particularly off- peak cultural event programming and new opportunities around mass participation events and events aligned with the maritime and coastal themes.					
102	Unique Events	Examine the opportunity to develop an iconic destination event / festival focused on the CCDEDP strategic development themes.					
103	Business Tourism	Explore opportunities across the CCDEDP region for suitable venues to host conferences, seminars and events, to grow a business tourism product which offers a sustainable year-round economic contribution to local communities.					
104	Golf Tourism	Explore opportunities to grow golf tourism across the region to help minimise seasonality and extend revenue and create economic growth for tourism providers.					
105	Kerry Airport	Develop a Cliff Coast visitor orientation project with Kerry Airport promoting the range of experiences across the Cliff Coast.					
106	Cruise Tourism Opportunity	Support the <i>sustainable</i> implementation of the tourism development opportunities identified by the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce – Tourism Sub Group and their alignment with the vision and strategic objectives of the Cliff Coast DEDP.					

Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan

SEA Environmental Report

No.	Project	Action	Likely Positive Effects	Likely Neutral Effects	Likely Uncertain Effects	Likely Negative Effects	Mitigation Required Yes / No.
107	Gaeltacht Services Towns	Develop a shop frontage scheme to incorporate the Irish language in the Gaeltacht services town of Tralee and a scheme for Ballybunion adopting a coastal town presentation approach.					
108		Maintain and if feasible, sustainably improve the ferry service to incorporate an experience for visitors, without significant adverse effects on the environment of the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. This ferry service plays a critical role in connecting West Clare & North Kerry keeping the link and route along the Wild Atlantic Way and will play an important part in the future connectivity of Greenway developments in Limerick, Kerry & Clare and future developments in improving opportunities for creating cycle loops. – Maintain ferry terminal visitor facilities as the terminals represent exit and entry points and are important 'touch-points' in the visitor experience.					
91-108	<p>SEA Evaluation: The listed projects and associated actions will result in positive effects on population and human health.</p> <p>The projects where there is a requirement for development of existing and new infrastructure might also give rise to uncertain environmental effects on other environmental themes and SEOs that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure.</p>						

Appendix 2: Strategic Environmental Assessment Determination

**Screening Determination for Strategic Environmental Assessment under SEA Directive 2001/42/EC
as transposed into Irish law under S.I. 435/2004, as amended**

Concerning the proposed Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan

Fáilte Ireland as the Competent Authority for the proposed Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan has undertaken screening for SEA under Directive 2001/42/EC as transposed into Irish law under S.I. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011.

The screening assessment was carried out using the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects as set out in Schedule 1 of S.I. 435/2004, as amended and having regard to Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08¹, which directs that:

“In any case where, following screening, it is found that the draft plan or amendment may have an impact on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site or that such an impact cannot be ruled out, adopting a precautionary approach-

- an appropriate assessment of the plan must be carried out and

- in any case where a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) would not otherwise be required, it must also be carried out.”

Following assessment of the criteria and having regard to the nature of the Plan and the potential for likely significant environmental effects from implementation of the Plan, including on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site, Fáilte Ireland has determined that the Plan will require SEA.

This determination has been made following consideration of the information contained in the SEA Screening Report, the criteria set out in Schedule 1 to S.I. 435/2004, as amended, the conclusion of the AA Screening Report, and following consultation with the statutory Environmental Authorities for SEA, from whom responses were received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI).

The principal reason the Plan does require SEA is as follows:

- As directed under Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08: because the potential for likely significant environmental effects on 28no. European sites could not be ruled at Appropriate Assessment screening stage.

Signed on behalf of Fáilte Ireland:



Dated: May 2024

¹ <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/circular-sea-01-08.pdf>

**Determination for Strategic Environmental Assessment under SEA Directive 2001/42/EC as transposed into
Irish law under S.I. 435/2004, as amended
Concerning the Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan**

Fáilte Ireland as the Competent Authority for the proposed Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan has undertaken SEA under Directive 2001/42/EC as transposed into Irish law under S.I. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011.

Fáilte Ireland has determined that Strategic Environmental Assessment was required in respect of the Draft Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan. The SEA Environmental Report prepared for the Draft Plan has been finalised in advance of adoption of the Plan. An SEA Statement has been prepared following adoption, which details how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan and the SEA and associated Plan preparation process.

Signed on behalf of Fáilte Ireland:



Dated: November 2024

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