

Cliff Coast Destination & Experience Development Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

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Strategic Assessment **Built Environment**

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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 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for the Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan (hereafter referred to the 'Plan' or the 'CCDEDP').

This SEA Statement, 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.

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

Directive 2001/42/EC¹ on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') requires EU Member States to assess the 'likely significant environmental effects' of plans and programmes prior to their adoption. This provides for the assessment of strategic environmental considerations at an early stage in the decision-making process. SEA is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental quality and consequences of Plans or Programmes (P/Ps). The purpose is to ensure that the environmental consequences of P/Ps are assessed both during their preparation and prior to their adoption. The SEA process also gives specified environmental authorities, interested parties and the general public, an opportunity to comment on the environmental impacts of the proposed P/P and to be kept informed during the decision-making process.

Article 1 of the SEA Directive states that:

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

The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish law through:

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

The former regulations, (S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011), relate to SEA as it applies to plans or programmes prepared for *"agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism and town and country planning or land use"*, and these provisions are applicable to the CCDEDP as a tourism sector plan.

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

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.

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

1.2 Destination & Experience Development Plans

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

The 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 Appropriate Assessment

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

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

As set out in Department Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08² (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 has concluded that the CCDEDP will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

1.4 Content of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

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



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

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

1.5 SEA Stages and Process



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

Table 1.1 Outline of the SEA Process

Stage	Description	Status
1. Screening	<p>The requirement to undertake a SEA is mandatory for certain Plan / Programme (P / P). Where SEA is not a mandatory requirement, the P / Ps is subject to a ‘Screening process’, to consider if it is <i>likely to have significant effects</i> on the environment, and therefore, if SEA is required.</p> <p>The preparation of the <i>Draft 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> was also required to undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with <i>Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment</i> (known as the SEA Directive).</p>	<p>Completed</p> 
2. Scoping	<p>Preparation of a SEA Scoping Report highlighting that the Environmental Report is required to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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</p>	<p>Completed</p> 

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Stage	Description	Status
	allows for incorporation of the views of the environmental authorities within the P / P and the SEA Environmental Report.	
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 (e.g. Draft, Amended Draft etc.), are provided in the SEA Environmental Report in accordance with Article 12 (including Schedule 2) of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by Regulations S.I. No. 200 of 2011.</p> <p>The output from this stage is an Environmental Report which accompanied the draft P / P required on public display.</p>	<p>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>Completed</p> 
5. SEA Monitoring	<p>The Plan is adopted and implemented, and the environmental effectiveness of the implementation of the Plan is monitored and reported on through the life of the Plan.</p>	<p>On-going</p>

2 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the Plan

2.1 Introduction

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

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

2.2 SEA Consultation

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

2.2.1 SEA Scoping Consultation

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

The consultation was undertaken with the following Environmental Authorities specified in Article 9(5) of S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended, on 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 2.1**.

Table 2.1 SEA Scoping Submissions / Observation from Environmental Authorities

Environmental Authority	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage – Development Applications Unit (DAU)	<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>	The information and datasets provided have informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.

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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> <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.	
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	The submission from EPA includes the following comments and recommendations: 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.	The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.
	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.	
	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.	
	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> ”. 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.	
	Recommendations from the SEA & AA including mitigation measures and monitoring proposals should be integrated into the Plan. SEA Environmental Report and the Plan should	

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Environmental Authority	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
	include a chapter on how the recommendations and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan.	
	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.	
	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.	
	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.	
	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)	
	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.	

2.2.2 Draft Plan 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 2.2** below.

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Table 2.2 SEA Consultation Response

Submission	Outline of Nature of the Submission	Response to consideration of nature of submission
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Development Applications Unit)	<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 Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment, Archaeological 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.'</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 green text inserted in Appendix 1 of the Environmental Report).</p>

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	<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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	<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 ..." 	
Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)	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.	The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	The response from the Department acknowledges the receipt of the correspondence.	The response has been noted.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	The submission from EPA includes the following comments and recommendations: Ensure the Plan aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.	The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.
	<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>	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.

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	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>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>	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>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>
	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	The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.

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	important that environmental management plans are prepared as appropriate, to ensure that important environmental and cultural resources are afforded significant protection.	
	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).	The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.
	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.	The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.
	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.	The information provided has informed the preparation of the Plan and the Environmental Report.
	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.	This document is the SEA Statement, which will be forwarded to the EPA.

3 SEA Environmental Report

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

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

Table 3.1 Information required under Annex I of the SEA Directive

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

3.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

The SEA Directive requires that *‘the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.’* Given the position of the 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 3.2**). 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.

Table 3.2 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 ³ 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.

³ ‘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.

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.

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

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

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 2023-2029⁴ and Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028⁵, 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 Environmental Report. The finding of the assessment is that 6no. strategic objectives/ initiatives will have either potential positive effects or no effects on the environment. The finding of the assessment is that 20no. strategic objectives/ initiatives will have potential for either negative effects or for uncertain effects on the environment.

There are 50no. catalyst projects and 58no. enabling & destination enablers in total. The projects where there is a requirement for development of existing and new infrastructure might also give rise to uncertain environmental effects on other environmental themes and SEOs that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. Refer to Appendix 1 of the SEA ER.

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

In working with the SEA process, the Plan acknowledges the requirement for any development to adhere to best practice in terms of environmental governance. Indeed protection and enhancement of the environment is a critical pillar underpinning the core objectives and success of the 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 Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028.

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

3.3 Mitigation Measures

The finding of the environmental assessment in the 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.

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

⁴ Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029- <https://clarecdp2023-2029.clarecoco.ie/stage3-amendments/adoption/>

⁵ Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 - <https://cdp.kerrycoco.ie/>

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.*

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 3.3** below.

Table 3.3 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)	
<i>KCDP 5-21 Ensure that all developments are in compliance with normal planning criteria and environmental protection considerations.</i>	<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
KCDP 9-79 Support the protection of water quality, key habitat, and other natural resource requirements necessary to safeguard coastal, estuarine and freshwater fisheries.	CDP 9.4 It is an objective of Clare County Council: 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;
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.	CDP 9.8 It is an objective of Clare County Council: 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.
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.	CDP 9.13 It is an objective of Clare County Council: 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.
KCDP 9-88 Ensure that adequate measures are taken to protect designated shellfish areas as an important economic and employment sector.	CDP 11.15 It is an objective of Clare County Council: 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;
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.	CDP 11.21 It is an objective of Clare County Council:

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Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028	Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
	<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>
<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><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>
<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>	<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>
<i>KCDP 11-4 Promote nature-based solutions to meet national objectives towards achieving a carbon neutral economy by 2050.</i>	<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>

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Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028	Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
KCDP 11-5 Support and facilitate the actions in the National Biodiversity Action Plan and Kerry County Councils Biodiversity Action Plan 2022 – 2028.	<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.
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>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.
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>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 2017-2023, 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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	<i>b) To have regard to Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 or any updated version.</i>
<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><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>
<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><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>
<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>	<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>

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<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>
KCDP 11-56 Prohibit the removal of beach material, aggregates, sand and gravel, including the removal of material from sand dune ecosystems.	<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>
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>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> <p><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 Clonderalaw Bay;</i></p> <p><i>b) To have regard to the Cloon Freshwater Pearl Mussel SubBasin Management Plan in the assessment of planning applications;</i></p> <p><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></p> <p><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>
	<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> <p><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></p> <p><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></p> <p><i>c) To protect individual or groups of trees within the Plan area which are important for environmental, recreational, historical, biodiversity and/or</i></p>

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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>
Population and Human Health	

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<i>KCDP 3-1 Promote the Sustainable Development of the County in line with the Strategic Core Principles of the Core Strategy.</i>	<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>
<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>	<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>
<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>	
Land, Soils and Geology	
<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>	<i>CDP 15.6 It is an objective of the Development Plan:</i> <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>
Water Quality	

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KCDP 13-1 Ensure compliance with the Water Framework Directive.	<p>CDP 2.8 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To support the implementation of the EU Floods Directive 2007/60/EC to manage flood risks; and</p> <p>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>CDP 11.26 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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,</p> <p>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>CDP 11.27 It is an objective of the Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To support the protection and improvement of the quality of drinking water sources in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive;</p>

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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>
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>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>
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>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>does not contribute to degradation of water body status or give rise to adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>[....]</p>
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.	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.
KCDP 13-12 Promote water conservation and responsible use of water by introducing and facilitating the provision of demand reduction measures.	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.
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.	<p>CDP 13.1 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To promote the sustainable development of the potential of the marine environment;</p> <p>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</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	
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>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>
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>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>
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>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>
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.	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.
KCDP 11-37 Support the KCC's 2019 Noise Action Plan, Round 3 and future iterations over the lifetime of this plan.	
Cultural Heritage	
KCDP 4-3 Preserve the architectural heritage of towns and villages and promote conservation-led regeneration and the re-use of buildings where possible.	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.
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>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>
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>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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<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>	<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>
<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>	<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>
<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>	<i>CDP 16.5 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i> <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>
<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>	<i>CDP 16.8 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i> <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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<i>archaeological assessment including, where appropriate, Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment.</i>	<i>Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological and historical interest generally; c) In securing such preservation, to have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department of the Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; 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 e) To advocate for greater financial assistance for the maintenance and improvement of features of archaeological interests in County Clare.</i>
<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>	<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>
<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>	<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>
<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>	<i>CDP 16.13 It is an objective of Clare County Council 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>

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	<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>
Landscape & Visual	
<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>	<i>CDP 14.5 It is an objective of Clare County Council: 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. That sites have been selected to avoid visual prominence II. III. That site layouts avail of existing topography and vegetation to minimise visibility from scenic routes, walking trails, public amenities and roads; 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>
<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>	<i>CDP 14.6 It is an objective of Clare County Council: 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views from land to sea; • Views from sea to land; • Views along the coastline. b) To ensure that appropriate standards of location, siting, design, finishing and landscaping are achieved.</i>
<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>	<i>CDP 14.7 It is an objective of Clare County Council:</i>

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<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></p> <p><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></p> <p><i>c) To ensure that appropriate standards of location, siting, design, finishing and landscaping are achieved.</i></p>
Material Assets	
<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></p> <p><i>b) To support and promote circular economy principles prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery, to support a healthy environment, economy and society;</i></p> <p><i>c) To encourage and facilitate the development of new options and technological advances in relation to waste management;</i></p> <p><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></p> <p><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></p> <p><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>

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	<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>
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.	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.
KCDP 12-12 Promote energy conservation and efficiency through reduced consumption and incorporating renewable energy technology into building design standards.	<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>

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	<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>

4 Assessment of Alternatives

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 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')

4.5 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.

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Table 4.1 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	+/-	<p>In comparison to other alternatives, this alternative could give rise to potential uncertain or unplanned environmental effects across all environmental factors.</p> <p>It is likely that this alternative will not realise the wider stakeholder benefits that would be achieved with from a coordinated plan approach.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	+	<p>In comparison to other alternatives, this alternative could give rise to protection of the environment across all environmental factors.</p> <p>At the same time this alternative will also realise the wider stakeholder benefits that would be achieved with from a coordinated plan approach.</p> <p>In comparison to other alternatives, this approach would generate positive environmental effects.</p>
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 -	<p>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.</p> <p>In comparison to other alternatives, this approach would generate negative environmental effects.</p>

5 Monitoring

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 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 5.1** 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 5.1 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 ⁶ 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>

⁶ '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.	<p>Tonnes of hazardous waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p> <p>Tonnes of W.E.E.E. waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p> <p>Tonnes of Bulky waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p> <p>Tonnes of garden waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p>	<p>Increase waste recycling in the County.</p> <p>Reduce waste generation in the County.</p>	<p>EPA State of the Environment reporting.</p> <p>Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.</p>
MA3	Promote sustainable transportation including increased use of public transport and active travel measures.	<p>% change in modal split.</p> <p>Kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network.</p> <p>Kilometres of permanent integrated cycling network.</p> <p>Number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the county.</p>	<p>Percentage increase in the number of public transport users in the Counties</p> <p>Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network.</p> <p>Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network.</p>	<p>Review delivery of sustainable transport projects via Kerry & Clare County Council / NTA.</p> <p>Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities.</p> <p>Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes.</p>

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Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

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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Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

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.	Status of High Amenity Zones and Views and Prospects. Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse impacts on High Amenity Zones and Views and Prospects.	All action and development proposals supported by the plan must comply with policy objectives relating to the protection of High Amenity Zone and Views and Prospects defined in the Development Plans. No development supported by the plan should have an adverse impact on High Amenity Zones and Views and Prospects.	Input from any other relevant Fáilte Ireland monitoring programmes. Lower tier environmental assessment and decision making by local authorities.

6 References

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