

NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT

IN SUPPORT OF THE
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

FOR THE
DINGLE PENINSULA
VISITOR EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

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

This report is part of the ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the VEDP. It has been updated in order to take account of non-material changes to the Draft Plan that were made on foot of submissions.

It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, when Fáilte Ireland finalises the AA at adoption of the VEDP.

1.2 Legislative Context

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

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

1.3 Approach

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

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

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

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

Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.

If adequate mitigation is proposed to ensure no significant adverse impacts on European sites, then the process may end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage Three.

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2 Description of the VEDP

The **focus** of the Dingle Peninsula Visitor Experience Development Plan (VEDP) is to motivate international tourists to visit and stay in the local communities across the peninsula, increase the economic dividend generated by international visitors to the area while extending the season. The Plan is designed to stimulate increased dispersion of visitors across Dingle Peninsula throughout the year. The enhancement of existing experiences and the development of new visitor experiences, based on the recommended development themes, are designed to address the issues of seasonality, regionality while realising increased socio-economic benefits.

The objectives of the Plan include:

- Deliver a Visitor Experience Development Plan (VEDP) as a five year destination development plan for the Dingle Peninsula.
- Ensure the local experiences are brought to life through the development of the optimal mix of hero and ancillary products that motivate, attract and retain visitors into an area.
- Develop a sustainable basis for destination development for the Dingle Peninsula centred on creating strong signature, supporting and ancillary experiences delivered through saleable experiences that excite consumers and buyers alike. In doing so, the Dingle Peninsula VEDP will seek to promote, sustain and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the Plan area.
- Create the conditions to encourage international visitors to immerse themselves actively in the locale; interact with people; engage the senses by getting active in nature; attend festivals; learn the history and stories of the places; and enjoying the food and entertainment on offer. The focus is to deliver memorable moments that inspire tourists to not only share their experience with others but also encourage them to return.
- Motivate tourists to visit and stay in the local communities across the Dingle Peninsula through increased dispersion of visitors across all the communities of the Dingle Peninsula throughout the year.

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

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

In order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance² with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

The Dingle Peninsula is under the **Wild Atlantic Way key proposition**, which is to "Experience one of the wildest, most enhancing and culturally rich coastal touring routes in the world. Wherever you travel along the Wild Atlantic Way you'll find magic, adventure, history and beauty in abundance".

The VEDP identifies **two overarching themes** for the Wild Atlantic Way key proposition ("Inspired Culture" and "Timeless Wellbeing") under both of which four **Destination Experience Themes** are identified, with which visitors can connect with that showcase the key proposition, and associated **Hero Products** through which the Destination Themes can be accessed. **Supporting Experiences** (what each business does to bring the signature experience to life) and **Ancillary Experiences** (how the wider tourism offering supports the regional themes) are also identified.

² Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

Destination Experience Themes and associated **Hero Products** under the **overarching theme** of “Inspired Culture” are as follows:

Theme: The Gaeltacht Life

- Basket Islands
- Basket Island Visitor centre
- Irish Language Schools and vibrant Irish language in the community
- An Tinteán Ceoil
- Oidhreacht Corca Dhuibhne

Theme: Myths to Local Legends

- Mount Brandon
- Conor Pass
- Annascaul Lake
- Gallarus Oratory

Theme: Learning on the Edge

- Dingle Cookery School
- Louis Mulcahy Pottery Workshops
- Watersports on the North Shore
- Irish language learning at Oidhreacht Corca Dhuibhne

Theme: Centuries of Creative Spirit

- Louis Mulcahy Pottery
- Basket Islands and Basket Island Centre
- Brian De Staic, Jeweller

Destination Experience Themes and associated **Hero Products** under the **overarching theme** of “Timeless Wellbeing” are as follows:

Theme: Seasons of Vitality

- Dingle Way
- Sleah Head Drive
- Conor Pass
- Dingle Sea Safari
- Dingle Peninsula Blueways
- Dingle Marina

Theme: A Social Energy

- Irish Cultural Sessions in traditional pubs around Dingle Peninsula
- An Tinteán Ceoil, Cloghane

Theme: Wellbeing of Adventure

- Dingle Way
- Climb Mount Brandon
- Surf the Wild Atlantic Way at Inch Beach
- Watersports in Castlegregory and North Shore
- Scuba Diving in the Maharees
- SUP Tours Dingle

Theme: Peninsula of Contrasts

- The Dingle Way
- Basket Islands
- Sleah Head Drive
- Mount Brandon
- Sea Safari & Harbour Cruises
- Conor Pass
- Eco Marine Tours

Central to the VEDP is the **Implementation Plan** that outlines the projects identified to deliver the Dingle Peninsula VEDP over the next three to five years. The work streams are categorised under four sections (A. Catalyst Projects, B. Experience Development Projects based on VEDP Themes, C. Destination Enabling Projects and D. Local Industry Focused projects) to provide a basis for all stakeholders to engage with the VEDP.

The Implementation Plan identifies the project lead organisations and partners as well as associated timeframes for delivery.

Various **Catalyst Projects** are designed to create long-term destination impacts creating sustainable conditions for experience development while building on the inherent strengths of the destination. The catalyst projects are included based on their strategic capacity to create a globally leading visitor proposition, facilitate tourism dispersion across the Dingle Peninsula and sustain the rich cultural heritage of the area.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland’s planning policy direction for the next 22 years. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSE for the Southern Region set out objectives relating tourism development that have been subject to environmental assessment, including those relating to: enhancing provision of tourism and leisure amenity; promoting tourism activity; developing a road network and public transport services, facilitating improved visitor access and longer dwell times; developing walking and cycling trails, opening greater accessibility to the marine and countryside environment by sustainable modes; and facilitating appropriate tourism development, including that

relating to greenways, blueways and peatlands. When adopted, the RSEs will inform the review of existing, assessed Development Plans and Local Area Plans, which already include various provisions relating to land use, tourism and infrastructure. Such reviews will also be subject to environmental assessments.

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

Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

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

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

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat³ or species⁴ at that site have been considered.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European sites

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

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

- (2018) Conservation objectives for Blasket Islands SPA [004008]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2014) Conservation Objectives: Blasket Islands SAC [002172]. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Magharee Islands SPA [004125]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Dingle Peninsula SPA [004153]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2014) Conservation Objectives: Tralee Bay Complex SPA [004188]. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Slieve Mish Mountains SAC [002185]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2013) Conservation Objectives: Magharee Islands SAC [002261]. Version 1.
- (2016) Conservation Objectives: Mount Brandon SAC [000375]. Version 1.
- (2014) Conservation Objectives: Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC [002070]. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Lough Yganavan and Lough Nambrackdarrig SAC [000370]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2017) Conservation Objectives: Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC [000332]. Version 1
- (2017) Conservation Objectives: Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy’s Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC 000365. Version 1.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Iveragh Peninsula SPA [004154]. Generic Version 6.0.

³ Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

⁴ The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

- (2013) Conservation Objectives: Kerry Head Shoal SAC [002263]. Version 1.
- (2012) Conservation Objectives: Lower River Shannon SAC [002165]. Version 1.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Kerry Head SPA [004189]. Generic Version 6.0.
- (2018) Conservation objectives for Ballyseedy Wood SAC [002112]. Generic Version 6.0.

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

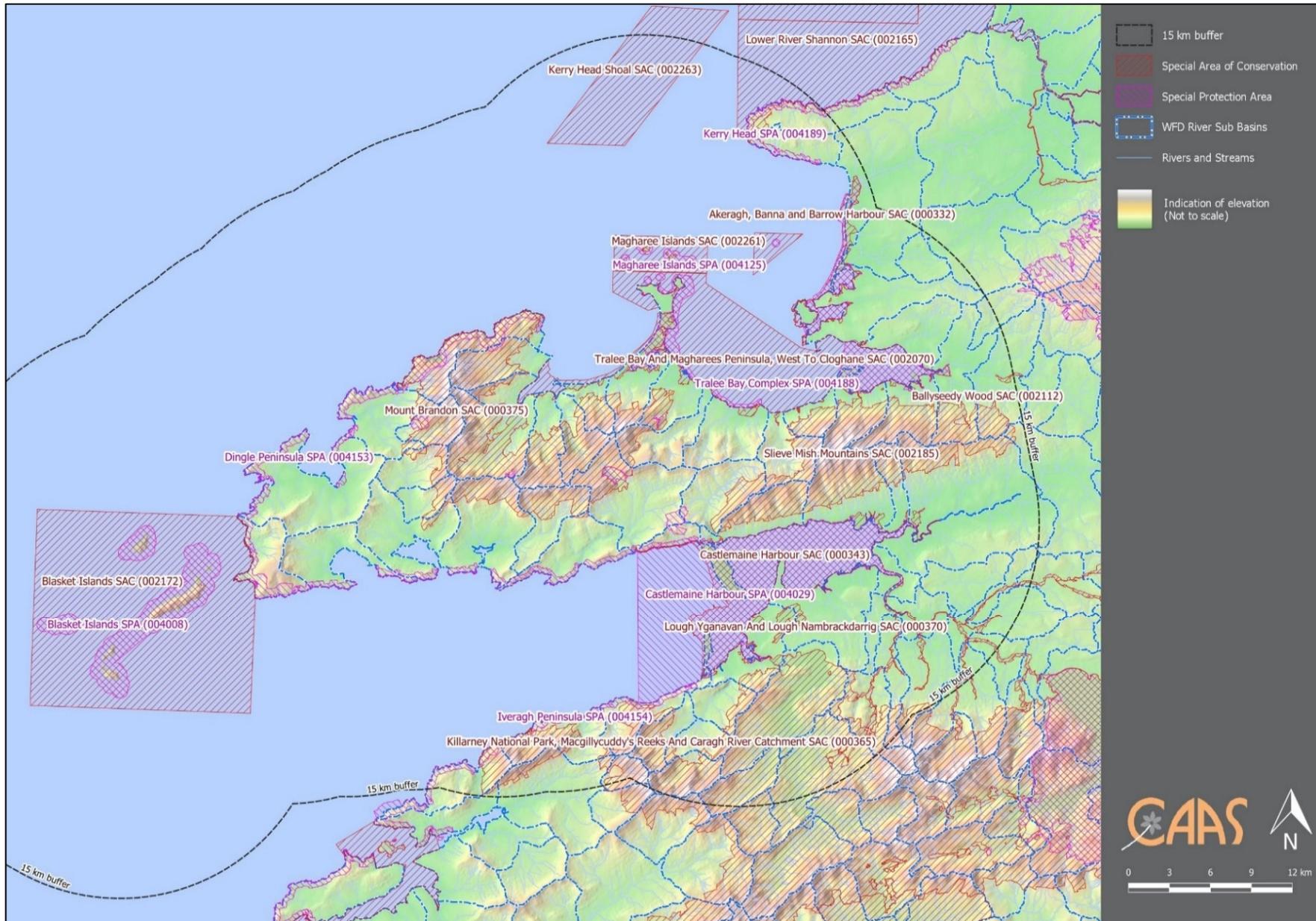


Figure 3.1 European sites within 15km of the VEDP boundary⁵

⁵ Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded March 2019)
CAAS for Fáilte Ireland

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

3.3.1 Is the VEDP Necessary to the Management of European Sites?

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

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

The **focus** of the Dingle Peninsula Visitor Experience Development Plan (VEDP) is to motivate international tourists to visit and stay in the local communities across the peninsula, increase the economic dividend generated by international visitors to the area while extending the season. The challenge for all destinations is to deliver enough memorable moments that will inspire visitors to share their experience and also encourage them to return. The Plan is designed to stimulate increased dispersion of visitors across Dingle Peninsula throughout the year. The enhancement of existing experiences and the development of new visitor experiences, based on the recommended development themes, are designed to address the issues of seasonality, regionality while realising increased socio-economic benefits.

The VEDP identifies **two overarching themes** for the Wild Atlantic Way key proposition (“Inspired Culture” and “Timeless Wellbeing”) under both of which four **Destination Experience Themes** are identified, with which visitors can connect with that showcase the key proposition, and associated **Hero Products** through which the Destination Themes can be accessed. **Supporting Experiences** (what each business does to bring the signature experience to life) and **Ancillary Experiences** (how the wider tourism offering supports the regional themes) are also identified.

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

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

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

3.3.3 Characterising Visitor Interactions at Tourist Destinations

Fáilte Ireland regularly engages with environmental research that is used to make informed management decisions and produce robust guidelines to facilitate the protection of the environment. From its inception in 2014, the Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) Operational Programme Monitoring Programme (undertaken to date by CAAS on behalf of Fáilte Ireland guided by relevant stakeholders) has been conducting research into the impacts of tourism on the receiving environment. To date the surveys have covered 43 sites and monitored the activities and effects of over 20,000 visitors to WAW discovery points.

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

This research characterises visitor movements at each site while examining the ecological features and sensitives present. A detailed assessment of the site facilities and management actions on site is also undertaken. From this data, impacts to ecological features are quantified in a systematic way and management recommendations are made. Over the first 4 years of the monitoring, the data has shown that visitors themselves cause low level effects, and high-level effects are predominantly caused by the mismanagement of sites. As well as the site-specific data being collected, the monitoring program collates and interprets existing national environmental indicator data compiling the results into annual macro monitoring reports. The WAW monitoring research is guided by an independent working group which steers the research and develops the program as the data is collected. This working group comprises of members from the EPA, NPWS, the Environmental Pillar and a representative from each of the County Councils along the WAW.

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

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

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

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

3.3.4 Screening of Sites

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

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

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

Site Code	European site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
004008	Blasket Islands SPA	Within	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204] Chough (<i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. 	Yes	Yes
002172	Blasket Islands SAC	Within	Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, interactions with marine trophic structures and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. 	Yes	Yes
004029	Castlemaine Harbour SPA	Within	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Chough (<i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. 	Yes	Yes
000343	Castlemaine Harbour SAC	Within	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, interactions with marine trophic structures, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as	Yes	Yes

Site Code	European site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			<p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Dunes with <i>Salix repens ssp. argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170] Humid dune slacks [2190] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Inion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]</p>	<p>pollution through the mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. 		
004125	Maghree Islands SPA	Within	<p>Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195]</p>	<p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. 	Yes	Yes
004153	Dingle Peninsula SPA	Within	<p>Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]</p>	<p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects identified in the monitoring data that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. 	Yes	Yes
004188	Tralee Bay Complex SPA	Within	<p>Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</p>	<p>The SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects identified in the monitoring data that could impact upon the sensitive receptors of the SPA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. 	Yes	Yes

Site Code	European site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			
002185	Slieve Mish Mountains SAC	Within	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladanii</i>) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. 	Yes	Yes
002261	Magharee Islands SAC	Within	Reefs [1170]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects from vessels on the sea, interactions with marine trophic structures, and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; and • Fishing activities. 	Yes	Yes
000375	Mount Brandon SAC	Within	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; 	Yes	Yes

Site Code	European site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			<p>Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladanii</i>) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing activities; Removal and throwing of large rocks; and Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. 		
002070	Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC	Within	<p>Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritima</i>) [1410] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Dunes with <i>Salix repens ssp. argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170] Humid dune slacks [2190] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]</p>	<p>The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, interactions with marine trophic structures, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site Sources for effects from visitor movements that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; Disturbance of wildlife; Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; Fishing activities; Removal and throwing of large rocks; and Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. 	Yes	Yes
000370	Lough Yganavan and Lough Nambrackdarrig SAC	2.79	<p>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024]</p>	<p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. The distances between Dingle Peninsula and the European Site mean that there are no pathways for effects and therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No	No
000332	Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC	4.16	<p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p>	<p>The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. The distances between Dingle Peninsula and the</p>	No	No

Site Code	European site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			<p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritim</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] European dry heaths [4030]</p>	European Site mean that there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required.		
000365	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC	4.75	<p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0] <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421] <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833] <i>Alosa fallax killarneyensis</i> (Killarney Shad) [5046]</p>	The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Dingle Peninsula and the SAC. Given the distances between Dingle Peninsula and the European Site, there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No

Site Code	European site	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
004154	Iveragh Peninsula SPA	6.68	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Chough (<i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the distances between Dingle Peninsula and the European Site, there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No
002263	Kerry Head Shoal SAC	7.08	Reef [1170]	The QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects from vessels on the sea, interactions with marine trophic structures, and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Increased levels of tourism could increase pressures such as pollution through the mismanagement of waste water, inappropriate development and /or the mismanagement of visitors at a site. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; and • Fishing activities. 	Yes	Yes
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	9.66	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110] Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) [6410] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance, trampling and/or destruction of vegetation. The site is also hydrologically sensitive however there are no surface water pathways between the Dingle Peninsula and the SAC. Given the distances between Dingle Peninsula and the European Site there are no pathways for effects and, therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No
004189	Kerry Head SPA	9.68	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Chough (<i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	The SCIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as direct disturbance and/or noise pollution. Given the distances between Dingle Peninsula and the European Site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No
002112	Ballyseedy Wood SAC	13.72	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]	The QIs for the site are sensitive to local effects such as land use management and/or the spread of invasive species. Given the distances between Dingle Peninsula and the European Site there are no pathways for effects identified and, therefore, no further consideration is required.	No	No

3.4 Other Plans and Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon European Sites. Appendix II outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the VEDP to cause in-combination effects to European sites such as the Tourism Action Plan 2016-2018. These plans and programmes were considered throughout the assessment.

The focus of the Dingle Peninsula Visitor Experience Development Plan (VEDP) is to motivate international tourists to visit and stay in the local communities across the peninsula, increase the economic dividend generated by international visitors to the area while extending the season. The challenge for all destinations is to deliver enough memorable moments that will inspire visitors to share their experience and also encourage them to return. The Plan is designed to stimulate increased dispersion of visitors across Dingle Peninsula throughout the year. The enhancement of existing experiences and the development of new visitor experiences, based on the recommended development themes, are designed to address the issues of seasonality, regionality while realising increased socio-economic benefits. The Plan's overarching objective include providing motivational reasons for international tourists to visit and stay in the local communities throughout the Dingle Peninsula and increase the economic value generated by visitors to the destination. The purpose of the Plan is to present the stories and destination themes of the Dingle Peninsula and

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

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

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

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

3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

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

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant adverse effects on 12 (no.) European sites.

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

Ancillary AA determination, further to the main AA Natura Impact Statement

under the
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)
for the
Dingle Visitor Experience Development Plan

Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening

This ancillary determination is ancillary to both:

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

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

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

Signatory:



Date: 04.11.19

Figure 3.2 Ancillary AA Determination

Section 4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the Plan alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse impacts on the integrity of the 12 European Sites brought forward from screening (see Table 3.1), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified 12 European Sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the VEDP (see Section 2).

Appendix I characterises each of the qualifying features of the 12 European Sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites' vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website⁶.

4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters are described when characterising impacts⁷:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁶ last accessed 21st March 2019; <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>

⁷ These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2016) "Guidelines for ecological impact assessment"; Environmental Protection Agency (2002) "Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements"; and National Roads Authority (2009) "Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes".

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

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

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

Generic Conservation Objective for cSACs:

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

One generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:

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

4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects

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

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

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

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

4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

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

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

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

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

- Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme Appendix 5 "Site Maintenance Guidelines" and other relevant measures from the Fáilte Ireland visitor and habitat management guidelines series (and any subsequent replacements); and

⁸ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

- Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme Appendix 6 "*Environmental Management for Local Authorities and Others*" (and any subsequent replacements).

4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

All the European Sites within the Dingle VEDP area are coastal, except for the Slieve Mish Mountains and Mount Brandon SACs.

Visitor interactions and activities at Discovery Points have the potential to result in the following effects:

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

These sources for effects are localised and small scale; however, if unmanaged, the provisions to increase tourist numbers to the Dingle Peninsula could result in habitat loss (as indicated above) which could affect the connectivity of habitats and species populations.

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

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

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

4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

Visitor movement patterns and activities on site can introduce direct and indirect disturbance effects to designated species. Similarly, potential disturbance effects could occur during construction at a destination. These effects are dependent on on-site management practices, visitor behaviours and the operational procedures of strategic partners.

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

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

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

⁹ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

¹⁰ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density

Visitor movement patterns and activities on site can introduce direct and indirect disturbance effects to designated species. These effects can influence the ranging behaviours of species over time and therefore influence the density of species at a local level. These effects are dependent on on-site management practices, visitor behaviours and the operational procedures of strategic partners.

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

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

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

4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

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

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

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

Taking into account all of the above, mitigation measures are included in the VEDP (see Section 5), e.g. in order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance¹² with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents:

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

4.3.1.6 Climate change

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

¹¹ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

¹² Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

Table 4.1 Characterisation of Potential Effects arising from the VEDP

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹⁴
004008	Blasket Islands SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004008	Blasket Islands SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of soil, interactions with marine trophic structures and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004029	Castlemaine Harbour SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>

¹³ For distance from Plan boundary and qualifying features for each European Site (QIs and SCIs), please refer to Table 3.1

¹⁴ Informed by, inter alia, *The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland, Overview Volume 1* (NPWS, 2013)

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹⁴
000343	Castlemaine Harbour SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, interactions with marine trophic structures, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004125	Magharee Islands SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004153	Dingle Peninsula SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
004188	Tralee Bay Complex SPA	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the SCIs for the SPA are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance and noise pollution issues. Sources for effects that could impact upon the SCIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹⁴
002185	Slieve Mish Mountains SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002261	Magharee Islands SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects from vessels on the sea, interactions with marine trophic structures, and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; and • Fishing activities. <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
000375	Mount Brandon SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate and the trampling/destruction of vegetation. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>

Site Code	Site Name ¹³	Characterisation of Potential Effects ¹⁴
002070	Tralee Bay And Magharees Peninsula, West To Cloghane SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects such as direct disturbance, compaction of substrate, interactions with marine trophic structures, the trampling/destruction of vegetation and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna; • Trampling of herbaceous vegetation; • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; • Fishing activities; • Removal and throwing of large rocks; and • Unrestricted dogs causing disturbances to wildlife. <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>
002263	Kerry Head Shoal SAC	<p>As identified on screening Table 3.1, the QIs for the SAC are sensitive to potential effects from vessels on the sea, interactions with marine trophic structures, and potential interactions with water quality through dumping etc. Sources for effects that could impact upon the QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of wildlife; • Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste; • Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise; • Harvesting of large quantities of shells from beach sites; and • Fishing activities. <p>Similarly, the VEDP introduces potential sources for effects through additional infrastructural demands placed on tourist destinations within the VEDP area that are connected to the European site. The sources for effects include dust, increased noise pollution, lighting effects, potential destruction of vegetation etc. Effects will be mitigated through demonstration of compliance with the measures detailed under Section 5.</p>

Section 5 Mitigation Measures

The SEA and AA team worked with the Plan-preparation team at Fáilte Ireland in order to integrate requirements for environmental protection and management into the Plan.

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

In order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance¹⁵ with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents¹⁶:

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

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

- Requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment, including EIA and AA;
- The Kerry County Development Plan, include various provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management; and
- The Climate Action Plan 2019, the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions) and the National Mitigation Plan (2017 and any subsequent versions).

Infrastructure Capacity

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

Visitor 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

¹⁵ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

¹⁶ These current versions of these documents are provided at Appendix III "Fáilte Ireland published documents referenced in the VEDP".

open space amenities; sustainable management of water; protection and management of biodiversity; protection of cultural heritage; and protection of protected landscape sensitivities.

Section 6 Conclusion

As detailed in this report, the implementation of the VEDP would have the potential to result in effects to the integrity of European Sites, if unmitigated.

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

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the VEDP will not give rise to any effect on the ecological integrity of any European sites, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes or projects¹⁷. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated.

¹⁷ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:
a) no alternative solution available,
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Appendix I Background information on European Sites

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

Site Name	Site Code	Distance (km)	Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Site Description/Vulnerability
004008	Blasket Islands SPA	Within	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204] Chough (<i>Pyrhacorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	The Blasket Islands are situated at the western end of the Dingle Peninsula in Co. Kerry. The site comprises five of the islands in the group. Four of these, Inishtooskert, Inishnabro, Inishvickillane, Tearaght Island, are between 7 km and 12 km from the mainland, while the smallest island, Beginish, is within 2 km of the mainland. There were no site-specific threats identified outside the site boundary by the NPWS and the Conservation Objectives published for the site are generic. Therefore, the ecological resources which the special conservation interest species were considered in the assessment. These bird species are vulnerable to localised management and land use activities as well as being sensitive to disturbance effects such as noise.
002172	Blasket Islands SAC	Within	Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	The Blasket Islands are situated at the end of the Dingle Peninsula in Co. Kerry. The site includes all of the islands in the group as well as a substantial area of the surrounding seas. The site is one of the two most important breeding sites in the country for <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> , with c. 600 animals in a recent survey. The site is of significance for the occurrence of <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> with relative high abundances recorded, and presents high quality habitat for this marine mammal. The Blasket Islands have at least 15 species of breeding seabird, with internationally important populations of <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> and <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> . The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include grazing, which has been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004029	Castlemaine Harbour SPA	Within	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Chough (<i>Pyrhacorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Castlemaine Harbour SPA is a large coastal site occupying the innermost part of Dingle Bay. It extends from the lower tidal reaches of the River Maine and River Laune to west of the Inch and Rosbehy peninsulas. The site comprises the estuaries of the River Maine and the River Laune, both substantial rivers, and has extensive areas of intertidal sand and mud flats. Castlemaine Harbour SPA is one of the most important sites for wintering waterfowl in the south-west. It provides habitats for an excellent diversity of waterbirds, including divers and seaduck. The NPWS have identified threats within the site boundary to include; recreational activities, marine and freshwater aquaculture and invasive non-native species. Continuous urbanisation and dispersed urbanisation have been identified as threats beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000343	Castlemaine Harbour SAC	Within	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Dunes with <i>Salix repens ssp. argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170] Humid dune slacks [2190] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Inion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]	This large site located on the south-east corner of the Dingle Peninsula consists of the whole inner section of Dingle Bay, i.e. Castlemaine Harbour, the spits of Inch and White Strand/Rosebehy and a little of the coastline to the west. Inch Spit holds a fine sand dune system and is one of the largest and best remaining dune systems in the Country. The NPWS have identified threats within the site boundary to include; recreational activities, marine and freshwater aquaculture, grazing, removal of beach materials, invasive non-native species. All of these threats have been identified within the site boundary. Threats beyond the boundary have been identified to include; dispersed habitation, grazing and urbanisation. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.

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			<p><i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]</p>	
004125	Magharee Islands SPA	Within	<p>Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albigifrons</i>) [A195]</p>	<p>The Magharee Islands or Seven Hogs lie about 2 km north of the Magharee Peninsula. The group includes seven main islands (Illaunimill and Illauntannig being the largest) plus a number of holms and skerries. The islands are exposed on their west coasts and more sheltered to the east, with moderately strong currents between them. The site is of international importance for breeding seabirds. The wintering population of <i>Branta leucopsis</i> is of national importance and is notable as it is the most southerly population in Ireland. The NPWS have identified threats within the site to include; nautical sports and grazing. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS beyond the boundary.</p>
004153	Dingle Peninsula SPA	Within	<p>Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]</p>	<p>The Dingle Peninsula SPA is a large site situated on the west coast of Co. Kerry. It encompasses the high coast and sea cliff sections of the peninsula from south of Brandon Point in the north, around to the end of the peninsula at Slea Head, and as far east as Inch in the south. The site includes the sea cliffs, the land adjacent to the cliff edge, an area of sand dunes near Murreagh and also several upland areas further inland of the coast about Ballybrack, Lough Doon, Anascaul Lough, Arraglen and Ballynane. The high-water mark forms the seaward boundary. The NPWS have identified threats within and beyond the site boundary to include; structures and buildings in the landscape, predation and competition. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.</p>
004188	Tralee Bay Complex SPA	Within	<p>Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>The Tralee Bay Complex SPA is located along the coast of north Co. Kerry between Ballyheige in the north, Tralee in the east and Stradbally in the west. The site includes the inner part of Tralee Bay, including Derrymore Island, the inlets of Barrow Harbour and Carrahane Strand, Akeragh Lough, Lough Gill, and much of the intertidal habitat from Scraggane Point at the northern end of the Magharees Peninsula around the coast to c. 2 km south of Ballyheige. This is an international important site supporting over 20,000 wintering waterbirds, including an international important population of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>. The NPWS have identified threats within the site boundary to include; the removal of beach materials, walking horseriding and the use of non-motorised vehicles, nautical sports and grazing. All of these pressures have been identified within the boundary. Threats beyond the boundary include; grazing, fertilisation and urbanisation. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.</p>
002185	Slieve Mish Mountains SAC	Within	<p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]</p>	<p>The Slieve Mish Mountain Range dominates and forms the backbone of the eastern reaches of the Dingle Peninsula from the outskirts of Tralee town in the east to the village of Annascaul in the west. This mountain range is composed of a ridge of predominantly Old Red Sandstone of the main series, which abuts the Dingle Beds' sandstones in the north west. The site contains a number of habitats which are listed in the EU Habitats Directive. Over-grazing is widespread, and has contributed to the degradation of much of the wet heath, oligotrophic lakes and blanket bog. However, extensive areas of dry heath of reasonable quality remain within the site, along with alpine/sub-alpine heath on the highest ridges. The cliff vegetation is of good quality and is unaffected by the grazing. The NPWS has identified threats beyond the boundary to include; restricting agricultural land holding, sand and gravel extraction, fertilisation, dispersed habitation and peat extraction. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.</p>
002261	Magharee Islands SAC	Within	<p>Reefs [1170]</p>	<p>This marine site lies about 2 km north of the Magharee Peninsula and is centred around the Magharee Islands, a group of seven main islands. The site includes two of the smaller islands, Illaunbarnagh and Mucklaghmore, which lie about 5 km to the north-east of the main group of islands. The islands are exposed on their west coasts and more sheltered on their east coasts with moderately strong currents between them. The islands are composed of Carboniferous limestone. A maritime grassy sward occurs on the islands. Site has important examples of infralittoral reef communities. These are varied, being exposed to wave action on the west coasts of the islands, and more sheltered on the east coasts with tide swept areas due to the currents between the islands. There are no site-specific threats identified by the NPWS for this site.</p>

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000375	Mount Brandon SAC	Within	<p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Soft water lakes with base rich influences [3130] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and sub mountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]</p>	<p>This site ranges from sea-level to sea cliffs, which are among the highest in Ireland, up to Mount Brandon, which at 952 m is the highest peak outside of the Macgillycuddy Reeks. The predominant rocks are Devonian (Old Red Sandstone and Dingle Beds), with some pre-Devonian rocks also present. The highest ridges and cliffs support arctic-alpine communities. This site is of high ecological importance for the alpine and arctic-alpine heath and cliff communities it supports. The NPWS have identified pressure to the site to include; peat extraction, recreational activities, grazing, camping/caravans, roads and motorways and removal of hedges and copses or scrub. All of these threats have been identified within the boundary. Threats beyond the boundary have been identified as; mowing/cutting of grassland, restructuring agricultural land holding and forestry. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.</p>
002070	Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC	Within	<p>Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Dunes with <i>Salix repens ssp. argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170] Humid dune slacks [2190] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]</p>	<p>The site is very important in terms of (a) the variety of sublittoral sediment communities in which a number of rare species occur and good examples of littoral and sublittoral reef communities; (b) the extensive intertidal habitats, which support internationally important numbers of wintering waders and wildfowl, including several which are listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, and (c) the fringing coastal habitats, which provide excellent examples of a number of Annexed habitats (most notably the fixed dunes & dune slacks at Maherabeg, which are among the most species-rich examples of these habitats in Ireland, and the lagoon known as Lough Gill, which is important geomorphologically). The NPWS have identified pressures to the site to include; sand and gravel extraction, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, recreational activities, disposal of household/ recreational facility waste, hunting, fishing and fertilisation. All of these pressures have been identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.</p>
000370	Lough Yganavan and Lough Nambrackdarrig SAC	2.79	<p>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024]</p>	<p>Site comprises Lough Yganavan and two considerably smaller loughs, L. Nambrackdarrig and an unnamed lough. They lie 1-2 km from the coastline. Yganavan is a shallow lake (Max. depth 0.8m) and is noted for its very brown soft water. The lakes have sandy beds and mostly stony shores - the stones provide cover for <i>Bufo calamita</i> and <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i>. A residual sanddune system, with a heath type character, occurs along the south-east to northeast shore of Yganavan. A feature of this habitat is that it floods periodically, giving rise to unusual invertebrate and plant communities. The sandy-heath grades into blanket bog, mostly cutaway. The two small loughs are surrounded by cutaway bog. Part of the site is a Nature Reserve. The Site has good and somewhat unusual examples of two annexed habitats - a residual inland fixed dune system and a shallow oligotrophic lake system. <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> is common within the site. The very localised and Red Data Book species <i>Bufo calamita</i> breed, Lough Nambrackdarrig being its most inland station in Ireland. The NPWS Have identified pressures to the site to include; grazing and invasive non-native species. These pressures have been identified within the site boundary. Threats beyond the site boundary have been identified as modification of cultivation practices, hand cutting of peat and dispersed habitation. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.</p>
000332	Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC	4.16	<p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</p>	<p>The site covers a 10 km stretch of coast running southwards from Ballyheigue to Fenit, Co. Kerry. A good diversity of coastal habitats occurs, including rocky shore, shingle and sandy beaches, sand dunes, salt marshes, intertidal sand and mud flats, dry heath and dry grassland, wet grassland and reed beds. Akeragh Lough, formerly a brackish lagoon, has silted up since the 1970s and is now mostly wet grassland and swamp vegetation. The underlying geology is limestone and as a result the sandy soil is calcareous in nature and has a high shell fragment content. Recreation and grazing (cattle and rabbits) are the primary land uses. The site is of importance mainly for the diversity of sand dune and salt marsh habitats. Of particular note are the fixed dunes which are substantial in area and of good quality in the southern part of site. There is an interesting transition through a series of dune communities, including humid dune slacks, to salt marsh</p>

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			Humid dune slacks [2190] European dry heaths [4030]	communities at Carrahan Strand. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; removal of beach materials, recreational activities, and grazing. All of these pressures have been identified within the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
000365	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC	4.75	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoetes-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0] <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Euphydrias aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421] <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833] <i>Alosa fallax killarneyensis</i> (Killarney Shad) [5046]	This is the largest terrestrial site in Ireland and encompasses the mountains and lakes of the Iveragh Peninsula and the Paps range. It is the most mountainous region of Ireland, and includes the highest peak Carrauntoohil at 1039 m. The underlying rock is almost entirely Old Red Sandstone, although carboniferous limestone occurs on the east side of Lough Leane. Glacial processes have shaped the sandstone into dramatic ridges and valleys, including the well wooded Killarney valley. A wide range of semi-natural habitats are present, along with some improved land and forestry in the Caragh River catchment. Generally, the proximity of the site to the Atlantic in the south-west ensures a strong oceanic influence. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; recreational activities, dispersed habitation, grazing, hunting, fishing, mowing/cutting of grassland, peat extraction, fertilisation and invasive non-native species. All of these threats have been identified within and beyond the site boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
004154	Iveragh Peninsula SPA	6.68	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	The Iveragh Peninsula SPA is a large site situated on the west coast of Co. Kerry. The site encompasses the high coast and sea cliff sections of the peninsula from just west of Rosbehy in the north, around to the end of the peninsula at Valencia Island and Bolus Head, and as far east as Lamb's Head in the south. The site includes the sea cliffs, the land adjacent to the cliff edge and also areas of sand dunes at Derrynane and Beginish. The high-water mark forms the seaward boundary except at Doulus Head/Killelan Mountain where the adjacent sea area to a distance of 500 m from the cliff base is included. The site is underlain by Devonian sandstones, siltstones and mudstones. A small area of igneous rocks (dolerite and gabbro) occurs at Beginish and on the adjacent shore. No site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002263	Kerry Head Shoal SAC	7.08	Reef [1170]	The Kerry Head Shoal is a deep (20-52m) limestone reef running in a north east / south- west direction. The reef is situated on the west coast of Ireland, to the north of Tralee Bay and to the west of Kerry Head. It is exposed to the full force of swells from the Atlantic. The infralittoral and circalittoral reef communities of the Kerry head Shoal are extremely exposed to wave action and subject to weak tidal streams. The circalittoral reef topography ranges from big relatively flat terraces cut by gullies to ridged bedrock and angular boulders. The NPWS have identified hunting and fishing as pressures within the site. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	9.66	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110] Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	A very large, long site approximately 14 km wide and 120 km long, encompassing: the drained river valley which forms the River Shannon estuary; the broader River Fergus estuary, plus a number of smaller estuaries e.g. Pounasherry Bay; the freshwater lower reaches of the Shannon River, between Killaloe and Limerick, plus the freshwater stretches of much of the Feale and Mulkear catchments; a marine area at the mouth of the Shannon estuary with high rocky cliffs to the north and south; ericaceous heath on Kerry Head and Loop Head; and several lagoons. The underlying geology ranges from Carboniferous limestone (east of Foynes) to Namurian shales and flagstones (west of Foynes) to Old Red Sandstone (at Kerry Head). The salinity of the system varies daily with the ebb and flood of the tide and with annual rainfall fluctuations seasonally. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; invasive non-native species, fertilisation,

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			Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	recreational activities, paths, tracks and cycling tracks, marine and freshwater aquaculture, hand cutting of peat. All of these pressures have been identified within the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS
004189	Kerry Head SPA	9.68	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	Kerry Head SPA is situated on the south side of the mouth of the River Shannon in north Co. Kerry. It encompasses the sea cliffs from just west of Ballyheigue, around the end of Kerry Head to the west and north-eastward as far as Kilmore. The site includes the sea cliffs and the land adjacent to the cliff edge (inland for 300 m). The high-water mark forms the seaward boundary. Most of the site is underlain by Devonian siltstone, sandstones and mudstones; a small section of the site has rocks of Carboniferous age. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; lack of grazing and modification of cultivation practices. All of these pressures have been identified within the boundary. Cultivation, the use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, agricultural structures and buildings in the landscape and storage of materials have been listed as potential threats beyond the boundary. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.
002112	Ballyseedy Wood SAC	13.72	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]	Situated about 3 km south-east of Tralee on the south bank of the lower reaches of the River Lee. The wood is derived from the plantings of the Ballyseedy Estate. There are now few of the original trees remaining and, in their place, a dense secondary growth has arisen made up of mainly native species. Much of the site is of wet woodland, which grades into dry woodland in areas above the flood-plain. The high-water table of the woods is maintained more from water draining into the site from the south than from the river itself. The NPWS have identified threats to the site to include; invasive non-native species and grazing. These threats have been identified within the site boundary. Beyond the boundary threats to the site include roads/ motorways and dispersed habitation. No other site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS.

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

Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]	Inappropriate grazing levels; invasive species; and clearance for agriculture or felling for timber	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in management.
<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (<i>Twaite Shad</i>) [1103]	Habitat quality, particularly at spawning sites is the most notable threat to this species.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change
Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	Abandonment; overgrazing; burning; outdoor recreation; quarries; communication networks; and wind farm developments.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change
Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	Grazing; sand and gravel extraction; recreational activities; coastal protection works	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion
Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes
Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170]	Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	Natural erosion processes exacerbated by recreation and sand extraction. Coastal protection interfering with natural processes	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Estuaries [1130]	Pollution, fishing /aquaculture and habitat quality.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity and

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Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]	Declines in habitat quality lead to species decline.	Habitat management; land use change and drainage.
European dry heaths [4030]	Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	Recreation; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing: non-native plant species, particularly sea buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>),	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Distance to human activities, accidental entanglement in fishing gear competition for prey resources, illegal killing, pollution and habitat degradation.	Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
Humid dune slacks [2190]	Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change.
<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change
<i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change
Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); hunting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution
<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution
Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]	Over-grazing by cattle or sheep; infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]	Reclamation, afforestation and burning; overstocking; invasion by non-heath species; exposure of peat to severe erosion.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
<i>Petalophyllum ralsfii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]	There are no significant impacts affecting this species.	None identified
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]	Barriers to upstream migration (e.g. weirs), which limit access to spawning beds and juvenile habitat are main threats to this species.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity.
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	The main threats to this species include; by-catch in fishing gear, pollution of the marine environment and habitat degradation.	Falling prey densities is a threat to this species.
Reefs [1170]	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species
<i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]	Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations.	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]	Removal of beach material and interference with the supply of sand; construction of coastal defences; sand compaction caused by vehicles and trampling.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladanii</i>) [8110]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation
Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]	Forestry planting and agricultural improvements are ongoing and causing habitat loss, along with succession to heath and scrub.	Land use management activities

Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]	Threatened by habitat loss, deliberate collection, encroachment of invasive or vigorous species, or indirectly by water pollution, removal of woodland or alteration of watercourses.	Land use management and direct impacts
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	Erosion; grazing; recreational pressures; development of golf courses and housing; dumping; cutting of peat; coastal protection works; climate change	Coastal development. Erosion, over-grazing and recreation
Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260]	Eutrophication; overgrazing, excessive fertilisation; afforestation; and the introduction of invasive alien species.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Submerged or partially submerged seacaves [8330]	No specific threats were identified for the habitat.	Sensitive to natural processes and human activities.
Soft waterlakes with base rich influences [3130]	Eutrophication, peat cutting, losses from agriculture and peatland drainage.	Highly sensitive to hydrological change and water pollution.
Coastal Lagoons [1150]	Drainage, natural silting, nutrient enrichment, water pollution from industrial and commercial activities.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Drainage, siltation and pollution are threats to this habitat type	Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Kerry Slug (<i>Geomalacus maculosus</i>) [1024]	Main threats to this species include; afforestation, forestry management, invasion of woodland by <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> , agricultural reclamation and infrastructure development	Land use management, groundwater dependant
<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	Overgrazing; fire; agricultural expansion; invasion by alien species particularly <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> ; and poor regeneration.	Onset of inundation or waterlogging Inappropriate management
<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [9130]	Invasive alien's species. Restricted distribution and limited suitable habitat	Inappropriate management, Invasion by alien species
Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	Loss of roosting sites due to deterioration or renovation of old buildings, loss of commuting routes linking roosts to foraging sites, and unsympathetic management of foraging habitats are the major threats to this species.	Highly sensitive to disturbance.
Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833]	Fertilization; disposal of household waste; water pollution; eutrophication; and invasion by alien species.	Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Sandbanks [1110]	The NPWS state that it is considered that current pressures and future threats are unlikely to significantly impact this habitat.	None identified
Bottle-Nosed Dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) [1349]	The bottlenose dolphin is vulnerable to a range of threats and pressures in its natural habitat. Such threats and pressures include accidental entanglement in fishing gear, competition for prey resources, pollution and other habitat degradation, and disturbance by human activities.	Human interaction, pollution, noise.

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

Special Conservation Interests				Vulnerabilities of Special Conservation Interests
Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346] Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001]	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169]	Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]	Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird species are particularly vulnerable to direct disturbance due to noise and/or vibration. These effects are localised and disturbance effects are foreseen to be low at distances beyond 2km. Direct habitat loss is a serious concern for bird species, as well as the reduction in habitat quality. Habitat degradation could occur through effects such as local enrichment due to agricultural practices or damage to habitat through activities such as trampling. Prey species diversity and availability is a key element of species conservation. Community dynamics and ecosystem functionality are complex concepts and require site specific information. The site synopsis and conservation objectives for the SPAs identified within the ZOI were used to identify any specific prey sensitivities. Availability of nesting/roosting habitat. Particularly for the Hen Harrier. Vegetation composition, structure and functionality.
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]				Direct land take is a common vulnerability to all sites; as well as significant water quality effects. The conservation objective of all SPAs designated for Wetland and Waterbirds is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds using it.

Appendix II Relationship Other Plans and Programmes

Relationship Other Plans and Programmes	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Relevance to the Plan
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, (replacing the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020) and the National Development Plan (2018-2027)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> €27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; "<i>Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way.</i>" 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)	<p>Vision: "<i>Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU.</i>"</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Marine Spatial Plan for Ireland (in/pending preparation)	<p>It is intended that the Marine Spatial Plan will be finalised in 2020, and forwarded to the European Commission at that time, ahead of the due date for submission by Member States of their plans in March 2021.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Action Plan 2016-2018	<p>Includes a total of 23 actions to be addressed in the period between now and 2018 aimed at securing continued growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Harvest 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Relationship Other Plans and Programmes	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Relevance to the Plan
National Rural Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
River Basin Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Basin Management Plans set out the status of waters in the River Basin District. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies,	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest To describe the site and its management To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities" 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Planning Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines planning objectives for land use development (including transport objectives). Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. Sets out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appendix III Fáiite Ireland published documents referenced in the VEDP

Contents of Appendix III to this Natura Impact Statement:

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



WILD ATLANTIC WAY

SLÍ FHIÁIN AN ATLANTAIGH

Site Maintenance Guidelines

*for launching the
Wild Atlantic Way*



Fáilte Ireland

National Tourism Development Authority

the **paulhogarth** company



BRADY SHIPMAN MARTIN



INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

What does it look like?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



P

P

P

Ferry to Island

P

Car parks & Lay-bys



Potential Discovery Points

2

OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

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



SITE APPROACH AND ENTRANCE

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

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

Typical maintenance works may include:

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



PARKING SURFACES

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

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

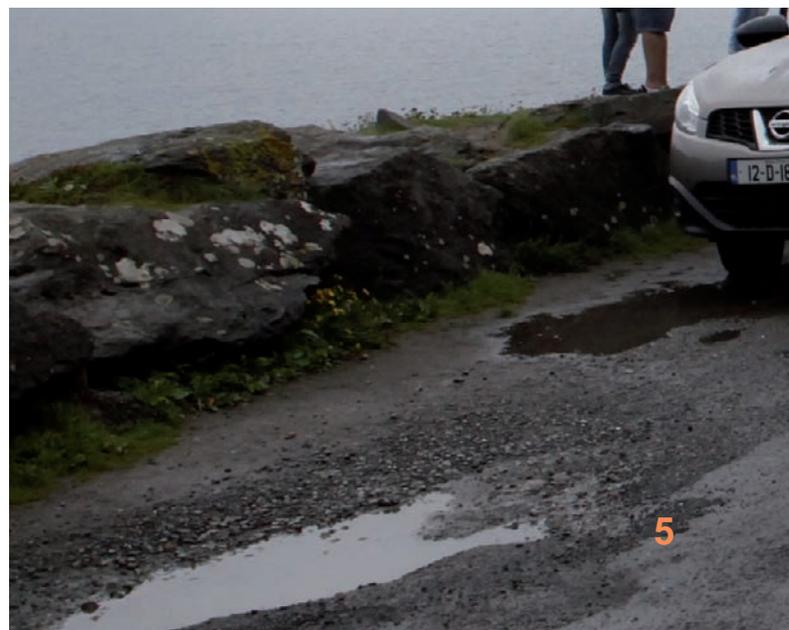
Surface materials will typically include tar and chip or compacted stone for rural sites, whereas village and harbour sites might include bitumen macadam, tar and chip, and possibly concrete.

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

Issues to Consider

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

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



SITE BOUNDARIES

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

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

Repair and maintenance works for improved presentation may require:

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

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

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



SIGNAGE

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

In many instances, typical actions required that may include:

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

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

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

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



SITE FURNITURE

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

Actions required may include:

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

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

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

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

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



SITE FACILITIES

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

Actions required:

Toilet Blocks

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

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

Temporary Toilets

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

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

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

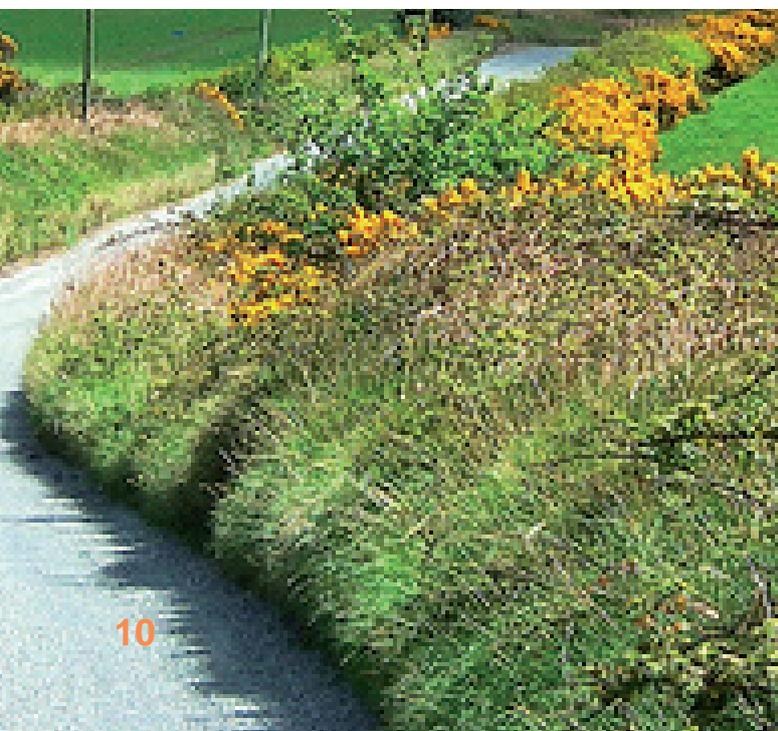
Recycling:

Consider possible alternative sites

Ensure they are located out of sight of visitors;

Provide screening, perhaps using timber panels and hedgerow surrounds





SITE LIGHTING

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

Inappropriate lighting installations should be removed.

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

SOFT LANDSCAPING

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

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

SUSTAINABILITY

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





MAINTENANCE & SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

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

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

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

What will the Service Level Agreement include?

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

Typically, they are likely to include:

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

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



ECOLOGICAL METHOD STATEMENT

1.1 Introduction

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

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

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

Table 1.1 Proposed Works for Wild Atlantic Way candidate Discovery Points

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

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

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

1.2 Ecological Control Measures

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

Table 1.2 Ecological Control Measures

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

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

1.3 Advisory Measures

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

Table 1.3 Advisory Measures

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

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

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

³ Including protected species and natural habitats

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

⁵ Including protected species and natural habitats

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

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

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

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

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

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



WILD ATLANTIC WAY

SLÍ FHIÁIN AN ATLANTAIGH

Appendix 6

'Environmental Management for Local Authorities and Others'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁶ Including protected species and natural habitats.

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

⁸ Including protected species and natural habitats.

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

a) no alternative solution available,

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

c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

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

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