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PLANNING

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024 - 2029

Natura Impact Report

Prepared for:
Wexford County Council

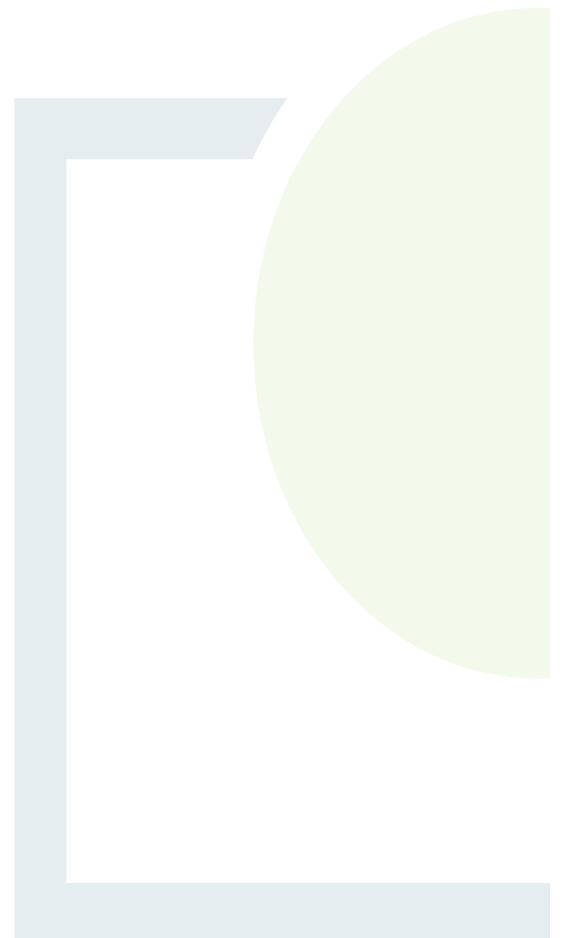


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Natura Impact Report for the Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

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Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Natura Impact Report for the Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) was prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Wexford Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2028 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 AA process that was undertaken alongside the preparation of the LACAP.

1.2 Post Draft Plan Consultation Modifications

This document is the final NIR produced on adoption of the LACAP. An earlier draft version of this report has been updated having regard to the consultation submissions made during the Draft Plan consultation period, recommendations made in the Chief Executive (CE) Report on consultation submissions, and the modifications made to the original draft version of the LACAP that was put on display for consultation. The updates made to the report were clerical or minor and non-material in nature and have not changed the parameters of the environmental/ecological assessment undertaken or the environmental mitigation defined.

The Plan modifications arising from the consultation process, the CE Report, and the post consultation plan-making process were screened for AA. The AA Screening Report for the post consultation Plan modifications are presented in Appendix 3. The Plan modifications were determined to be non-material and did not introduce any additional environmental/ecological effects not previously considered and mitigated during the SEA and AA processes.

An AA Conclusion Statement will now be prepared on how the AA process shaped the content of the final plan.

1.3 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 which form the Natura 2000 Network.

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.



1.4 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 literature¹ 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 (including spatial data collected for the most recent Article 17 conservation status reporting cycle, 2019).

In addition to being informed by these reports, the NIR was also informed by the Council's County Development Plan and associated SEA Environmental Report and AA Natura Impact Report.

All of these data sources are likely to be useful for AAs that must be undertaken for lower-tier plans/projects under the Plan.

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

- Identification of European sites within 15km of the LACAP boundary with identification of potential pathways links for specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15km from the LACAP boundary;
- Review of the NPWS site synopsis and conservation objectives for European sites with identification of potential pathways from the LACAP 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.

¹ Various documents where publishing, in journals for example, is not the primary activity of the producing body. Examples include: conference presentations; regulatory data; unpublished trial data; government publications; and dissertations/theses.



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 effects on European sites by identifying possible effects early in the plan-making process and avoiding such effects. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse effects on the site(s) remain. If potential effects 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-receptor model², 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 LACAP 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 LACAP.

The NIR 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; and
- Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management; OPR Practice Note PN01; Office of the Public Regulator, 2021.

² 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



The scope of the AA was informed by the submissions received on the scope of the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment³ (SEA) process being undertaken on the LACAP, including a submission from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that provided various information and suggestions relevant to the AA.

³ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt it.



2. DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2.1 Overview

The Wexford LACAP 2024-2029 provides a five-year framework to:

- Actively translate national climate policy to local circumstances with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures,
- Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels,
- Identify and deliver a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) within the local authority area to act as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures in a specifically defined area. This will be done through the identification of projects and outcomes that will assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective⁴.

The preparation of the LACAP was informed by a process of public participation and consultation. The LACAP represents an important policy document that will form the foundations to support and facilitate coordinated climate action, which is focused on local, area specific issues.

The Plan will be set within the context of the strategic framework of and be guided by the most recent approved national long term climate action strategy and sectoral adaptation plans as well as the County Development Plan.

Figure 2-1 illustrates the functional area and boundary of Wexford County Council.

2.2 Context

Climate change refers to the long-term changes in the earth's weather patterns or average temperatures. In Ireland this is demonstrated by rising sea levels, extreme weather events and changes in the eco-system. Extensive research and a significant body of evidence has shown a correlation between the increasing global average temperature and the increasing quantity of GHG released into the atmosphere, particularly from anthropogenic sources.

Changes in weather patterns and climate can have significant adverse impacts on the environment and human beings. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published the *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability in 2022*. Included in this report is an outline of observed impacts of climate change on the environment and human beings. These include impacts from inland flooding, damages to infrastructure, impacts from infectious disease, displacement, animal and livestock health and productivity, mental health and water scarcity derived from climate change.

The seriousness of the potential impacts and risks associated with climate change is reflected in the vast quantity of international, European and national legislation that has been introduced to mitigate those impacts and risks.

⁴ This is known as the National 2050 Climate Objective which establishes the national objective of achieving a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.




The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 provides a statutory underpinning to climate action in Ireland. It specifies the requirement to develop a national Climate Action Plan (CAP) (and update it every year), a National Adaptation Framework (NAF), a National Long Term Climate Action Strategy and Sectoral Adaptation Plans (SAPs). It also specifies a series of carbon budgets and the associated sectoral emission ceilings. It sets out actions that must be taken to ensure delivery of commitments and a target to reduce GHG by 51% by 2030 and to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2050.


Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 defines the requirement for Local Authorities to prepare individual LACAPs for their functional area. The purpose of LACAPs will be to deliver effective climate action and mitigation at local authority and community levels. Local Authority County Development Plans must also be aligned with their LACAP.

The LACAPs are statutory plans that must be subject to SEA under the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC) to determine their effect on the environment, and AA under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) to determine if their implementation is likely to have significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites.

The statutory plan making process, which commenced on February 24th 2023, is 12 months in duration so the LACAPs must be completed on February 23rd, 2024. Another 30-day timeframe is allowed after this for the publication of the LACAP.



Legend
 Local Authority Boundaries

Local Authority Boundary	
WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL Local Authority Climate Action Plans	
FIGURE NO:	2.1
CLIENT:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE: 26/07/2023	SCALE: 1:315,000 @ A3
	



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2.3 Wexford County Council's Role with regard to Climate Action and the LACAP

Local authorities are key drivers in advancing climate policy at the local level. The LACAP will help Wexford County Council to address, in an integrated way, the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change adaptation and strengthen the alignment between national climate policy and the delivery of effective local climate action.

Wexford County Council is free to determine their own approach to the style and structure of their climate action plans but all must demonstrate alignment with the key principles of the national Climate Action Plan and subject to compliance with all relevant guidelines ensuring that the local plan is ambitious, action-focused, evidence-based, participative and transparent.

2.4 Purpose and Scope of the LACAP 2024-2029

2.4.1 Need for the Plan

The Wexford Local Authority Climate Action Plan (2024-2029) will consider specific adaptation and mitigation measures across key action areas including Energy and Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature-Based Solutions, Resource Management and Citizen Engagement.

2.4.2 Objectives of the LACAP

Wexford County Council aims to achieve a Climate Resilient, Biodiversity Rich, Environmentally Sustainable and Climate Neutral Economy by no later than the end of the year 2050.

The overall objectives of the LACAP are:

- A 50% improvement in the council's energy efficiency by 2030,
- A 51% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 to reach net zero by 2050,
- To make Wexford a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events, and
- To actively engage and inform citizens on climate change.

2.4.2.1 *LACAP Geographic Area*

The LACAP area covers Wexford County Council's entire boundary, and all actions are set to be completed within the boundary. Where actions require collaborative efforts with neighbouring County Councils, these will be considered; however, these are thought to be captured within the LACAP (and SEA/AA processes) for each of the neighbouring County Councils.

The geographic scope of the LACAP, therefore, is the County Council boundary, and the SEA study area extends to 15km beyond this to consider wider reaching environmental impacts as can be seen in Figure 2-1.



2.4.3 Themes and example actions

Action Areas	Description	Examples Actions
Governance and Leadership	<p>The governance element of this area focuses on climate action resources within the Council and how they can be utilised to raise awareness on climate actions. It aims to foster ownership of actions in every service we provide as a Local Authority.</p> <p>This area also identifies our leadership role by advocating climate action across the county, by leading by example in all that we do within the organization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate expenditure codes within the Financial Management System for major climate/weather events. • Promote and support the Local Authority Blended working policy within the organisation. • Ensure County Wexford is able to meet climate action targets for the built environment by enabling access to training for the required skills for the green workforce, through the High-Performance Building Alliance's network and partners. • Senior Management to identify funding for climate and energy projects that are identified as part of pathfinder projects, where match funding is provided by SEAI or other relevant organisations. • Internal Audit reports to include Climate Action comment/findings/recommendations where applicable.
Built Environment and Transport	<p>This area focuses on our efforts to reduce our energy consumption by 50% and our greenhouse gas emissions by 51%, across our housing stock and our public offices and buildings.</p> <p>The transport element of this area focuses on new and innovative ways of reducing our emissions within our own transport fleet and in our promotion of alternatives to car usage and an increase in EV charging infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take steps to reduce IT equipment energy consumption, including energy savings awareness among staff and automatic shutdown of pc's on the network. • Energy Awareness programme to be run with housing tenants in relation to living in the home and correct use of heat pumps. • Installation of Solar PV panels, roof insulation and window upgrades in the Spawell Centre. • Augment the EV Charging Infrastructure of County Wexford for EV cars, while working with Zero Emissions Vehicles Ireland and develop a charging infrastructure for EV coaches/buses. • Implement Gully Management programme. • Ensure Sea level change is incorporated into all flood risk mapping in association with the Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study.



Action Areas	Description	Examples Actions
	<p>Climate adaptation is also an important element of this area, where the council is prepared for major climate weather events and works to alleviate pluvial and fluvial flooding and build climate resistant communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To require the provision of electric vehicle charging point infrastructure in residential, commercial and mixed-use developments in accordance with standards set out the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028, or other specific standards set out in any future Local Area Plan or Settlement Plan, as the case may be. • Engage with key stakeholders across the value chain to encourage climate action across transport within our programmes with the use of public transport where possible.
<p>Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure</p>	<p>This area endeavours to promote biodiversity and protect our waters and coastal areas and utilise green solutions such as Sustainable Urban drainage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a specific award for biodiversity/pollinator within the Residents Day Awards. • Tenant awareness programme to promote biodiversity/pollinators within their own space, i.e. garden/balcony/window boxes and provide a pollinator welcome pot for new tenants. • Provide expert advice on biodiversity & encourage native planting on farmland within County Wexford. • To prepare a Rainwater Management Plan using nature-based solutions as part of the Wexford Town Local Area Plan 2024-2030. • Work through the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme to improve access to public water services to reduce pollution and vulnerability to water scarcity as a result of climate change.
<p>Communities: Resilience & Transition</p>	<p>This area relates to building climate resilient communities, providing supports in terms of skills, knowledge and financial supports (where possible).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of community engagement events to highlight the importance of segregation of food waste and increase the number of householders segregating food waste from black bins. • To expand the environment education schools programme to include climate literacy / climate action in particular engagement with secondary school students. • Organise and host themed events based on areas such as energy saving and energy use reduction, renewable energy, biodiversity, climate literacy, sustainable lifestyles and sustainable development goals.



Action Areas	Description	Examples Actions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working collaboratively to deliver climate action with health and wellbeing projects.
Sustainability and Resource Management	This area focuses on the promotion of green procurement throughout the organisation and increase the amount of material we reuse and recycle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a programme for greener library usage, including filtered water dispensers and segregated waste disposal in public and staff areas. Facilitate inclusive community climate action and climate resilience through the investment, provision and promotion of up-to-date reliable information. Build on existing "Library of Things" collections to support and enable circular living in our communities.



2.4.4 Infrastructure Projects Supported by the LACAP

Wexford County Council are in the process of joining a Southeast Energy Unit – where once the unit is setup, major energy projects can be identified that can be progressed, by availing of 50% funding from SEAI. There are many buildings that require upgrades in thermal production and fabric upgrades, which, currently is prohibitively expensive.

The Local authority climate action plans are given statutory authority through the provisions of Section 165 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 20216.

Consequently, integrating the Decarbonisation Zone as part of the local authority climate action plan gives it a statutory footing.

Enniscorthy is the preferred pilot candidate Decarbonisation Zone for County Wexford and its extent is outlined in Figure 2-2.

A register of opportunities will be included in Wexford’s Climate Action Plan with the aim of supporting climate action in the area.

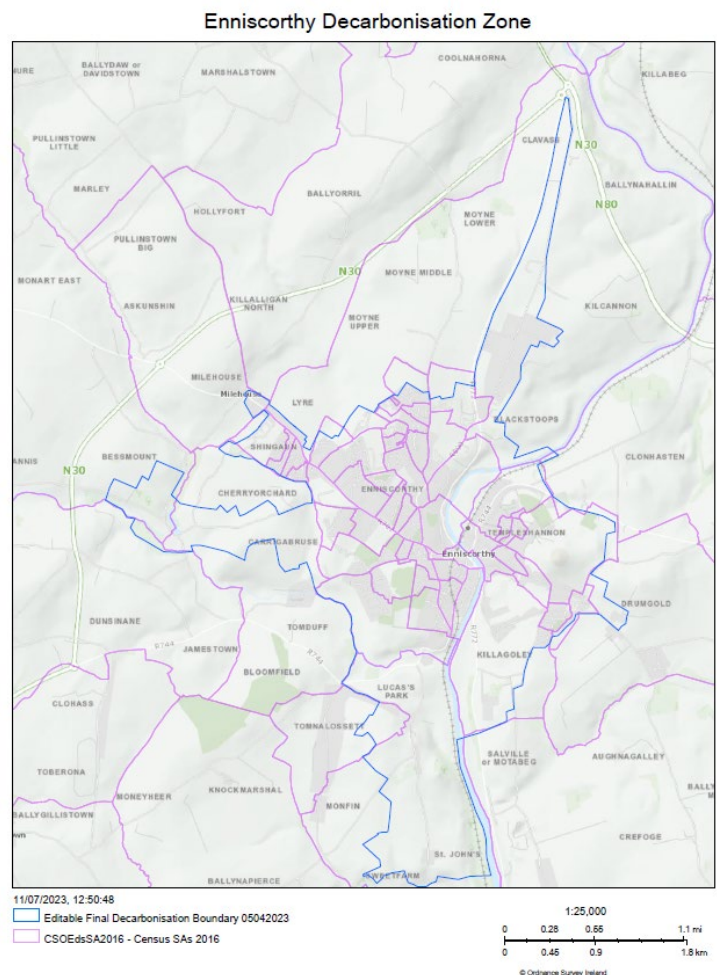


Figure 2-2: Enniscorthy Decarbonisation Zone (source: Wexford County Council)



3. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any potential significant effects 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 were 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 habitat⁵ or species⁶ 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. Although sites beyond this buffer zone would be considered if relevant, a review of all sites within this zone has allowed the conclusion to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of the LACAP will not impose effects beyond the 15 km buffer. The assessment process also considers hydrogeological processes and possible effects to ground water with respect to ground water sensitive habitats and species.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.



Details of European sites that occur within 15 km of the LACAP boundary are provided in Table 3-1. European sites and EPA Rivers Catchments are also mapped in Figure 3-1 below. Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix 1) and background information (such as that within Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) have 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 National Parks and Wildlife Service documents:

- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC [IE0000671] Version 1.
- NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives for Ballyteige Burrow SAC [IE0000696] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Bannow Bay SAC [IE0000697] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Cahore Polders and Dunes SAC [IE0000700] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Lady's Island Lake SAC [IE0000704] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Saltee Islands SAC [IE0000707] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Screen Hills SAC [IE0000708] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Tacumshin Lake SAC [IE0000709] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC [IE0000710] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Buckroneys-Brittans Dunes and Fen SAC [IE0000729] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Hook Head SAC [IE0000764] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Blackstairs Mountains SAC [IE0000770] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Slaney River Valley SAC [IE0000781] Version 1.
- NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives for Kilmuckridge-Tinnaberna Sandhills SAC [IE0001741] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC [IE0001742] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Lower River Suir SAC [IE0002137] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Long Bank SAC [IE0002161] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for River Barrow and River Nore SAC [IE0002162] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Carnsore Point SAC [IE0002269] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Blackwater Bank SAC [IE0002953] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Saltee Islands SPA [IE0004002] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Lady's Island Lake SPA [IE0004009] Version 9.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for The Raven SPA [IE0004019] Version 1.
- NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives for Ballyteigue Burrow SPA [IE0004020] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Tramore Back Strand SPA [IE0004027] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Bannow Bay SPA [IE0004033] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA [IE0004076] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Tacumshin Lake SPA [IE0004092] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Keeragh Islands SPA [IE0004118] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Cahore Marshes SPA [IE0004143] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for River Nore SPA [IE0004233] Version 9.



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 LACAP against the QIs/SCIs of each site. The conservation objectives for each site were consulted throughout the assessment process.

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

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

The overarching objective of the LACAP is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to provide for coherent and coordinated approach to climate action within the County. Therefore, the LACAP is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites.

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

The LACAP provides a framework for the sustainable development of the Council boundary area. There are a number of environmental sensitivities within the area and an assessment of effects indicates the potential effects relate to the following:

- *Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:*
 - *Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;*
 - *Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and*
 - *Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species.*
- *Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air.*
- *Adverse effects from tourism, amenity and recreation.*
- *Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.*
- *Adverse effects upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.*
- *Increase in the risk of flooding.*
- *Emissions to air including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions.*

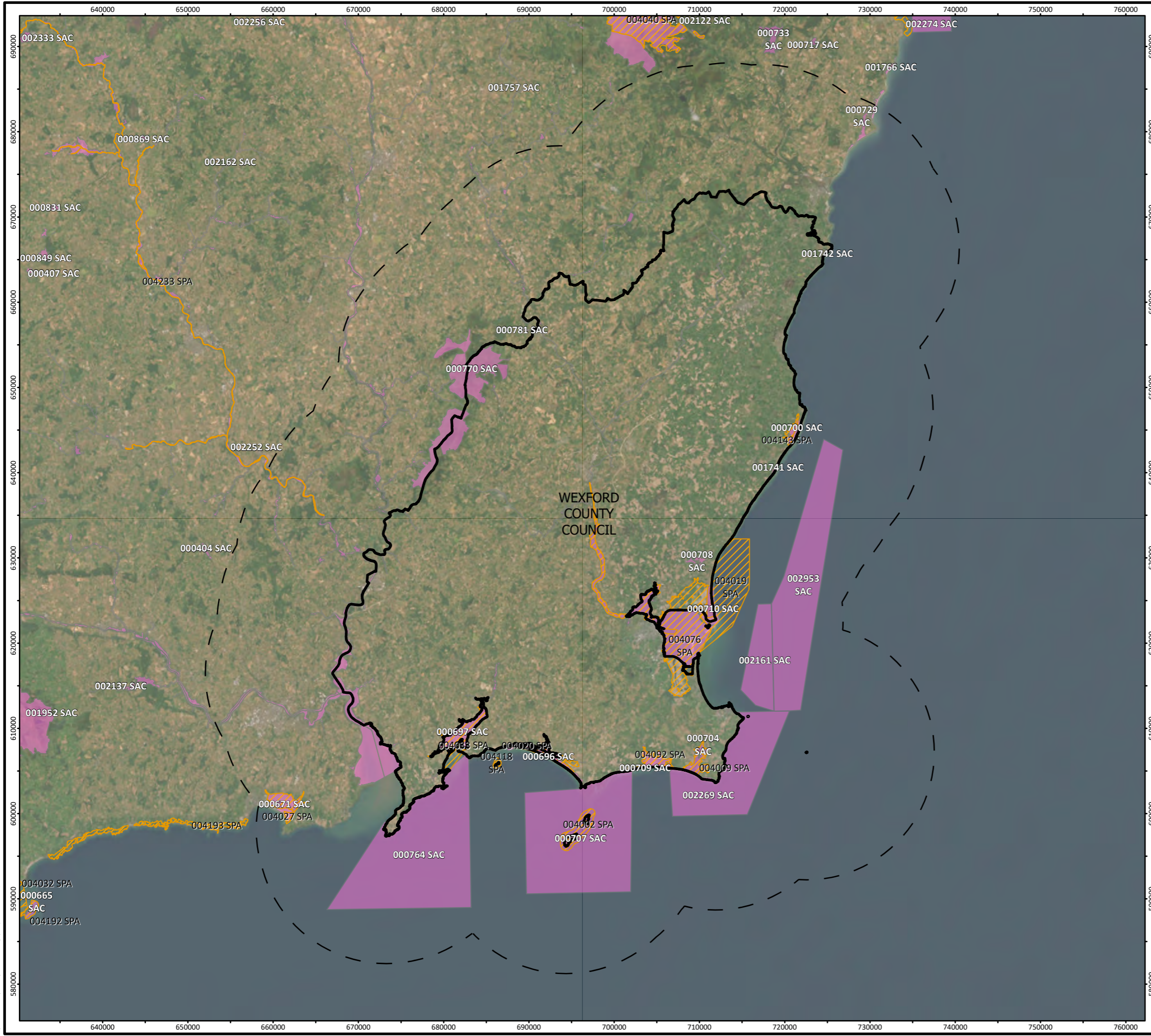
The elements of the LACAP with the highest potential to give rise to the effects indicated above are associated with construction phase elements of the implementation of the LACAP. The operational phase elements of the LACAP are consistent with the existing condition of the area. All policies and objectives are considered in this assessment with respect to the ecological integrity of each of the European sites identified. Considering the sensitivities/vulnerabilities of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects and potential pathways for such effects. Where sources and pathways for effects are identified potential effects will be assessed in relation to the SSCOs.



3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3-1 examines whether there is potential for effects on European sites considering information provided above, including Appendix 1. Sites are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- The existence of potential for pathways for significant effects, such as hydrological links, LACAP proposals and the site to be screened;
- The distance of the relevant site from the LACAP boundary; and
- The existence of a link between identified threats or vulnerabilities at a site to potential impacts that may arise from the LACAP.



- Legend**
- Local Authority Boundaries
 - Local Authority Boundary - 15km Buffer
 - Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Special Areas of Conservation and
Special Protected Areas**

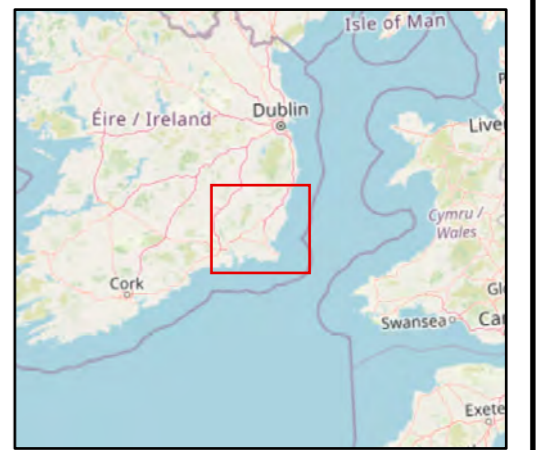
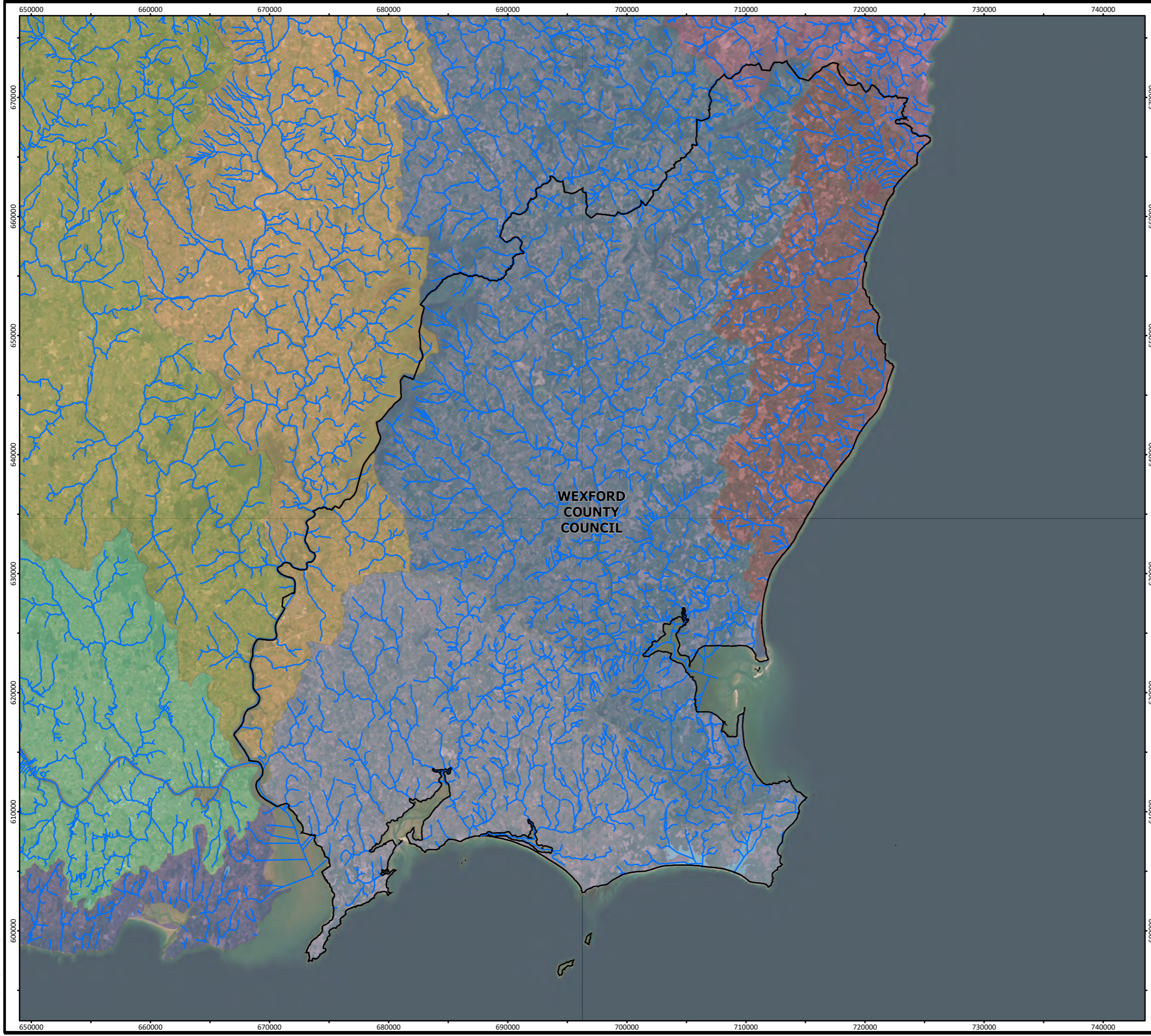
WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL
Local Authority Climate Action Plans

FIGURE NO: 3.1

CLIENT: WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: 15/08/2023 **SCALE:** 1:440,000 @ A3

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- Legend**
- Local Authority Boundaries
 - Rivers
 - WFD Catchments
 - Catchment Name
 - Ballyteigue-Bannow
 - Barrow
 - Colligan-Mahon
 - Nore
 - Ovoca-Vartry
 - Owenvorragh
 - Slaney & Wexford Harbour
 - Suir

Hydrology	
WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL Local Authority Climate Action Plans	
FIGURE NO:	3.2
CLIENT:	WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	15/08/2023
SCALE:	1:315,000 @ A3





Table 3-1: Screening of European sites which have ecological pathways for potential effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000696	Ballyteige Burrow SAC	0	Coastal lagoons [1150], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Humid dune slacks [2190], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Estuaries [1130], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150], Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>) [1420], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	<p>The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
000697	Bannow Bay SAC	0	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410],	<p>The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi) [1420], Estuaries [1130]			
000700	Cahore Polders and Dunes SAC	0	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Humid dune slacks [2190], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	<p>The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
000704	Lady's Island Lake SAC	0	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Coastal lagoons [1150], Reefs [1170]	<p>The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000707	Saltee Islands SAC	0	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Reefs [1170], Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Grey Seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364]	<p>The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
000708	Screen Hills SAC	0	European dry heaths [4030], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]	<p>The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
000709	Tacumshin Lake SAC	0	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Coastal lagoons [1150], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	<p>The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p>	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
000710	Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC	0	Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Humid dune slacks [2190], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130]	<p>The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
000764	Hook Head SAC	0	Reefs [1170], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	<p>The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	0	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], European dry heaths [4030]	The European Site overlaps with the Wexford County LACAP area.	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				<p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc.</p> <p>Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>		
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	0	<p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], Estuaries [1130], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106]</p>	<p>The European Site overlaps with the Wexford County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
001741	Kilmuckridge-Tinnaberna Sandhills SAC	0	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	<p>The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	0	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130]	<p>The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	0	Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Reefs [1170], Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421], Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], Water	<p>The European Site overlaps with the Wexford County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p>	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima) [1330], European dry heaths [4030], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion alba) [91E0], Nore Pearl Mussel (Margaritifera durrovensis) [1990], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) [1092], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106]	Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
002269	Carnsore Point SAC	0	Reefs [1170], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	The European Site overlaps with the Wexford County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
004009	Lady's Island Lake SPA	0	Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) [A051]	<p>The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
004019	The Raven SPA	0	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	<p>The European Site overlaps with the Wexford County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
004020	Ballyteige Burrow SPA	0	Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis</i>	The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area.	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			squatarola) [A141], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048]	The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
004033	Bannow Bay SPA	0	Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130]	The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA	0	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A053], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Coot (Fulica atra) [A125], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Little Tern	The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			(Sterna albifrons) [A195], Grey Heron (Ardea cinerea) [A028], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Little Grebe (Tachybaptus ruficollis) [A004], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395], Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183], Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) [A067], Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Bewick's Swan (Cygnus columbianus bewickii) [A037], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Scaup (Aythya marila) [A062], Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus) [A082]	Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
004092	Tacumshin Lake SPA	0	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Coot (Fulica atra) [A125], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Little Grebe (Tachybaptus ruficollis) [A004], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056],	The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) [A051], Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]	interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
004143	Cahore Marshes SPA	0	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]	The European Site is located within the Wexford County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	0.54	Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430],	There is a separation distance of approximately 540 m between this European Site and the area of Wexford County LACAP and no hydrological connection is present. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0]			
004118	Keeragh Islands SPA	0.87	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	<p>This European Site is within 15km of the area of Wexford County LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
002161	Long Bank SAC	1.97	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]	<p>This European Site is located approximately 1.97 km from the area of Wexford County LACAP and is separated by marine waters.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc.</p>	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				<p>Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>		
004002	Saltee Islands SPA	2.5	Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188], Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204], Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018], Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199], Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016], Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]	<p>This European Site is within 15km of the area of Wexford County LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
002953	Blackwater Bank SAC	3.03	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]	<p>This European Site is located approximately 3.03 km from the area of Wexford County LACAP and is separated by marine waters.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p>	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
004233	River Nore SPA	6.46	Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) [A229]	<p>This European Site is within 15km of the area of Wexford County LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
000729	Buckroney-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC	8.62	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Humid dune slacks [2190], Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150], Alkaline fens [7230], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	<p>There is a separation distance of approximately 8.62 km between this European Site and the area of Wexford County LACAP and no hydrological connection is present.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000671	Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC	9.32	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]	<p>There is a separation distance of approximately 9.32 km between this European Site and the area of Wexford County LACAP and no hydrological connection is present.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	No	No
004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA	9.4	Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]	<p>This European Site is within 15km of the area of Wexford County LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes



3.4 In-combination effects with 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 affect European sites. Appendix 2 outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the Plan to cause in-combination effects to European sites. These plans, programmes, strategies etc. were considered throughout the assessment.

The LACAP sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, recreation, environmental protection and environmental management, which have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant. The Plan must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions and will, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the next 20 years. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSESs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSES for the Southern Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the LACAP. Section 18, Part 3 of the Climate Acts 2015-2021 and Section 10 (2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) require that local authorities take account of their LACAPs when preparing a County Development Plan. Local authorities must be cognisant of this provision and forge a strong link between spatial planning and positive climate action ensuring that land-use planning and development integrates considerations of adaptation and mitigation.

In order to be realised, projects included in the LACAP (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.

All projects within the LACAP area and receiving environment will be considered in combination with any and all lower tier projects that may arise due to the implementation of the LACAP. Given the uncertainties that exist with regard to the scale and location of developments facilitated by the LACAP, it is recognised that the identification of in-combination effects is limited and that the assessment of in-combination effects will need to be undertaken in a more comprehensive manner at the project-level.

Additional information on the in-combination effects relationship with other plans and programmes is provided at Appendix 2.

3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

The effects that could arise from the LACAP 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 LACAP:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant adverse effects on 26 (no.) European sites.



Therefore, a Stage 2 AA is required for the LACAP (see Section 4 of this report). An AA Screening Determination undertaken by the planning authority accompanies this report and the LACAP.



4. STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the LACAP alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 26 European sites brought forward from screening (those considered on Table 3-1 for which there is “Potential Pathway for Significant Effects” and/or “Potential for In-Combination Effects”), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified 26 European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the LACAP. Appendix 1 characterises each of the qualifying features of the ALL 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 website⁷.

4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts⁸:

- 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 that the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.
- Duration - The time that 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.

⁷ Last accessed 17th July 2023; <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>

⁸ 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”.



- 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.

Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) have been prepared for a number of European sites. These detailed SSCO aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes that define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

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

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

Generic Conservation Objective for SACs:

To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species that 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 effects 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*

The LACAP provides for action related to climate action and generally seeks to reduce CO₂ emissions through coordination, advocacy, awareness etc. Many of the actions also relate to land use change or the provision of infrastructure developments such as green energy and active travel projects. The exact spatial location of these projects is not fully developed within the plan. The development of all infrastructural have associated construction phase effects which include land take, habitat destruction, disturbance effects, light pollution, dust, hydrological interactions, airborne pollution, excessive noise etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects due to construction on the ecological integrity of any European site.

As identified above, the LACAP boundary has several European sites within it; therefore, there is potential for effects to European sites through urbanisation and direct habitat loss on foot of the implementation of the LACAP; however, several mitigation measures have been integrated into the LACAP to ensure that its implementation will not result in the loss of any habitat necessary for the ecological integrity of any European site; namely list of actions to avoid habitat loss NEGI3⁹, NEGI2¹⁰, NEGI24¹¹, NEGI10¹² and NEGI13¹³ etc.

⁹ Undertake a Monitoring and Maintenance programme on existing public coastal defences Link to C2 and develop suitable protection measures, having due regard to environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value.

¹⁰ Wexford County Council will develop and progress suitable coastal protection measures, as identified through the monitoring and inspection programmes for vulnerable areas of coast and existing public coastal defences subject to funding, statutory consent and national policies and guidelines, including schemes such as Rosslare, Courtown and Seaview, having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value.

¹¹ Continue to support measures to protect and enhance beaches in the county to retain the blue flag status and green coast award and identify where possible additional beaches for inclusion

¹² Implement Chapter 12 Coastal Zone Management and Marine Spatial Planning in Volume 1 of the County Development Plan. Ensure collaborations with Waterford and Wicklow County Councils in relation to integrated Coastal Zone management, having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value.

¹³ Assessment of Wexford County Council owned land to identify areas suitable for restoration and enhanced carbon storage through tree-planting and biodiversity measures.



Additionally, the environmental governance section of the LACAP sets out a number of measures which will ensure the protection of biodiversity throughout the implementation of the plan such as:

- Promote climate action projects that support and maximise environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.
- Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.
- Ensure all development underpinned or supported by climate action is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No climate action related development project that is likely to have a significant negative effect on the receiving environment shall be supported.
- Support opportunities to improve ecological connectivity of non-designated habitats and sites to improve overall ecosystem resilience and functioning while supporting climate action within the county.
- Promote and encourage use of sustainable transport modes on all journeys undertaken as part of work by council personnel, as well as ensure that the journey is necessary.

These policies ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the plan.

4.3.1.2 *Habitat or species Fragmentation*

As previously stated, the LACAP provides for infrastructure developments which have associated effects. These effects could result in the fragmentation of habitat and or species through light pollution, habitat loss, removal of stepping stone habitats etc. This is particularly relevant for linear projects such as active travel schemes. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects in relation to fragmentation on the ecological integrity of any European site.



The LACAP recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. The LACAP provides actions to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as hedgerows; mitigation measures such as NEGI23¹⁴, NEGI15¹⁵, and NEGI26¹⁶ etc. (see full list of measures reproduced in Section 5 of this report). Lighting is a particular issue for biodiversity - particularly with regard to linear projects, therefore the following action was required to ensure there would be no significant impacts in this regard: BET12¹⁷ and BET5¹⁸.

Further to these provisions there are actions related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as waterways, wetlands and peatlands etc. These actions apply to all plans, programmes and/or projects that may arise due to the implementation of the LACAP and will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation will not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the LACAP.

4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

Disturbance effects are caused by any activity that has potential to alter the movement patterns/distribution of species. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. This is particularly relevant in relation to tourism and recreation in general, which could be influenced by the LACAP due to the provision of active travel schemes and other green initiatives within the LACAP; from the perspective that many of the tourism destinations or attractions in the area are in or adjacent to European sites.

The LACAP accounts for noise pollution effects through its policies and objectives affording protection to European sites by ensuring any projects that arise from the implementation of the LACAP avoid or minimise noise in compliance with the Environmental Noise Directive and associated National Regulations through the Wexford County Council Noise Action Plan 2019 - 2023. Actions to ensure the protection of habitat quality with respect to disturbance effects from noise and other sources have been built into the LACAP; namely GL7¹⁹, BET11²⁰, BET10²¹ and BET16²² etc. (further details see Section 5).

These measures are robust to ensure that any sensitive habitat features or species will be identified and only compliant applications will be granted. All of the policies related to positive effects for Biodiversity are detailed in Section 5.

¹⁴ Provide expert advice on biodiversity & encourage native planting on farmland within County Wexford

¹⁵ Through the planning process, implement a minimum requirement of 20% of the area of a rural site, for a single house, to be set aside for additional tree planting and biodiversity measures in accordance with the County Development Plan

¹⁶ Support & encourage communities to plant native trees through awareness & trees for Wexford Campaign.

¹⁷ Develop New Designed Road Schemes (that involves more than resurfacing) by securing specific improvement grants that encompass urban realm planned improvements, such as natural drainage, cycle tracks, green spaces, led lights, restricting cars etc. having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage.

¹⁸ Continue to support the roll out of the Public lighting retrofit Programme while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity.

¹⁹ Promote and support the Local Authority Blended working policy within the organisation

²⁰ Roll out of bike public bike sharing scheme in other urban areas within the County having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage.

²¹ Promote walking and cycling programmes through the active travel team, sports active team and increase the availability of Outdoor Recreation throughout the county through the ORIS Programme

²² Roll out of the Smarter Travel Pathfinder Programme to encourage employees, students & visitors to walk, cycle, use public transport, carpool or reduce trips through 'smarter working'.



4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density

Species densities are reliant on species distributions, habitat condition, connectivity of ecological resources and availability of resources such as prey/food. The LACAP introduces potential sources for effects to affect these four determinant factors for species densities in the form of construction phase effects such as habitat destruction, visitor movements/access, hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat encroachment, trampling etc. However, the LACAP contains provisions to enhance biodiversity, landscape and the environment within Council boundary BET5¹⁷, NEGI3⁹, NEGI15¹⁴, NEGI26¹⁵, NEGI10¹¹, BET12¹⁶, and NEGI23¹³ etc. Similarly, the LACAP the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. Further to these provisions there are actions related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as NEGI3⁹, NEGI10¹¹, NEGI13¹² and NEGI23¹³ etc. These actions apply to all plans, programmes and projects that may arise due to the implementation of the plan. Measures relating to light pollution, noise pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation are addressed above (further detailed in Section 5).

In addition to this the LACAP identifies actions to protect and improve water quality interactions (see below for further details) which can influence species densities. There are also a number of provisions relating to protective buffer zones, further assessment requirements as well as commitments to increasing water quality standards etc. These measures are detailed across the LACAP.

4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

Water quality is the primary macro indicator of conservation value. The LACAP contains many robust actions to ensure the protection of both surface and ground water quality. Development within the vicinity of groundwater or surface water dependant European sites will not be permitted where there is potential for a likely significant effect on the groundwater or surface water supply to the European sites. Action that specifically relate to the protection of water quality which account for potential effects to European sites include BET22²³, BET5¹⁷, NEGI14²⁴, NEGI17²⁵, NEGI6²⁶, NEGI4²⁷, NEGI10¹¹ and NEGI11²⁸ etc. Similarly, emissions to air have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European sites; however, the LACAP contains actions – such as BET11¹⁹, BET16²¹, BET22²², NEGI15¹⁴ and BET12¹⁶ etc. – which account for this.

Additionally, the actions provide broader scope to ensure the protection of the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions; such as NEGI17²⁴ and NEGI4²⁶ etc.

²³ Implement Gully Management programme and seek innovative solutions to use technology to maximise the use of limited resources by monitoring gullies, especially in high risk flood areas.

²⁴ Ensure the protection and quality of bathing waters in County Wexford by continuing to implement the bathing water programme of sampling and testing before and during the bathing water season

²⁵ Ensure the protection and quality of all surface, ground and coastal waters in County Wexford by continuing to implement the National Agricultural Inspection plan

²⁶ Review all Non-Uisce Eireann Wastewater sites operated by WXCC for stormwater infiltration issues in order to reduce the impact of flooding at Wastewater TP as a result of increased rainfall and carry out resolution works to separate stormwater from the foul wastewater systems at non-Uisce Eireann sites in order to reduce pollution as a result of rainfall events having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and amenity value.

²⁷ Preparation of a Rainwater Management Plan using nature-based solutions as part of the Wexford Town Local Area Plan 2024-2030 and consider this for other future Local Area Plans.

²⁸ Ensure the protection and improvement of water quality in Co. Wexford through the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan and Local Authority Waters Programme takes account of climate change and the associated impacts on Water Quality Status



4.3.1.6 Climate change

The LACAP is specifically focused on climate action and most of the actions within the plan are aimed at reducing carbon emissions and move towards renewable energy sources; GL14²⁹, GL10³⁰, BET28³¹, BET31³², BET3³³, BET20³⁴, BET27³⁵, BET5¹⁷ and BET19³⁶ etc.

Therefore, there are no sources for significant effects to climate change factors identified within the LACAP having regard for the measures identified above and in Section 5 below. Therefore, there are no changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European sites considered.

²⁹ To prepare a Climate Proofing Matrix to be submitted with planning applications to allow the proposed development to demonstrate how it incorporates climate mitigation and adaptation, where relevant.

³⁰ In line with Strategic Objective 2 of the South east Regional Enterprise Plan 2024, continue the work to establish the South East as a leader in Off-shore renewable Energy, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.

³¹ Take steps to reduce IT equipment energy consumption, including energy savings awareness among staff and automatic shutdown of computers on the network.

³² Energy Awareness programme to be run with social housing tenants in relation to energy efficiency measures in the home and correct use of heat pumps (as appropriate) and investigate the possibility of Energy Awareness award system

³³ Reduce WCC fossil fuel emissions across it fleet through: a) Maximising the EV fleet and continuing to upgrade existing older fleet to modern efficient vehicles. b) Assessing the feasibility of moving to renewable or low emission fuels for fleet vehicles and marine vessels and piloting the roll out of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil fuel. c) Promote & encourage fuel saving measures such as eco driving & speed limiters, etc. d) Increase the tonnage carrying capacity of fleet lorries which will reduce the number of trips. Quantify and verify the GHG emission reductions achieved by adopting this action - Whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced, and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for Electric Vehicles

³⁴ Through the planning process, promote the target of 100% electricity consumption in the county from renewable sources by 2027 where it is confirmed through appropriate environmental assessment that associated renewable energy development will not have any significant environmental effect.

³⁵ All prelets carried out by Wexford County Council to include the installation of LED bulbs to improve energy efficiency in the home.

³⁶ Engage with Rosslare Europort stakeholders to progress the development of Rosslare as a renewable energy hub, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.



Table 4-1: Characterisation of Potential Effects arising from the subject land area

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
000696	Ballyteige Burrow SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to aquaculture, invasive species, recreation, waste management, agriculture, erosion, transport, and succession.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
000697	Bannow Bay SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to recreation, transport, forestry, invasive species, waste management, land use change, land use management, mining/ resource extraction, erosion, aquaculture, and infrastructure.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
000700	Cahore Polders and Dunes SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to energy production, agriculture, land use management, recreation, and transport.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
000704	Lady's Island Lake SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to hydrological interactions, waste management, invasive species, agriculture, irrigation, and land use management.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
000707	Saltee Islands SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to commercial fishing, agriculture, infrastructure, waste management, coastal protection, and recreation.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
000708	Screen Hills SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to mining/ resource extraction, invasive species, and succession.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
000709	Tacumshin Lake SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to coastal protection, agriculture, land use management, land use change, mining/ resource extraction, irrigation, hydrological interactions, waste management, recreation, and forestry.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
000710	Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to succession, invasive species, burning, recreation, waste management, forestry, transport, and land use management.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
000764	Hook Head SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to direct interaction with species and populations, erosion, recreation, and waste management.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to agriculture, burning, recreation, waste management, forestry, erosion, and succession.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to land use management, land use change, hydrological interactions, waste management, irrigation, flooding, invasive species, erosion, agriculture, commercial fishing, infrastructure, forestry, and direct interaction with species and populations.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
001741	Kilmuckridge-Tinnaberna Sandhills SAC	The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to land use management, abiotic processes, agriculture, land use change, infrastructure, and invasive species.



Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		<p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to succession, recreation, burning, waste management, erosion, and coastal protection.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to barriers to migration, flooding, land use management, land use change, recreation, direct interaction with species and populations, forestry, infrastructure, hydrological interactions, mining/ resource extraction, commercial shipping, aquaculture, changes in abiotic conditions, irrigation, waste management, invasive species, erosion and agriculture.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
002269	Carnsore Point SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to recreation, erosion, infrastructure, tourism, waste management, commercial fishing, direct interaction with species and populations, mining/ resource extraction, and land use management.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
004002	Saltee Islands SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to agriculture and recreation.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
004009	Lady's Island Lake SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to agriculture, recreation, direct interaction with species and populations, land use management, and waste management.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
004019	The Raven SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to forestry and recreation.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
004020	Ballyteigue Burrow SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to habitat fragmentation, agriculture, recreation, and direct interaction with species and populations.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
004033	Bannow Bay SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to habitat fragmentation, infrastructure, direct interaction with species and populations, agriculture, aquaculture, and recreation.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		<p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to agriculture, infrastructure, land use change, land use management, direct interaction with species and populations, aquaculture, forestry, and recreation.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
004092	Tacumshin Lake SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to agriculture, recreation, direct interaction with species and populations, hydrological interactions.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
004118	Keeragh Islands SPA	<p>There are no known threats or pressures that relate to this SPA.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
004143	Cahore Marshes SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to agriculture, habitat fragmentation, and recreation.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
004233	River Nore SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to waste management, land use change, infrastructure, and commercial shipping.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to land use management, infrastructure, recreation, waste management, agriculture, and invasive species.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>



5. MITIGATION MEASURES

This section outlines measures that have been incorporated into the LACAP in order to mitigate against potential effects to European sites as identified above. The LACAP was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European site from implementation of the LACAP. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European sites are identified in Table 5-1 and Table 5-2 below.³⁷ Some of these measures, many of which were integrated into the current Plan through the SEA and AA processes for that Plan, have been retained and/or updated.

The plan making process was carried out in parallel with the SEA and AA processes. Regular communication and interaction took place between the environmental assessment team and the plan making team. Environmental considerations that came to light during the SEA and AA processes, including consultation processes, were regularly communicated to the plan making team during the plan making process. As necessary, environmental mitigation measures to ameliorate the potential negative environmental effects of implementing the LACAP were developed and then integrated into the LACAP. Much of the environmental mitigation was embedded in the plan early on in the process as a result of this. This process was carried out in an iterative manner to ensure optimal plan making and environmental outcomes. Environmental considerations were also integrated into the plan so as to facilitate maximizing identified positive environmental effects of the LACAP.

Mitigation measures have been proposed that maximize the co-benefits of climate action for other environmental components such as local air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and other interrelated areas (i.e., win-win solutions).

Additional text clarifying environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to a variety of defined actions in the plan (as seen in Table 5-1). This text has been shaped to ensure that environmental considerations are appropriately taken into account during plan implementation. This text has also been shaped to ensure plan implementation generates the minimum level of negative environmental effects and the maximum level of positive environmental effects.

Several environmental governance principles were established to ensure plan implementation generates the minimum level of negative environmental effects and the maximum level of positive environmental effects (as seen in Table 5-2). These environmental governance principles shall underpin and guide plan implementation and shall apply to and be integrated into all actions/activities which result due to the implementation of the plan.

³⁷ For a complete assessment of the Plan, against all environmental components (These components comprise biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors), refer to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report.



Table 5-1: Recommendations integrated into the Plan

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
GL5	Wexford County Council commits to a reduction in fossil fuel based travel by 25% by 2029, to be achieved by a combined increased in online technology, sustainable transport options together with a concerted effort to reduce travel.	The potential scalable adoption of vehicles based on certain alternative fuels may contribute to the expansion of alternative fuel production sectors. These sectors may indirectly cause environmental effects (including uncertain and potentially negative effects) as a result of fuel sourcing, production and supply processes. Electric vehicles have the potential to generate a variety of uncertain lifecycle impacts, including production related impacts and end-of-life related.	Attach the following text to the action: "while ensuring sustainability criteria is appropriately considered during procurement processes and appropriate end-of-life vehicle management practices are in place."
GL10	In line with Strategic Objective 2 of the South east Regional Enterprise Plan 2024, continue the work to establish the South East as a leader in Off-shore renewable Energy	The supporting of such developments could however result in a variety of slight to very significant negative environmental effects, including landscape and visual impacts and impacts on important habitats and species (due to collision risk and vibration effects), including European sites - thus further consideration and mitigation measures are required.	Attach the following text to the action: "whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects."
BET1	Identification and completion of energy efficiency and upgrade projects related to council facilities as identified in the Pathfinder Energy Register of Opportunities and other funding streams	Upgrade or retrofitting works associated with this action may result in the generation of localized environmental effects, including dust and noise impacts. Such works may also impinge on the status of protected structures.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, protected species, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures."
BET2	Continue to work with OPW Flood Defence section to progress all County Wexford Flood Relief Schemes e.g. Wexford Town, Enniscorthy, Bridgetown	In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality, biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise), and the receiving human environment.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value."
BET3	Reduce WCC fossil fuel emissions across it fleet through:	This action could lead to transitioning to a renewable fuel. The scalable adoption of vehicles based on certain alternative fuels may contribute to the expansion of alternative fuel production sectors. These sectors may indirectly cause environmental effects (including uncertain and potentially negative effects) as a result of fuel sourcing, production and supply processes.	Attach the following text to the action: "Whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced,



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>a) Maximising the EV fleet and continuing to upgrade existing older fleet to modern efficient vehicles.</p> <p>b) Assessing the feasibility of moving to renewable or low emission fuels for fleet vehicles and marine vessels and piloting the roll out of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil fuel.</p> <p>c) Promote & encourage fuel saving measures such as eco driving & speed limiters, etc</p> <p>d) Increase the tonnage carrying capacity of fleet lorries which will reduce the number of trips. Quantify and verify the GHG emission reductions achieved by adopting this action</p>	<p>This action could also lead to the delivery of multiple charging points and ancillary electrical infrastructure including grid connection routes across the extent of the LA region. In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional charging point infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.</p>	<p>and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for Electric Vehicles."</p>
BET4	<p>Maximise WCC's delivery of upgraded properties under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme in line with department targets</p>	<p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Retrofitting works may also negative effect the appropriate conservation of protected structures. Therefore there is also scope for there to be negative effects if unmitigated.</p>	<p>Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations."</p>
BET5	<p>Continue to support the roll out of the Public lighting retrofit Programme.</p>	<p>The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect in terms of GHG emissions however, the spectrum of light from LED sources has the potential to impact nocturnal species. Therefore there is also scope for there to be slight negative effects if unmitigated.</p>	<p>Attach the following text to the action: "while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity."</p>
BET6	<p>Preparation of the Wexford Town Local Transport Plan to inform the future planning of Wexford Town and to inform the preparation of the Wexford Town Local Area Plan</p>	<p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional active travel infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.</p>	<p>Attach the following text to the action: "whilst ensuring these plans are: - Designed to mitigate potential environmental impacts associated with supported active travel infrastructure.</p>



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
			- Support the carrying out of environmental/biodiversity enhancement during the active travel development process."
BET7	Revise & update Wexford County Council Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy to take account of national guidance and work with ZEVI to facilitate the EV Charging Infrastructure within the public realm of County Wexford for Cars, buses & coaches having due regard to ensuring disabled access to EV charging, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage.	In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional charging point infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to ensuring disabled access to EV charging, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage."
BET8	Work with Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management Programme to prioritise projects to reduce flood risk and provide for detailed mapping of areas prone to fluvial and tidal flood risk. The National Indicative Fluvial Mapping (NIFM) and the National Coastal Hazard Flood Mapping are published and will help inform the implementation of this plan having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.	In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality, biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic ecosystems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise), and the receiving human environment	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value."



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
BET9	Support the roll out Active travel initiatives and promote a modal shift to more sustainable travel through: a) Pathfinder projects - 3 interconnecting schemes - Newtown Road, Beech Lawns/Clonard and Roxborough, Wexford Town. b) Safer Routes to schools schemes across County Wexford. Twenty six schools in conjunction with the National Transport Authority and An Taisce. c) Installation of segregated cycle path and footpath as part of Oaklands to Kents Cross New Ross Active Travel Scheme	In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional cycling infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), biodiversity impacts, cultural heritage asset impacts and impacts on traffic and transport (through the temporary creation of traffic diversions and congestion).	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage."
BET12	Develop New Designed Road Schemes (that involves more than resurfacing) by securing specific improvement grants that encompass urban realm planned improvements, such as natural drainage, cycle tracks, green spaces, led lights, restricting cars etc.	In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the updating of road space have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage."
BET13	Develop projects to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures using exemplar retrofitting projects and carbon budgets to demonstrate climate value	In the absence of appropriate mitigation, such retrofitting works may have slight to significant impacts on protected structures, the heritage context in which protected structures sit or on protected species that may be present in old buildings.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species."
BET14	Facilitate and support the use and occupation of vacant housing stock through the administration of the vacant property Refurbishment Grant	Given the urban nature of the works, there are no significant impacts identified to be likely. However, due regard should be given to Annex IV species which may be roosting in any structures which are to be developed, and protected structure conservation.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures."



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	under the Government of Ireland Housing for All Plan (Croí Cónaithe)		
BET15	Carry out Climate Risk assessment of historic sites and structures and build climate resilience of archaeological and architectural heritage in public and private ownership through schemes such as at the Built Heritage Scheme, Historic Towns Initiative, Irish Walled Towns Network, Community Monuments Fund and Historic Structures Fund having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species.	In the absence of appropriate mitigation, such retrofitting works may have slight to significant impacts on protected structures, the heritage context in which protected structures sit or on protected species that may be present in old buildings.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species."
BET17	Promote reuse/repurposing of existing buildings rather than the construction of new buildings through various funding streams including Urban Regeneration Development Fund and Rural Regeneration Development Fund e.g. New Ross Enterprise Centre and Gorey Market House	This action may support development or the refurbishment or retrofitting of buildings. There is the potential for a variety of slight to potentially significant environmental impacts during construction or refurbishment/retrofitting projects. Retrofitting works may also negatively affect the appropriate conservation of protected structures.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species."
BET18	Continue to progress the roll out of an integrated network of Greenways, Blueways and key trails within County Wexford and across the South east region	In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of such infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), biodiversity impacts, cultural heritage asset impacts and impacts on traffic and	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to opportunities to enhance tourism, recreation and cultural heritage value associated with routes, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites, and cultural heritage related sensitivities."



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		transport (through the temporary creation of traffic diversions and congestion).	
BET19	Engage with Rosslare Europort stakeholders to progress the development of Rosslare as a renewable energy hub.	The action could potentially support the carrying out of significant renewable energy projects that could generate a range of slight to significant negative environmental effects, including impacts on biodiversity impacts, landscape and visual impacts, and impacts on the water or soils environment (due to development construction phase run-off of silt or cement based material). Such potential effects can be mitigated by considering planning and environmental related matters and constraints early on during the assessment/design process.	Engage with Rosslare Europort stakeholders to progress the development of Rosslare as a renewable energy hub; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage
BET20	Through the planning process, promote the target of 100% electricity consumption in the county from renewable sources by 2027	This action may support the development of renewable energy infrastructure, which could lead to a variety of slight to potentially significant environmental impacts, including impacts on biodiversity, landscape character and visual amenity, the receiving noise environment; or construction related effects.	Attach the following text to the action: "where it is confirmed through appropriate environmental assessment that associated renewable energy development will not have any significant environmental effect."
BET21	Incorporate Sustainable Urban drainage (SUDs) in proposed designs and Raise awareness and provide training to staff	In the absence of mitigation, the construction of SuDS has the potential to result in some negative environmental effects on water quality (e.g. due to the run-off of soil or cement based material) or biodiversity (due to works impacting on water quality/aquatic ecology), for example.	Attach the following text to the action: "ensuring all SuDS related construction works are designed and implemented in a manner that does not result in the occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects."
BET23	In accordance with the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028, and all future Local Area Plans/Settlement Plans, require the provision of electric vehicle charging point infrastructure in residential, commercial and mixed use developments	In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional charging point infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to ensuring disabled access to EV charging, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage."
BET24	Support and facilitate transport providers in delivering appropriate improvements in the bus and rail services to improved connectivity for Wexford, in particular those identified for the South east region and Wexford as outlined in the Department of	In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of public transport infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to profound significant environmental effects (depending the scale, extent and character of the development), including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water	Attach the following text to the action: "whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects."



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	Transport and Department for Infrastructure All-Island Strategic Rail Review whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.	quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.	
BET30	Replace all network equipment (Switches, Routers, Hubs) with most energy efficient models on the market	Improper management of WEEE associated with this action may lead to unintended negative environmental effects.	Attach the following text to the action: "whilst ensuring WEEE generated as a result of this action is appropriately managed."
NEGI2	Wexford County Council will develop and progress suitable coastal protection measures, as identified through the monitoring and inspection programmes for vulnerable areas of coast and existing public coastal defences subject to funding, statutory consent and national policies and guidelines, including schemes such as Rosslare, Courtown and Seaview.	In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality, biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic ecosystems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise), and the receiving human environment.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value"
NEGI3	Undertake a Monitoring and Maintenance programme on existing public coastal defences and develop suitable protection measures.	In the absence of any mitigation, maintenance related works, if improperly carried out, may negatively impact environmental receptors at coastal zones.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value"
NEGI5	To identify, protect and manage green infrastructure in future local area plans.	In absence of appropriate design and mitigation, the development of green infrastructure could potentially result in negative environmental effects,	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		including negative construction related effects, negative effects on biodiversity or negative effects on cultural heritage assets.	amenity value, and the potential to enhance ecologically connectivity."
NEGI6	Review all Non-Uisce Eireann Wastewater sites operated by WXCC for stormwater infiltration issues in order to reduce the impact of flooding at Wastewater TP as a result of increased rainfall and carry out resolution works to separate stormwater from the foul wastewater systems at non-Uisce Eireann sites in order to reduce pollution as a result of rainfall events	This action serves to protect surface and groundwaters from excessive nutrient input due to flooding at wastewater treatment plants following heavy rainfall events. It will likely involve construction works at WWTP sites which, in the absence of appropriate mitigation measures, may result in negative environmental effects on biodiversity, surface waters, and air quality/noise.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and amenity value."
NEGI10	Implement Chapter 12 Coastal Zone Management and Marine Spatial Planning in Volume 1 of the County Development Plan. Ensure collaborations with Waterford and Wicklow County Councils in relation to integrated Coastal Zone management	In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality, biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic ecosystems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise), and the receiving human environment	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value"
NEGI12	Work through the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme to improve access to public water services to reduce pollution and vulnerability to water scarcity as a result of climate change	It is likely that construction works will be necessary to connect houses to the mains water supply which may adversely affect soils, water, air and noise, biodiversity, and cultural heritage.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and amenity value."
NEGI16	Promote climate action projects that support and protect habitats such as wetlands and floodzones which contribute to green infrastructure.	Development supported by this action, such as biodiversity action projects related development could potentially have negative environmental effects.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and amenity value."
NEGI22	Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which	Development supported by this action, such as biodiversity action projects related development could potentially have negative environmental effects.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and amenity value."



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.		
NEGI13	Promotion of the Rural Water programme in providing support to rural communities for private well grant improvements and Group Schemes	The development of private wells and Group Schemes will have some degree of impact on aquifer dynamics in a particular context.	Attach the following text to the action: "whilst advocating and exerting influence and control, as appropriate, to ensure such projects are designed and planned properly and do not cause unintended negative environmental effects."
DZ GL4	Maximise WCC's delivery of upgraded properties within Enniscorthy DZ, under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme in line with department targets, to a minimum of a B2 BER rating. All properties being let shall include a BER	Development supported by this action could affect biodiversity.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.."
DZ BET1	Work with Special Projects, the Active Travel Team and the people of Enniscorthy on the Enniscorthy Town Centre Regeneration Plan (TCRP)	Development supported by this action could affect biodiversity.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.."
DZ BET3	Production of the Enniscorthy Area Local Transport Plan and identification of measures for implementation	Development supported by this action could affect biodiversity.	Attach the following text to the action: "whilst ensuring the plan is: - Designed to mitigate potential environmental impacts associated with supported active travel infrastructure. - Support the carrying out of environmental/biodiversity enhancement during the active travel development process."



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ BET5	Produce a feasibility study on the provision of Park and Ride in Enniscorthy	Development supported by this action could affect biodiversity.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst having appropriate regard to traffic and transport, planning and environmental constraints and considerations.
DZ BET6	Investigate the feasibility of adding bus stops to existing services, at a number of locations including Enniscorthy quays for all north bound coaches/buses and at the R772 north of Blackstoops roundabout.	Development supported by this action could affect biodiversity.	Attach the following text to the action: "whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites, cultural heritage."
DZ BET8	Active Travel Project at St. Aidan's National School, based on the Safe Routes to School Scheme	Development supported by this action could affect biodiversity.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage."
DZ BET9	Investigate the viability of an outdoor escalator on streets with steep gradients		Attach the following text to the action: while having due regard to planning, environmental and cultural heritage considerations.
DZ BET12	Liaise with the District Heating Steering Group on the possible identification of potential sites for a District Heating System in Enniscorthy	Development supported by this action could affect biodiversity.	Attach the following text to the action: "Liaise with the sustainable District Heating Steering Group on the possible identification of potential sites for a Sustainable District Heating System in Enniscorthy, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure the project is suitably located having regard to planning and environmental constraints and considerations."
DZ BET13	Estimate the solar potential within Enniscorthy DZ and the associated costs	Development supported by this action could affect biodiversity.	Attach the following text to the action: "having appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations, including potential glint and glare impacts."
DZ BET14	Liaise with the Schools within the DZ in relation to solar PV installation	Development supported by this action could affect biodiversity.	Attach the following text to the action: "having appropriate regard to planning and



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
			environmental protection considerations, including potential glint and glare impacts."
DZ BET15	Investigate the feasibility of small scale renewable energy projects such as solar and wind	Development supported by this action could affect biodiversity.	Attach the following text to the action: "whilst ensuring the study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection constraints and considerations."
DZ BET16	Work with the Heritage Section and Enniscorthy Municipal District to repurpose and reuse existing vacant buildings and investigate the possibility of using new sustainable insulation products within existing Enniscorthy Heritage Buildings	Development supported by this action could affect biodiversity present in vacant or derelict buildings	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.."
DZ BET17	Investigate the feasibility of companies cofounding a high speed electric vehicle charger for use by companies within their own industrial estate	Development supported by this action could affect biodiversity.	Attach the following text to the action: "having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage."
DZ BET18	LED replacement for council street lights within Enniscorthy DZ	Public lighting upgrades could affect biodiversity such as protected bat species.	Attach the following text to the action: "while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity."
DZ NEG11	Work with the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) on the Slaney Pilot catchment Management Plan and Catchment Fora to facilitate greater public participation in water management, under the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027	Development supported by this action could affect biodiversity.	Attach the following text to the action: "and support the implementation of all relevant remediation and mitigation measures required to maintain or achieve good or high quality water status in the County."



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ NEG13	Expand and promote Enniscorthy Recycling Centre to become a re-use circular economy hub	Development supported by this action could affect biodiversity.	Attach the following text to the action: "whilst ensuring activities at the facility are carried out in accordance with the Waste Management Act and the environmental management and protection related conditions contained in the waste facility permit for the facility."



Table 5-2: Environmental Mitigation Measures related Environmental Governance Principles suggested for inclusion in the plan - specifically the plan implementation section

Promote climate action projects that support and maximise environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.
Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.
Ensure all development underpinned or supported by climate action is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No climate action related development project that is likely to have a significant negative effect on the receiving environment shall be supported.
Support opportunities to improve ecological connectivity of non-designated habitats and sites to improve overall ecosystem resilience and functioning while supporting climate action within the county.
Promote and encourage use of sustainable transport modes on all journeys undertaken as part of work by council personnel, as well as ensure that the journey is necessary.



6. CONCLUSION

Stage 1 AA Screening and Stage 2 AA of the Wexford Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 has been carried out. Implementation of the LACAP has the potential to result in effects to the integrity of any European sites, if unmitigated.

The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests 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 effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the LACAP will themselves be subject to AA when further details of design and location are known.

In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects was considered in the assessment and the mitigation measures incorporated into the plan are seen to be robust to ensure there will be no significant adverse effects as a result of the implementation of the LACAP either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Wexford Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects³⁸. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

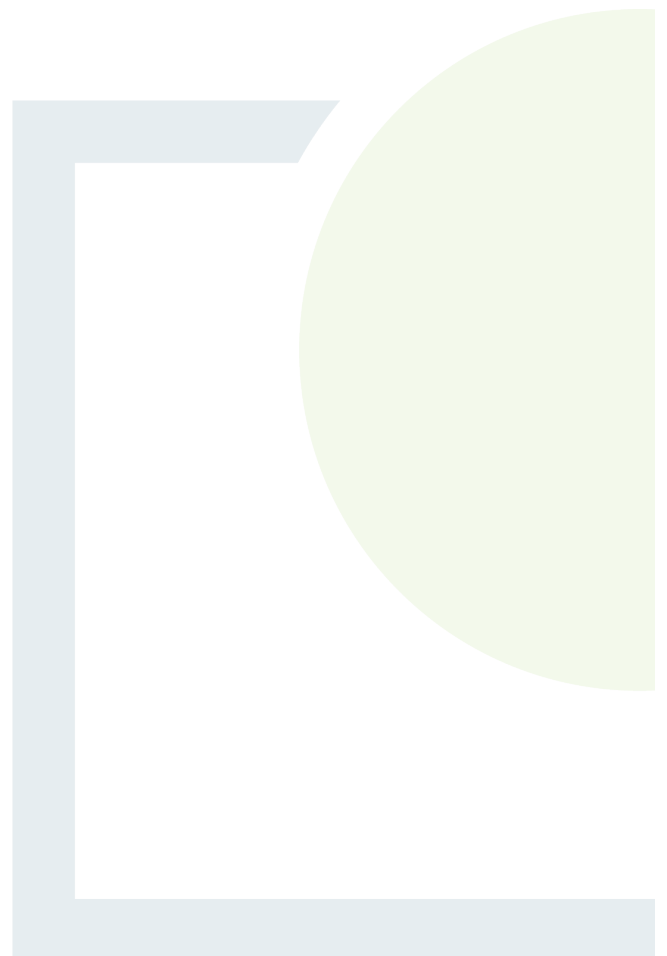
³⁸ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.



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APPENDIX 1

Background information to
European sites





Appendix 1 - Table 1 Quality and site characteristics of European sites considered in the assessment

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
000707	Saltee Islands SAC	<p>The exposed reef communities of the Saltee Islands are extremely species rich and contain rare or scarce species. In the shallow infralittoral zone there are extremely species rich kelp parks (79-124 species) and tideswept <i>Halidrys siliquosa</i> and mixed kelp communities (78-100 species). The lower infralittoral communities dominated by red algae are also extremely species rich (79-117 species). Rare and notable species of sponge anthozoan brittlestar and hydroid live in these areas. Circalittoral communities are also distinguished by consistently extremely high species richness (average 76 species). There are four notable and scarce sponge species 6 species of scarce or notable hydroid a scarce anemone two scarce nudibranchs and two scarce ascidian species. Perhaps more important than the high number of notable species in the Saltee Islands area is the fact that the populations of ten of those species have extremely high conservation value because they represent a high proportion of the total population in the national territory: these are the sponge <i>Tethyspira spinosa</i>; the hydroids <i>Halecium muricatum</i>, <i>Aglaophenia acacia</i> and <i>Gymnangium montagui</i>; the anemone <i>Cataphellia brodricii</i>, the nudibranchs <i>Okenia aspersa</i> and <i>Aeolidiella glauca</i>; and the ascidians <i>Pycnoclavella aurilucens</i>, <i>Distomus variolosus</i> and <i>Stolonica socialis</i>. The sediment communities are also important. The littoral sediment communities present at Kilmore Quay are characteristic of many similar beaches around the coast. The sublittoral sediment characterized by the sea cucumber <i>Neopendactyla mixta</i> is one of only seven such communities recorded by Biomar. Good examples of vegetated cliff habitat on both islands with a typical south-eastern flora. Has sea caves though marine communities not yet investigated. A long-established breeding population of <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> and the only significant population in the south-east region.</p>	<p>The site comprises the Saltee Islands and a large area of the surrounding seas. There are two islands (Great Saltee and Little Saltee) and a constellation of islets and rocks. The islands are situated between 4 and 5 km off the south Wexford coast. As a group they constitute a broken reef that protrudes from a seabed of sand and shell. The reef has a north-east/south-west orientation and is typically strewn with boulders cobbles and patches of sand and gravel. Bedrock is metamorphic schist and gneiss. The islands are exposed to prevailing wind and swells from the west. Tidal streams tend to be moderate but are strong in some areas particularly where the reef is shallow. The islands were inhabited and farmed in the past but are now abandoned although some sheep grazing occurs on Little Saltee. A community dominated by <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is the main vegetation type on the islands. Dry grassland occurs within the old field boundaries. Habitats with a minor presence are springs flushes and scrub. The shorelines vary from rocky cliffs of moderate height to shingle sand and boulder shores. Small sections of boulder clay cliffs are exposed in places.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		<p>The Saltee Islands are amongst the most important seabird colonies in the country for populations and species diversity. Internationally important for <i>Uria aalge</i> and <i>Alca torda</i> and nationally important for a further seven seabird species including <i>Sula bassana</i> <i>Phalacrocorax corax</i> <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> <i>Larus fuscus</i> <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> and <i>Fratercula arctica</i>. The islands have long-established seabird monitoring programmes. <i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> occurs at the eastern edge of its Irish range and <i>Falco peregrinus</i> breeds. Great Saltee is a major site for spring and autumn landbird migration.</p>	
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	<p>Estuaries and intertidal sand and mud flats are particularly well represented in this site with salinity ranging from full freshwater to full seawater. The quality of these habitats is generally good. The Slaney River and its tributaries display good examples of floating river vegetation. An important area of alluvial forest is found at Macmine while old oak woodlands occur at Toomnafinnoge the latter being a remnant of the ancient oak woods of Shillelagh. The site is of high importance for the conservation of fish species notably <i>Salmo salar</i> <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> <i>L. planeri</i> and the very localised <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>. <i>Lutra lutra</i> is well distributed throughout while a significant population of <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> occurs on the Derreen River. The site provides year-round haul-out habitat for the Annex II species <i>Phoca vitulina</i> and includes regionally significant breeding and moulting sites. The site has high ornithological importance especially for wintering waterfowl with internationally important populations of <i>Branta bernicla</i> <i>hrota</i> <i>Cygnus olor</i> <i>Limosa limosa</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i>. There is at least a further 14 species of wintering waterfowl which occur in numbers of national importance. Wintering <i>Larus</i> gulls are well represented especially <i>Larus ridibundus</i> and <i>Larus fuscus</i>. A nesting colony of <i>Egretta garzetta</i> has recently become established within the site and birds are present in the area throughout the year. The site supports one of the best breeding concentrations of <i>Acrocephalus scirpaesus</i> in the country.</p>	<p>This site comprises almost the entire Slaney system from the headwater streams in the Wicklow Mountains to the extensive estuarine area of Wexford Harbour. The main river tributaries included are the Bann Glasha Clody Derry Derreen Douglas and Carrigower Rivers. The tidal influence extends upriver as far as Enniscorthy. In the upper and central regions, the geology consists of granite. Above Kilcarry Bridge the Slaney has cut a gorge into the granite plain. The Derry and Bann Rivers are bounded by a narrow line of uplands which corresponds to schist outcrops. South of Kildavin the Slaney flows through an area of Ordovician slates and grits. The river is often fringed by woodland and/or swamp vegetation. Other habitats which occur alongside the river include wet grassland scrub and in higher areas heath and bog. Improved grassland and arable land is included alongside the river for water quality reasons. Salt marshes are a feature of the lower estuarine area of the site.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		A range of flora and fauna species listed as Red Data Book species occur within the site.	
001741	Kilmuckridge-Tinnaberna Sandhills SAC	An interesting and little disturbed example of an east of Ireland shoreline. Some of the dunes support an excellent example of fixed or grey dune vegetation including a very rich cryptogam flora. An <i>Equisetum</i> sp. hybrid is common along the clay cliffs it does not occur elsewhere in Ireland outside Wexford and Wicklow. One parent <i>E. ramosissimum</i> is not found in the British Isles. The Red Data Book species <i>Mathiola sinuata</i> used to grow here.	A 4km long coastal site on the south-east coast overlooking the Irish Sea. The coast consists of eroding cliffs of glacial clay in the south and sand dunes in the north. Shingle and sandy beaches form the eastern site boundary. A stream bordered by <i>Salix</i> scrub crosses the north end of the site. Some small derelict fields lie along the top of the cliffs. The area is quite isolated with few access roads.
001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	Despite its small size this site is important as an example of a relatively intact sand dune system which shows the various development stages of dunes with embryonic dunes white dunes grey fixed dunes and decalcified fixed dunes all represented. The presence of decalcified dune heath is of particular importance owing to its rarity in Ireland generally and particularly on the east coast. The dunes are mostly intact and of good quality.	Situated on the north Co. Wexford coast this site comprises a mature dune system which extends south from Kilmichael Point for a distance of about 2 km. There is a fine transition from a sandy beach through various types of dune types including dune heath. Behind the dunes there is an area of freshwater marsh a small area of wet woodland and some wet grassland. Part of this area floods at times. At Kilmichael Point there are low cliffs (<15 m) covered by boulder clay and a sandy grassland. A bedrock shoreline occurs below the cliffs.
004002	Saltee Islands SPA	The Saltee Islands support one of the most important seabird colonies in the country (for populations and species diversity) and hold the most important colony in the south-east for populations and species diversity. The site is nationally important for eleven seabird species: <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> <i>Sula bassana</i> <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> <i>Larus fuscus</i> <i>Larus marinus</i> <i>Larus argentatus</i> <i>Uria aalge</i> <i>Alca torda</i> <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> and <i>Fratercula arctica</i> . The islands especially Great Saltee have a long-established seabird monitoring programme and in particular the growth of the <i>Sula bassana</i> colony since its establishment in the 1920s has been well documented.	The site comprises the two Saltee Islands (Great Saltee and Little Saltee) which are situated between 4 and 5 km off the south Wexford coast. The bedrock is metamorphic schist and gneiss. The islands are exposed to prevailing wind and swells from the west. The islands were inhabited and farmed in the past but are now abandoned although some sheep grazing occurs on Little Saltee. A community dominated by <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is the main vegetation type on the islands. Dry grassland occurs within the old field boundaries. Good examples of vegetated cliff habitat with a typical south-eastern flora occur on both islands. The shorelines vary from rocky cliffs of moderate height to shingle sand and boulder shores. Small sections of boulder clay cliffs are exposed in places. Sea caves are found in several parts of the site. Other habitats present include springs flushes and scrub. The site



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		<p>There is a long-term seabird ringing programme in operation. <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> occurs at the eastern edge of its Irish range and <i>Falco peregrinus</i> breeds. Great Saltee is a major site for spring and autumn landbird migration, and the island formerly had a bird observatory. Ringing of migrants still takes place. The site has a long-established breeding population of <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> which is the only significant population in the south-east region.</p>	<p>includes an area of the surrounding seas to a distance of 500 m from the shoreline where seabirds feed bathe and socialise.</p>
004009	Lady's Island Lake SPA	<p>Lady's Island Lake is by far the largest and best example of a sedimentary lagoon in the country and one of the best in Europe. It supports an excellent range of birds typical of lagoonal systems. In winter there is a good diversity of waterfowl species though most occur in relatively low numbers. The population of <i>Anas strepera</i> is of national importance though part of the population is resident. There are regionally important populations of <i>Aythya marila</i> <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> and <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>. In summer <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> is a regular visitor and nesting is a possibility. Lady's Island has an excellent diversity of breeding wildfowl and is one of the few sites in Ireland where <i>Anas querquedula</i> is considered to breed. The very localised <i>Anas clypeata</i> also breeds and it is one of the principal sites in Ireland for breeding <i>Anas strepera</i>. The site is an internationally important site for breeding terns and is the largest tern colony in the country with four species of tern present. It has the largest colony of <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> in the country. The population of <i>Sterna dougallii</i> is the second largest after Rockabill. The <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> and <i>Sterna hirundo</i> populations are of national importance. It also supports one of the largest colonies of <i>Larus ridibundus</i> in the country. <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> has bred at the site since the late 1990s the only known breeding site in the country. The terns have been studied since the 1960s and National Parks and Wildlife and BirdWatch Ireland have co-managed the colonies since 1993 as part of a long-term conservation programme. This programme includes wardening habitat management, thorough monitoring of breeding parameters and ringing of chicks. Lady's Island is an</p>	<p>Situated in the extreme south-east of Ireland this site comprises a shallow coastal lagoon separated from the sea by an impressive sandy-gravel barrier. The lagoon is up to 5 m deep though mostly shallower. Salinity of the lagoon is generally oligo-mesohaline, but it is periodically tidal when the barrier is breached. The flora is typically brackish and includes <i>Ruppia</i> spp. and a range of charophyte species. The fauna of the lagoon is rich with at least 13 lagoonal specialist species recorded. Swamp and marsh vegetation is particularly well developed at Ring Marsh in the south-east of the site. Elsewhere the lagoon is fringed by marsh or wet grassland. Dune vegetation occurs over much of the barrier. Several small islands within the lagoon where terns breed are included in the site. Surrounding land is low-lying agricultural land.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		<p>important site for passage waders including <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> <i>Tringa ochropus</i> and the very scarce <i>Tringa glareola</i>. The lagoon supports two Red Data Book charophyte species <i>Lamprothamnion papulosum</i> and <i>Chara canescens</i>. The site includes a designated Refuge for Fauna.</p>	
004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA	<p>An important estuarine site which has an internationally important population of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>. It supports a further six species in numbers of national importance including <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> <i>Limosa limosa</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i>. The population of <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> is of particular note as it represents 4% of the national total. <i>Egretta garzetta</i> breeds locally and the Tramore Back Strand is their main feeding area. The site provides very good feeding areas for wintering waterfowl. High tide roosting sites however are limited. Wintering bird populations have been well monitored since the 1970s.</p>	<p>The site is situated approximately 1 km east of Tramore Co. Waterford on the south-east coast. It comprises a shallow and sheltered intertidal area known as the Back Strand enclosed by a substantial sand spit Tramore Burrow. At low tide substantial areas of sand and mud flats are uncovered. <i>Zostera</i> is present and <i>Spartina</i> is well established. The intertidal flats merge in places with salt marsh vegetation. The main rivers which flow into the site are the Keiloge and Glendudda. The land to the north and east of the site is fairly intensive agricultural land while to the west the town of Tramore encroaches with the city landfill close to the site.</p>
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA	<p>This site is of international importance for several species of waterfowl but also because it regularly supports well in excess of 20000 waterfowl. It is one of the top three sites in the country for numbers and diversity of wintering birds. Of particular importance is that it is one of the two most important sites in the world for <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>. It also has internationally important populations of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> <i>Cygnus columbarius bewickii</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> and is now one of the few sites in the country which supports a regular flock of <i>Cygnus columbarius bewickii</i>.</p> <p>There is at least a further 22 species of wintering waterfowl which occur in numbers of national importance. Several of these represent substantial proportions of the national totals especially <i>Anas penelope</i> (3.1%) <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> (3.6%) <i>Anas acuta</i> (3.3%) <i>Aythya marila</i> (4.9%) <i>Mergus serrator</i> (4.1%) <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (3.7%) <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (11.3%) <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (5.1%) and <i>Limosa limosa</i> (3.6%). Numbers of wintering birds are often swelled by hard-weather</p>	<p>Wexford Harbour is the lowermost part of the estuary of the River Slaney a major river that drains much of the south-east region. The site is divided between the natural estuarine habitats of Wexford Harbour and the reclaimed polders known as the north and south 'slobs'. The seaward boundary extends from the Rosslare peninsula in the south to the area just west of The Raven Point in the north while the inner boundaries of the site extend to Ferraris bridge and towards Castlebridge. Shallow marine water is a principal habitat but at low tide extensive areas of intertidal flats are exposed. These vary from rippled sands in exposed areas to sandy-muds in the more sheltered areas especially at Hopeland and the inner estuary to the west of Wexford bridge. Salt marshes fringe the intertidal flats especially in the sheltered areas. The slob areas are two flat areas of farmland mainly arable and pasture grassland empoldered behind 19th century sea-walls.</p>



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		<p>movements from Europe notably <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>.</p> <p>The site is a regular location for <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> during passage and in winter and is regularly visited by a range of other passage waders most notably <i>Tringa glareola</i> <i>Tringa erythropus</i> and <i>Tringa ochropus</i>. <i>Asio flammeus</i> is a regular visitor in small numbers to the slob during winter. A nesting colony of <i>Egretta garzetta</i> has recently become established within the site and birds are present in the area throughout the year. <i>Passer montanus</i> a Red Data Book species breeds. Part of the North Slob is a Nature Reserve and much of the slob is managed for the benefit of the wintering geese. Monitoring of the wintering birds of the slob extends back to the 1960s and nowadays there is an ongoing monitoring and research programme. The North Slob has a wildfowl collection and an interpretative centre. The site supports <i>Puccinellia fasciculata</i> a Red Data Book species and has a good population of <i>Lepus timidus hibernicus</i>.</p>	<p>The lands are drained by a network of channels which flow into two central channels in parts several hundred metres in width. Water from the channels is pumped into the sea with electric pumps.</p> <p>The channels often support swamp vegetation. Several conifer plantations are included especially on the south slob.</p>
004143	Cahore Marshes SPA	<p>The site of high ornithological importance for wintering waterfowl with nationally important populations of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> <i>Anas penelope</i> <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>. The geese use the site as a feeding area commuting each day from Wexford Harbour. The <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> population is over 3% of the all-Ireland total. The site also supports other species in smaller numbers including <i>Cygnus columbarius bewickii</i> and <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>. <i>Sterna albifrons</i> formerly bred on the beach but not in the recent past.</p>	<p>Cahore Marshes SPA is located just south of Cahore Point on the north Co. Wexford coast. It comprises an area of polder grassland and some arable land interspersed by canals and drainage channels. The drainage canals and sluices were installed in the mid-19th century to reclaim wetlands and land that flooded regularly behind the sand dunes. Seawater may occasionally enter the channels and create brackish conditions. The area is underlain by rocks of Cambrian age.</p>
000697	Bannow Bay SAC	<p>Site is important for presence of eleven habitats listed on Annex I of Habitats Directive. Halophilous scrub at the site is one of only two examples in the country. The legally protected <i>Arthrocnemum perenne</i> is found there. The site includes an important SPA. Internationally important numbers of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> found and nationally important numbers of <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> <i>Anas acuta</i> <i>Calidris Vanellus vanellus</i> <i>Calidris alpina</i> <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> <i>L. lapponica</i> <i>Tringa</i></p>	<p>Relatively large estuarine site on south-east coast of Ireland. Typical coastal estuary with large areas of mud and sand and restricted access to the sea. Small rivers and streams to the north and south-west flow into the bay. The southern end of the site supports a mosaic of sand dune types sea cliffs of clay and rock and extensive sandy beaches. Northern end supports freshwater habitats of marsh wet woodland and non-tidal reedbed.</p>



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		<p>totanus and Pluvialis apricaria Egretta garzetta Alcedo atthis and Sterna albifrons are found and possibly breed in the site. A substantial heronry is located at south-west of site.</p>	<p>The geology of the site is mainly Ordovician slate rocks with some Cambrian slate at the south-east.</p>
000704	Lady's Island Lake SAC	<p>Lady's Island Lake is by far the largest and best example of a sedimentary lagoon in the country and one of the best in Europe. It is in a relatively natural condition despite regular breaching of the barrier separating it from the sea. The flora is typically brackish and includes the Red Data charophyte Lamprothamnion papulosum. The fauna of the lagoon is rich with at least 13 lagoonal specialist species recorded. This coast comprises the best example in Ireland of a landward moving (transgressive) system of gravel-based barrier. The sequence of back barrier wash over and seepage structures are among the best in Europe and indeed Lady's Island remains the last intact example in Europe. The site supports typical vegetation of stony banks including the Red Data Book species Othanthus maritimum. A total of six other Red Data Book plant species are present in the site. Carnsore Point has a good example of a littoral reef very exposed to wave action. The reef has wide and well-banded lichen communities that are typical of the supra littoral fringe on very exposed shores. In the sublittoral fringe the Alaria esculenta community is also representative. The site supports breeding Sterna paradisaea and in the past S. sandvicensis S. hirundo and S. dougallii.</p> <p>The site is important in supporting the internationally important tern colony (for S. dougallii S. sandvicensis) at Inish Island. It is of regional importance for wintering waterfowl including Pluvialis apricaria and has one of the highest numbers of breeding wildfowl species in the country including Anas strepera and Anas querquedula.</p>	<p>Situated in the extreme south-east of Ireland this site comprises a shallow coastal lagoon separated from the sea by a sandy-gravel barrier. Salinity of the lagoon is generally oligo-mesohaline, but it is periodically tidal when the barrier is breached. Dune vegetation occurs over much of the barrier. Swamp and marsh vegetation is particularly well developed at Ring Marsh in the south-east of the site. Several small islands within the lagoon are included in the site. The surrounding land is low-lying agricultural land. Carnsore Point formed by an intrusion of igneous granite felsite and other intrusive rocks rich in silica marks the south-eastern boundary of the site.</p>
002161	Long Bank SAC	<p>Due to the lack of data, it is not possible to determine the quality and importance of this site in comparison to the other offshore sand banks</p>	<p>Long Bank and Holdens Bed are situated several kilometres to the east of Rosslare and Wexford Harbour on the East coast. The site is at the</p>



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		<p>on the east coast. It is however likely to be an important south-eastern example of the habitat and of good quality.</p>	<p>southern end of a series of offshore sand banks that run from Arklow to the south of Rosslare.</p> <p>Long Bank is approximately 12 km in length and at its widest is approximately 1.4 km across while Holdens Bed is approximately 3.7 km in length and 1.4 km wide. The two banks are separated by a channel and are separated from the Lucifer bank to the east by an area of deeper water.</p>
002269	Carnsore Point SAC	<p>Carnsore Point has good examples of littoral reefs moderately exposed to wave action and sublittoral reef communities very exposed to moderately exposed to wave action in which a number of rare species occur. The moderately exposed reef communities are distinguished by a luxuriant growth of the brown alga <i>Ascophyllum nodosum</i> in the midshore. Infralittoral reef areas have good species-rich communities that are typical of exposed infralittoral reefs subject to moderate tidal streams. Conversely the species poor community at Barrel Rocks is an extremely good example of a very exposed shallow reef community. The following species were recorded for infralittoral areas that are notable: <i>Tethyspira spinosa</i> <i>Gymnangium montagui</i> <i>Cataphellia brodricii</i> <i>Pycnoclavella aurilucens</i> <i>Sidnyum elegans</i> <i>Distomus variolosus</i> and <i>Stolonica socialis</i>. The circalittoral reefs have examples of several different community types that occur in tidal streams, and some are influenced by sand scour.</p> <p>The populations of the sponge <i>Tethyspira spinosa</i> the anthozoan <i>Cataphellia brodricii</i> and the hydroids <i>Schizomavella sarniensis</i> and <i>Stolonica socialis</i> are particularly important because they represent a substantial proportion of the entire populations that occur in Irish waters. The <i>Musculus discors</i> beds are particularly noteworthy as they are the only beds in Ireland where the mussels are superabundant and species richness is high (63 species south of Carnsore Point and 79 species north-east of Terchen). The littoral sediment community that</p>	<p>Carnsore Point is situated to the south of Co. Wexford in the south-east of Ireland. It is formed by an intrusion of Igneous Granite Felsite and other intrusive rocks rich in silica. Both on the shore and under the surface of the water the reef is typically strewn with boulders cobbles and patches of sand. It is exposed to prevailing wind and swells from the west. Tidal streams tend to be moderate but are strong in some areas. Offshore Barrel's Rocks are extremely exposed to the full force of Atlantic swells.</p>



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		occurs at Carne Beach adds habitat diversity to the area and is a good example of a moderately exposed sand shore.	
004033	Bannow Bay SPA	Bannow Bay supports an excellent diversity of wintering waterfowl and is one of the most important sites in the south-east. Of particular note is an internationally important population of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> . It also supports nationally important numbers of a further 12 species which includes 3.4% of the national total for <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> 3.0% of the total for <i>Limosa limosa</i> 2.6% of the total for <i>Limosa lapponica</i> and 2.6% of the total for <i>Anas acuta</i> . The intertidal sand and mud flats provide excellent feeding for waterfowl species while suitable roosts are provided by the salt marshes and other shoreline habitats. Habitats are generally of good quality. Part of site is a Wildfowl Sanctuary. The site has been well monitored since the 1970s.	Bannow Bay is a large very sheltered estuarine system with a narrow outlet to the sea. Very extensive intertidal mud and sand flats are exposed at low tide with an average width of about 2 km. A number of small to medium sized rivers flow into the site the principal being the Owenduff and the Corock which enter at the top end of the estuary. The sediments have a rich macroinvertebrate fauna with such species as <i>Scrobicularia plana</i> <i>Hediste diversicolor</i> and <i>Arenicola marina</i> being frequent. Salt marshes are well developed in the sheltered areas of the site. The main landuse within the site is shellfish farming. The site is surrounded by agricultural land of moderate to high intensity.
004118	Keeragh Islands SPA	The site has a nationally important breeding colony of <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> which is considered to be one of the largest in the country. The site was well monitored in the past though an up-to-date survey is urgently required. <i>Larus</i> gulls bred in the past and small numbers may still breed. The islands may be used as a night roost by wintering waterfowl from the mainland. The site is well isolated and with little disturbance.	The Keeragh Islands are two low-lying islets located just over 1 km offshore from the south Wexford coastline. The site includes the islets and associated rocky shorelines and reefs as well as the surrounding marine area to a distance of 200 metres. The islets which rise to a maximum height of about 9 m above sea level have very small areas of land permanently above the tide line. The vegetation is predominantly maritime in character with species such as <i>Festuca rubra</i> <i>Armeria maritima</i> <i>Cochlearia officinalis</i> and <i>Silene vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>maritima</i> . The surrounding reefs support a range of seaweeds.
000700	Cahore Polders and Dunes SAC	The site has a well-developed dune system typical of the east coast. The dunes display a good zonation with fixed dunes grading eastwards to marram dominated dunes embryo dunes and at the top of the beach annual driftline vegetation. The northern part of system is subject to erosion from the sea while active growth is seen in the southern parts. The dunes support two Red Data book plant species	The site is located just south of Cahore Point on the north Wexford coast. The area is underlain by rocks of Cambrian age. The site comprises a sand dune system that extends along the coast for over 4 km and which reaches up to 18 m in height. The dunes are backed by extensive areas of polder grassland interspersed by canals and drainage channels.



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		<p>Asparagus officinalis subsp. prostratus and the hybrid Equisetum x moorei which is confined to the coastline of Wexford and Wicklow. Drainage ditches in the polders support Ceratophyllum submersum a rare and only relatively recently recorded species in Ireland.</p> <p>The site is of high ornithological importance having nationally important wintering populations of Anser albifrons flavirostris Pluvialis apricaria Anas penelope Anas clypeata and Vanellus vanellus. It also supports other species in smaller numbers including Cygnus cygnus and Cygnus columbarius bewickii. Sterna albifrons formerly bred on the beach. Pyronia tithonus occurs near the northern extreme of its Irish range.</p>	<p>The drainage canals and sluices were installed in the mid-19th century to reclaim wetlands and land that flooded regularly behind the dunes. Seawater may occasionally enter the channels and create brackish conditions. Polder grasslands are included in the site and are valuable for wintering waterfowl.</p>
000708	Screen Hills SAC	<p>Among the best examples of kame and kettle landscapes in Ireland the Screen Hills have a complex of vegetation types. Dry heath is extensive and is noted for its diversity of annual plant species. Several Red Data species occur. The lakes vary in diversity and include some oligotrophic types. All stages in seral development from open water through varieties of swamp and bog to wet woodland are represented. Overall site is a unique landscape unit with high geomorphological and ecological interests.</p>	<p>Site is part of a classic kame and kettle landscape with many lake basins marking the site of former ice blocks in an acid sandy moraine. The lakes vary in size most being pond-sized and have widely different plant and animal communities. Incipient raised bog occurs at Doo Lough with acidic fen and Nitella communities associated with many of the other ponds. The moraine sands are extremely base poor and very dry. This gives rise to extensive pasture-type dry heath which is species rich and renowned for rare and scarce plants. Much of the site is relatively undisturbed and is used for sheep grazing.</p>
000710	Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC	<p>The site is an important example of an extremely dynamic coastal sand system. It contains one of the few afforested sand dune systems in Ireland though the commercial plantings have compromised the structure of the natural dune vegetation. Outside the planted areas there are good examples of a range of sand dune types including embryo dunes mobile marram dunes fixed dunes, dunes with Salix repens and humid dune slacks. A small though significant area of Atlantic salt meadow occurs below the fixed dunes. The site also has a good example of intertidal flats which are predominantly sandy owing to exposure. Three Red Data Book plant species are known from the site as well as a number of locally important species.</p>	<p>Situated on the north side of Wexford Harbour the site incorporates the dynamic sand system of the Raven Point and the coastal stretch running north to Curraclloe House. The main part of the dune system was planted with coniferous species in the 1930s and 1950s mainly as a coastal defence measure. Other than the sand dune habitats the site also contains sand flats salt marsh and lagoons. There has been heavy erosion along the eastern site of the site in recent years, but the dunes are building westwards along the southern boundary of the adjacent Wexford Slob. The sediment source is siliceous in nature. The main land uses of the site are nature conservation and commercial forestry.</p>



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		<p>Natterjack toad a Red Data Book species has been successfully introduced into the site. Site provides principal roost site for the Internationally Important Wexford Slobs and Harbour population of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>.</p> <p>Seven further bird species occur at the Raven in nationally important concentrations notably <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> and <i>Calidris alba</i> and there are populations of <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i>. <i>Sterna albifrons</i> breeds in some years though recently conditions have been less suitable. Most of site is a statutory nature reserve.</p>	<p>Future plans include replacement of the conifers with hardwood species.</p>
000764	Hook Head SAC	<p>The site has an important example of low-lying south-eastern cliffs of both clay and rock. Quality good. It is of high geological importance and a noted fossil site. It is of particular importance for marine habitats. Infralittoral bedrock communities are species rich (81 and 84 species in the upper infralittoral and 81 and 82 species in the lower infralittoral). Rare to scarce species include the sponge <i>Stryphnus ponderosus</i>; the hydroids <i>Aglaophenia kirchenpaueri</i> and <i>Gymnangium montagui</i>; the anemone <i>Isozoanthus sulcatus</i>; the nudibranch <i>Crimora papillata</i>; the ascidians <i>Distomus variolosus</i> and <i>Stolonica socialis</i>; and the red alga <i>Schizymenia dubyi</i>.</p> <p>Of particular interest is <i>Schizymenia dubyi</i> since Irish populations of this species appear to be concentrated in the south-east of the country. Circalittoral reef communities have good examples of Axinellid sponge communities. Notable species present are: <i>Axinella dissimilis</i> <i>Aglaophenia kirchenpaueri</i> <i>Gymnangium montagui</i> <i>Alcyonium glomeratum</i> <i>Eunicella verrucosa</i> and <i>Crimora papillata</i>. Sublittoral sediments populated by the burrowing sea cucumber <i>Neopendactyla mixta</i> are noteworthy because this type of community was only recorded seven times by the BioMar survey and the <i>Amphiura securigera</i> was only recorded at the Kenmare River in Co. Kerry and at Hook Head and the Saltee Islands in Co. Wexford.</p>	<p>The Hook peninsula is a long narrow low-lying headland which protrudes into the sea in a south-south-west direction on the eastern side of Waterford Harbour. The site includes Baginbun Head. There are c.15 km of coastline most of which has cliffs above a bedrock or boulder beach shoreline. The cliffs are mostly low usually not more than 10-20 m though they reach up to 30 m at Baginbun. The geology of the area is of high interest being an excellent example of the junction between Devonian Old Red Sandstone and overlying Carboniferous Limestone. Fossils are a feature of the limestone rock formations.</p> <p>A large area of the surrounding sea is included in the site. Under the surface of the water the reef has a north-east/south-west orientation and is typically strewn with boulders cobbles and patches of sand and gravel. It is exposed to prevailing wind and swells from the west. Tidal streams tend to be moderate but are strong in some areas.</p>



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		Has breeding Falco peregrinus and Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax and a small seabird colony (mostly Uria aalge).	
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	The importance of the site lies primarily in the extensive areas of high-quality dry heath that occur. Limited peat accumulation on the site has allowed the development of this habitat. Wet heath also occurs in the areas where deeper peat has developed. Those areas that have not been afforested are largely undisturbed and relatively intact. The site is home to several scarce plant species including the Red Data Book species Ornithopus perpusillus.	The Blackstairs Mountains are situated at the southern end of the Leinster Mountain Chain. They are composed primarily of granite but also include especially on their eastern side some overlying Ordovician slates and sandstones. The range forms a roughly north-south orientated ridge some 22km long which includes six peaks over 520m. The dominant vegetation of the site is dry heath; this occurs throughout the site but predominantly on the higher sections of the range. Bare rock and scree is found in the highest and steepest sections of the site. Molinia-dominated wet heath/bog vegetation is found in very small amounts at lower levels and by streams. The valley of the Urrin River on the north-east side of the site supports some deciduous woodland and incipient bog. Much of the site is flanked by coniferous forest; this is not confined to the lowlands being found at over 640m north of Mount Leinster.
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	This site contains a range of Annex I habitats including floating river vegetation eutrophic tall herbs alluvial forest old oak woods yew woods and salt meadows. The site is very important for the presence of a number of scarce and specialised Annex II animal species with particularly important populations of the fish species Salmo salar and Alosa fallax fallax. Lutra lutra is widespread on the system as is Austropotamobius pallipes. The site supports two Annex I priority and five non-priority Annex I habitats. There are four Annex I species of birds present within the site. The rare lichen Lobaria pulmonaria an ancient woodland indicator occurs at Portlaw Oak Woods within the site.	The Suir River system flows through the counties of Tipperary Kilkenny and Waterford. The site consists of all of the freshwater stretches of the Suir immediately south of Thurles the tidal stretches as far as the confluence with the Barrow/Nore immediately east of Cheekpoint in Co. Waterford and many of the tributaries including the Clodiagh the Lingaun Anner Nier Tar Aherlow and Multeen. Much of the system flows through Carboniferous limestone though towards Waterford the geology changes to Old Red Sandstone and Ordovician bedrocks. The site supports a diverse range of habitats including marsh reedbeds wet and dry grasslands broad-leaved semi-natural woodlands salt marshes tidal rivers and estuarine channels. Substantial areas of improved grassland and arable lands are included for water quality reasons.



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002953	Blackwater Bank SAC	This site exhibits typical species diversity for offshore sandbanks in this region.	N/A
004019	The Raven SPA	<p>The Raven has important bird interests being part of the Wexford Slobs and Harbour complex. Of critical significance is that it forms the principal night roost for the internationally important Wexford Harbour population of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>. The shallow waters provide optimum conditions for divers, grebes and seaduck with nationally important populations of <i>Melanitta nigra</i> (supports 27% of national total) <i>Gavia stellata</i> (one of the top sites in the country) <i>Gavia immer</i> <i>Mergus serrator</i> and <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>. It is one of the most regular sites in the country for <i>Podiceps auritus</i>. It also provides an important roost site and to a lesser extent feeding area for a range of other waterfowl species with nationally important numbers of <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> and <i>Calidris alba</i>. The Raven is a traditional breeding site for <i>Sterna albifrons</i> with numbers of national importance in most years.</p> <p>Three Red Data Book plant species are known from the site as well as a number of important insect species. <i>Bufo calamita</i> a Red Data Book species has been successfully introduced into the site. Part of the site is managed as a Nature Reserve.</p>	Situated on the north side of Wexford Harbour the site incorporates the dynamic sand system of the Raven Point and the coastal fringe running north to Blackwater Head (a distance of over 10 km). It also includes the adjacent shallow marine waters to a distance of approximately 2 km. The Raven is an important example of an extremely dynamic coastal sand system. It contains one of the few afforested sand dune systems in Ireland though the commercial plantings have compromised the structure of the natural dune vegetation. Outside the planted areas there are good examples of a range of sand dune types including embryo dunes mobile marram dunes fixed dunes and humid dune slacks. The site contains intertidal sand flats and some salt marsh. Sand bars and banks are a feature of the site though the configuration of these change regularly.
004020	Ballyteigue Burrow SPA	The site has an internationally important population of <i>Branta bernicila hrota</i> and supports nationally important numbers of <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> <i>Limosa limosa</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> . The estuarine habitats provide feeding and roosting areas for the waterfowl species though a lot of the birds also feed on the intensively managed lands of the adjacent polders. There is a small colony of breeding <i>Sterna albifrons</i> in the site though nesting may not occur every year. Salt marsh habitats are particularly well represented with one of only two extant sites in Ireland which has	The site is located on the south coast of Co. Wexford between the towns of Kilmore Quay and Cullenstown. It is comprised of a sand and shingle barrier beach approximately 8 km in length and the estuary of the River Duncormick. The extensive overlying sand spit is known as the Burrow while the estuary that it encloses is known as the Cull. The site possesses a range of coastal habitats including various types of dunes salt meadows and intertidal sand and mud flats. Former estuarine areas adjacent to the site have been reclaimed as polders and are intensively managed for agriculture.



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		<p>halophilous scrub vegetation characterised by <i>Arthrocnemum perenne</i>.</p> <p>Within the site are 6 Red Data Book plant species and the only Irish site for the lichen <i>Fulgensia subbracteata</i>. The site is a Statutory Nature Reserve and managed for conservation.</p>	
004092	Tacumshin Lake SPA	<p>Tacumshin Lake is one of the largest lagoons in the country and supports an excellent range of birds typical of lagoonal systems. In winter it is a principal roost for internationally important populations of both <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> and <i>Cygnus columbarius bewickii</i> the latter species now very localised in Ireland. Both of these swans feed mainly on improved grassland in the vicinity. There are a further 13 waterfowl species which occur in numbers of national importance including <i>Anas penelope</i> <i>Anas strepera</i> <i>Anas acuta</i> <i>Anas clypeata</i> <i>Aythya fuligula</i> <i>Fulica atra</i> <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> and <i>Limosa limosa</i>. The population of <i>Anas acuta</i> represents over 16% of the national total whilst those of <i>Anas penelope</i> <i>Anas strepera</i> and <i>Fulica atra</i> are just over 5% of the respective totals. In summer <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> is a regular visitor and nesting is a possibility.</p> <p>Tacumshin Lake is one of the few sites in Ireland where <i>Anas querquedula</i> is considered to breed. The site has a good breeding population of the localised <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>. Tacumshin Lake is an important site for passage waders including <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> <i>Calidris minuta</i> <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> <i>Tringa ochropus</i> and the very scarce <i>Tringa glareola</i>. The lagoon supports the Red Data charophyte species <i>Chara canescens</i> as well as populations of <i>Otanthus maritimus</i> and <i>Centaurium pulchellum</i>.</p>	<p>The site comprises a large shallow (1-2m) sedimentary lagoon separated from the sea by a long (5-6 km) gravel/sand barrier. At present there is no natural outlet to the sea and the lagoon drains through installed pipes. Winter flooding is regular. Salinity is generally low but rises as water levels fall in summer. The lagoon bed sediments are colonised by halophytic vegetation especially <i>Salicornia</i> spp. Stands of <i>Ruppia</i> spp. and <i>Chara</i> spp. also occur. Substantial areas of the lagoon are now dominated by swamp vegetation and there are also marginal areas of wet grassland. The gravel/sand barrier is mostly covered by a sand dune system. Surrounding land is low-lying and used for agriculture both pasture and arable.</p>
004233	River Nore SPA	<p>The River Nore support nationally important numbers of <i>Alcedo atthis</i>. Other species which occur within the site include <i>Cygnus olor</i> <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> <i>Ardea cinerea</i> <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> and <i>Riparia riparia</i>.</p>	<p>The River Nore SPA is a long linear site that includes the following river sections: the River Nore from the bridge at Townparks (north-west of Borris in Ossory) to Coolnamuck (approximately 3 km south of Inistioge) in Co. Kilkenny; the Delour River from its junction with the River Nore to Derrynaseera bridge (west of Castletown) in Co Laois; the</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
			<p>Erkina River from its junction with the River Nore at Durrow Mills to Boston Bridge in Co. Laois; a 1.5 km stretch of the River Goul upstream of its junction with the Erkina River; the Kings River from its junction with the River Nore to a bridge at Mill Island Co. Kilkenny. The site includes the river channel and marginal vegetation.</p>
000671	Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC	<p>Tramore dunes are a fine example of a sand spit developed on a shingle ridge and represents one of the few dunes systems on the south coast of Ireland. The fixed dunes are substantial in area though species diversity is low due to the absence of grazing. The fixed dunes are complemented by small though good examples of shifting marram dunes and embryonic dunes. The salt marshes are of the lagoon type a rare type in Ireland and both Atlantic and Mediterranean communities are well represented. The intertidal sand and mud flats are of moderate size and have <i>Zostera</i> communities. Five Red Data Book plant species have been known from the site and one <i>Polygonum maritimum</i> has its only Irish station here.</p> <p>Site supports important wintering waterfowl populations with <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> in international numbers and seven other species in numbers of national importance. Two species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive occur - <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i>.</p>	<p>Site is situated approximately 1 km east of Tramore Co. Waterford on the south-east coast. Site comprises a shallow and sheltered intertidal area known as the Back Strand enclosed by a substantial sand spit Tramore Burrow. The extreme inner part of the intertidal area is particularly well sheltered as it is bounded by an embankment with a narrow gap. Here salt marsh vegetation <i>Spartina</i> swards and communities of <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals thrive. The spit is dominated by a substantial dune system and on the seaward side there is a fine sandy beach with a shingle element.</p> <p>The land to the north and east of the site is fairly intensive agricultural land while to the west the town of Tramore encroaches with the city landfill adjacent to the site. Recreational activities is the main land use within the site.</p>
000696	Ballyteige Burrow SAC	<p>The Burrow sand spit contains an excellent range of dune habitats of which the fixed dunes and eu-Atlantic decalcified dunes are of particular note for their extent and quality. The fixed dunes are particularly species-rich and contain a flora characteristic of the south-east coast of Ireland. Salt marsh habitats are also particularly well developed with very good examples of both Atlantic and Mediterranean salt meadows and one of only two extant sites in Ireland which has halophilous scrub vegetation characterised by <i>Arthrocnemum perenne</i>.</p>	<p>Site is located on the south coast of Co. Wexford between the towns of Kilmore Quay and Cullenstown. Comprised of a sand and shingle barrier beach approximately 8 km in length and the estuary of the River Duncormick. The extensive overlying sand spit is known as the Burrow while the estuary that it encloses is known as the Cull. Site possesses a range of coastal habitats including various types of dunes salt meadows and intertidal sand and mud flats. An interesting feature of the dunes is the occurrence of large dry hollows in which the sand</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		<p>Although the lagoon habitat within the site is largely artificial the biological community is notably rich and characteristically lagoonal with at least 11 lagoonal fauna specialists and several rare species.</p> <p>Site has 6 Red Data Book plant species and is the only Irish site for the lichen <i>Fulgensia subbracteata</i>. Site supports important concentrations of waterfowl in autumn and winter including <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> and an internationally important population of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>. Has a small colony of breeding <i>Sterna albifrons</i>.</p>	<p>has been almost completely stripped away to reveal the underlying shingle.</p> <p>These depressions contain unusual assemblages of plant species. The site has a series of drainage channels and a small pond which now have lagoonal characters.</p> <p>Most of site is a Statutory Nature Reserve and managed for conservation. Former estuarine areas adjacent to the site have been reclaimed as polders and are intensively managed for agriculture.</p>
000709	Tacumshin Lake SAC	<p>Site provides an excellent example of a shallow generally oligohaline percolation lagoon. One of the largest and best examples of its type in the country and one of the largest lagoonal habitat of any type in the country. Flora and fauna diverse and typically brackish. Has the Red Data Book charophyte <i>Chara canescens</i> and several rare lagoonal fauna specialists (<i>Notonecta viridis</i> <i>Eochrus halophilus</i> <i>Ochthebius marinus</i>). The gravel/sand barrier is an important geomorphological feature and has the very rare and Red Data Book species <i>Otanthus maritimus</i>.</p> <p>Dunes are of moderate quality. Important for waterfowl in autumn and winter. Has nationally important populations of eight species and particularly important for <i>Anas strepera</i> and <i>Anas acuta</i> (11% and 14% of respective national totals). Used by the Annex I Bird Directive species <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> and <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and occasionally by <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>.</p>	<p>Situated on the south Wexford coast site comprises a large shallow (1-2 m) sedimentary lagoon separated from the sea by a long (5-6 km) gravel/sand barrier. At present there is no natural outlet to the sea and the lagoon drains through installed pipes. The pipes are not of sufficient capacity to prevent winter flooding. Salinity is generally low but rises as water levels fall in summer. The lagoon bed sediments are colonised by halophytic vegetation especially <i>Salicornia</i> spp.</p> <p>Substantial areas of the lagoon are now dominated by swamp vegetation and there are also marginal areas of wet grassland. The gravel/sand barrier is mostly covered by a sand dune system. Surrounding land is low-lying and used for agriculture both pasture and arable.</p>
000729	Buckroney-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC	<p>The site contains a range of well-developed dune types which are typical of those found in eastern Ireland. The dune systems are fairly extensive in area and generally of good quality. Of particular note are the fixed dunes the decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) the humid dune slacks the dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> and the shifting Marram dunes. Buckroney fen is a fine example of a diverse wetland system including alkaline fen and is one of the most important examples in eastern Ireland. The site is particularly notable for its</p>	<p>An extensive sand dune and fen system that covers an 8 km stretch of the coastline of Co. Wicklow. The site contains three sand dune systems - Brittis Bay Buckroney and Pennycomequick. Sediment source is mainly siliceous (low shell fragment content) with maximum carbonate levels of 3.5%. The dunes have cut off the outflow of a small river at Mizen Head and a large fen has developed.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		<p>eastern flora and fauna. In addition to five Red Data Book plant species there are a number of nationally scarce species including an abundance of <i>Thelypteris palustris</i> and <i>Galium uliginosum</i>.</p> <p>The invertebrate fauna is of high interest with some rare species including <i>Machimus cowini</i>. <i>Sterna albifrons</i> has bred at the site in the past.</p>	<p>Its proximity to Dublin City makes Brittas Bay a very popular recreational area. Parts of the dune systems have already been developed as caravan parks and golf course. Part of the Buckronegy dune system has been acquired by National Parks and Wildlife for conservation use.</p>
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	<p>The site supports many Annexed habitats including the priority habitats of alluvial woodland and petrifying springs. Quality of habitat is generally good. The site also supports a number of Annex II animal species - <i>Salmo salar</i> <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> <i>M.m. durrovensis</i> <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> <i>Lutra lutra</i> <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> and <i>L. planeri</i>. Annex I Bird species include <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> <i>Falco peregrinus</i> <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> <i>Limosa lapponica</i> <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Alcedo atthis</i>. A range of rare plants and invertebrates are found in the woods along these rivers and rare plants are also associated with the saltmarsh.</p>	<p>This site consists of most of the freshwater stretches of the Barrow/Nore River catchments. The Barrow is tidal as far upriver as Graiguenamanagh while the Nore is tidal as far upriver as Inishtioge. The site also includes the extreme lower reaches of the River Suir and all of the estuarine component of Waterford Harbour extending to Creadan Head. The larger of the many tributaries include the Lerr Fushoge Mountain Aughavaud Owenass Boherbaun and Stradbally Rivers of the Barrow and the Delour Dinin Erkina Owveg Munster Arrigle and King's Rivers on the Nore. Both rivers rise in the Old Red Sandstone of the Slieve Bloom Mountains.</p> <p>They traverse limestone bedrock for a good proportion of their routes though the middle reaches of the Barrow and many of the eastern tributaries run through Leinster Granite. A wide range of habitats associated with the rivers are included within the site including substantial areas of woodland (deciduous mixed) dry heath wet grassland swamp and marsh vegetation salt marshes a small dune system biogenic reefs and intertidal sand and mud flats. Areas of improved grassland arable land and coniferous plantations are included in the site for water quality reasons.</p>



Appendix 1 - Table 2 Background data for European sites considered in the assessment; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and the known threats and pressures as recorded by the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000671	Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]	A04, G02.08, F02.03, C01.01.02, F02.03.01, I01, E01, E03, F03.01, G01.02	Grazing, Camping and caravans, Leisure fishing, Removal of beach materials, Bait digging or collection, Invasive non-native species, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Discharges, Hunting, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
000696	Ballyteige Burrow SAC	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Estuaries [1130], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Coastal lagoons [1150], Humid dune slacks [2190], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>) [1420], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	F01, I01, F02.03.01, F02.03, E03, A04.02, K01.01, G01.03.02, G01.02, K02	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Invasive non-native species, Bait digging or collection, Leisure fishing, Discharges, non-intensive grazing, Erosion, Off-road motorized driving, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Biocenotic evolution, succession



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000697	Bannow Bay SAC	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Estuaries [1130], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>) [1420], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]	G01.03.02, B01, I01, E03, J02.02, F02.03.01, X, K01.01, E03.01, F01.01, C01.01.02, J02.11.01, D01.01	Off-road motorized driving, Forest planting on open ground, Invasive non-native species, Discharges, Removal of sediments (mud...), Bait digging or collection, No threats or pressures, Erosion, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Intensive fish farming, intensification, Removal of beach materials, Dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks
000700	Cahore Polders and Dunes SAC	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Humid dune slacks [2190], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	A06.03, A04.01.05, A05.02, A03.03, G01.03.02, A04, J02.10, G01.02, A08, A11	Biofuel-production, Intensive mixed animal grazing, Stock feeding, Abandonment or lack of mowing, Off-road motorized driving, Grazing, Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Fertilisation, Agriculture activities not referred to above
000704	Lady's Island Lake SAC	Coastal lagoons [1150], Reefs [1170], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	J02, E03, I01, E03.01, H01, H01.05, J02.06.01, G01.03.02, X, A09, A04.03	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Discharges, Invasive non-native species, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Surface water abstractions for agriculture, Off-road motorized driving, No threats or pressures, Irrigation, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000707	Saltee Islands SAC	Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364], Reefs [1170], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Grey Seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364], Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	F02.02.02, G01.01, A04.02, D02, H01, J02.12.01, F02.03.01	Pelagic trawling, Nautical sports, non-intensive grazing, Utility and service lines, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Bait digging or collection
000708	Screen Hills SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]	C01.01, I01, K02, I02, X	Sand and gravel extraction, Invasive non-native species, Biocenotic evolution, succession, Problematic native species, No threats or pressures
000709	Tacumshin Lake SAC	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Coastal lagoons [1150], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	J02.12.01, A05.02, C01.01.02, X, K02.01, K01.03, J02.05.02, J02.06.01, J02, E03, G01.03.02, A04.03, E03.01, G01.02, G02.09, H01.05, K01.02, A09	Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Stock feeding, Removal of beach materials, No threats or pressures, Species composition change (succession), Drying out, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Surface water abstractions for agriculture, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Discharges, Off-road motorized driving, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Wildlife watching, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Silting up, Irrigation
000710	Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Humid dune slacks [2190], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120]	K02, I01, I02, J01, G02.08, X, G01.02, H05.01, J01.01, B02, K01.03, A04.03, G01.03	Biocenotic evolution, succession, Invasive non-native species, Problematic native species, Fire and fire suppression, Camping and caravans, No threats or pressures, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Garbage and solid waste, Burning down, Forest and Plantation management & use, Drying out, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Motorised vehicles



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000729	Buckroneys-Brittans Dunes and Fen SAC	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Humid dune slacks [2190], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Alkaline fens [7230], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae) [2170]	G02.08, E03.01, K01.01, A10.01, H02.07, A08, F03.01, G02.01, A04.01.01, G01.02, K02.01, J02, A04.02, G05.04, E01.02, J01, D04.01, I01, A03.02, A05.02, G05.01	Camping and caravans, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Erosion, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, Fertilisation, Hunting, Golf course, Intensive cattle grazing, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Species composition change (succession), Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Non intensive grazing, Vandalism, Discontinuous urbanisation, Fire and fire suppression, Airport, Invasive non-native species, Non intensive mowing, Stock feeding, Trampling, overuse
000764	Hook Head SAC	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Reefs [1170], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	X, F02, K01.01, G01.07, J02.11.01	No threats or pressures, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Erosion, Scuba diving, snorkelling, Dumping, depositing of dredged deposits
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], European dry heaths [4030]	A04.02, J01.01, G01.03.02, E03, B02, K01.01, G01.02, A04.01.02, K02.01	Non intensive grazing, Burning down, Off-road motorized driving, Discharges, Forest and Plantation management & use, Erosion, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Intensive sheep grazing, Species composition change (succession)
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	Twaite shad (Alosa fallax) [1103], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina) [1365], Estuaries [1130].	J02.05.02, A10.01, J02, H01.05, J02.06.01, J02.06, J02.12.02, I01, K01.01, H01.08, A01, D03.01.03, C01.01, E03, F01.03, H01.01, F02.03.01, E05, A08, A09, J02.11, D01.05, H01,	Modifying structures of inland water courses, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Surface water abstractions for agriculture, Water abstractions from surface waters, Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Invasive non-native species, Erosion, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Cultivation, Fishing harbours, Sand and gravel extraction, Discharges, Bottom culture, Pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, Bait digging or collection, Storage of materials, Fertilisation, Irrigation,



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106]	D01.01, B02, F03.02.04	Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Bridge, viaduct, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Forest and Plantation management & use, Predator control
001741	Kilmuckridge-Tinnaberna Sandhills SAC	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]	E01.03, K01, A05.02, J03, D01.01, I01	Dispersed habitation, Abiotic (slow) natural processes, Stock feeding, other ecosystem modifications, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Invasive non-native species
001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	I02, G01.03.02, J01.01, E03.01, X, K01.01, J02.12.01, G01, K02.01	Problematic native species, Off-road motorized driving, burning down, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, No threats or pressures, Erosion, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Species composition change (succession)
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103],	X, E03, A01, D03.01, I01, J02.01, H01, J02.12.02, E01, A08, B, J02.01.02	No threats or pressures, Discharges, Cultivation, Port areas, Invasive non-native species, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Fertilisation, Sylviculture, forestry, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0], 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]		
002161	Long Bank SAC	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]	X, F02.01.01, F02.02.01	No threats or pressures, Potting, Benthic or demersal trawling
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], European dry heaths [4030], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], Estuaries [1130], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Nore Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>) [1990], Reefs [1170], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], 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].	J03.02.01, J02.12.02, J02.05.02, F02.01.02, F02.03, B07, E02, A10.01, J02, B02, C01.01.01, D03.01, F02, M01, J02.06, H01, I01, J02.02.01, C01.03, A02.01, F01.01, A04.01.01, B05, B02.01.01, K01.01	Reduction in migration or migration barriers, Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Netting, Leisure fishing, Forestry activities not referred to above, Industrial or commercial areas, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Forest and Plantation management & use, Sand and gravel quarries, Port areas, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Changes in abiotic conditions, Water abstractions from surface waters, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Invasive non-native species, Dredging or removal of limnic sediments, Peat extraction, Agricultural intensification, Intensive fish farming, intensification, Intensive cattle grazing, Use of fertilizers (forestry), Forest replanting (native trees), Erosion



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]		
002269	Carnsore Point SAC	Reefs [1170], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	F02.03.01, K01.01, D03.01.02, E03, F02, F02.02.01, F02.01.01, X, F02.01.02, F02.03, C01.01.02	Bait digging or collection, Erosion, Piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, Discharges, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Benthic or demersal trawling, Potting, No threats or pressures, Netting, Leisure fishing, Removal of beach materials
002953	Blackwater Bank SAC	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]	X, F02.01.01, F02.01	No threats or pressures, Potting, Professional passive fishing
004002	Saltee Islands SPA	Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188], Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018], Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204], Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200], Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016], Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]	A04, G01.02	Grazing, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
004009	Lady's Island Lake SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) [A051], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191], Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]	A08, F03.01, G01.02, G01.01, C01.01.02, K03.04, H	Fertilisation, Hunting, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Nautical sports, Removal of beach materials, Predation, Pollution



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004019	The Raven SPA	Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	B, G01.01, G01.02	Sylviculture, forestry, Nautical sports, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
004020	Ballyteigue Burrow SPA	Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	E01.03, A04, E01, F02.03, G01.02, A01, A08, F03.01	Dispersed habitation, Grazing, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Leisure fishing, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Cultivation, Fertilisation, Hunting
004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA	Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]	G01.02, A04, E01, I01, H, A08, E03	Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Grazing, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Invasive non-native species, Pollution, Fertilisation, Discharges
004033	Bannow Bay SPA	Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157].	E01.03, D01.02, F03.01, A08, A04, F01, G01	Dispersed habitation, Roads, motorways, Hunting, Fertilisation, Grazing, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]		
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125], Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062].	A01, A04, J02.12, D01.02, A08, F03.01, E01, F01, G03, B, G01.02, J02.01.01	Cultivation, Grazing, Dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, Roads, motorways, Fertilisation, Hunting, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Interpretative centres, Sylviculture, forestry, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Polderisation



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082], Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]		
004092	Tacumshin Lake SPA	Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125], Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) [A051], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]	A04, A01, A08, F03.01, G01.02, J02.05, G01.08	Grazing, Cultivation, Fertilisation, Hunting, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, Other outdoor sports and leisure activities
004118	Keeragh Islands SPA	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	X	No threats or pressures
004143	Cahore Marshes SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]	A08, A04, E01.03, G01.02	Fertilisation, Grazing, Dispersed habitation, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
004233	River Nore SPA	Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) [A229]	J02.01, D03.01, X	Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Port areas, No threats or pressures



Appendix 1 - Table 3 Known threats and pressures related to the qualifying interests from each Special Area of Conservation as per article 17 reporting from the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)	[1016]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)	[1029]	In stream works, hydrological and morphological alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due urbanisation etc. Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)	[1092]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)	[1095]	Barriers to upstream migration (e.g. weirs), which limit access to spawning beds and juvenile habitat are main threats to this species.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity.
Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)	[1096]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.
River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)	[1099]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.
Twaite Shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</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.
Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	[1106]	Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations.	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	[1110]	None identified by the NPWS in the 2019 publication of the Status of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland.	None identified.



Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Estuaries	[1130]	Pollution, fishing /aquaculture and habitat quality.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
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.
Coastal lagoons	[1150]	Eutrophication. Modification of hydrological flow and drainage.	Erosion and silting up. Accumulation of seaweed. Land use management resulting in hydrological interactions.
Large shallow inlets and bays	[1160]	Pressures on the habitat include nutrient enrichment, dredging and invasive alien species. Overall Status is assessed as Bad and deteriorating, a genuine decline since the 2013 assessment of Inadequate and improving, and is based on more detailed information.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity, surface water runoff, discharge etc. On site management activities.
Reefs	[1170]	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Annual vegetation of drift lines	[1210]	Grazing; sand and gravel extraction; recreational activities; coastal protection works.	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
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.
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	[1230]	A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change. There have been no significant losses in sea cliff habitat since the Directive came into force.	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.
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.



Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
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.
Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	[1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); unting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
Grey Seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>)	[1364]	Distance to human activities, accidental entanglement in fishing gear competition for prey resources, illegal killing, pollution and habitat degradation.	Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>)	[1365]	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.
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.
Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)	[1420]	Area losses, associated with algal mats formed as a consequence of water pollution, which resulted in a contraction of the range of the habitat.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>)	[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.



Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
River Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>)	[1990]	In stream works, hydrological and morphological alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due urbanisation etc. Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
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.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>)	[2120]	Recreation and coastal defences, which may interfere with local sediment dynamics.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
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.
Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>)	[2150]	Land abandonment, recreational activity, and bracken encroachment.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Dunes with willow scrub (<i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> and <i>Salicion arenariae</i>)	[2170]	Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Humid dune slacks	[2190]	Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change.
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)	[3110]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; wastewater; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation (<i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i>)	[3260]	Hydrological and morphological changes, water quality, enrichment, and surface water discharges from industrial site and/or agriculture.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.



Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	[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.
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.
Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	[6430]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	[7220]	Ground water interactions, on site management activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Alkaline fens	[7230]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	[8330]	There are no pressures acting on this resource.	There are no pressures acting on this resource.
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	[91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	[91J0]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.



Appendix 1 - Table 4 Known threats and pressures related to the qualifying interests from each Special Area of Conservation as per article 17 reporting from the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A001	Red-Throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	A04, C01, C03, F02, G01, H03, I01, J02, J02.06, K03, M02	Grazing, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Water abstractions from surface waters, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions
A004	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis</i>	G01, H01, H03, J02	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A005	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus cristatus</i>	F01, F02, G01, H01, H03	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution
A009	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	C03, F02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources
A016	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution
A017	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i>	C03, F02, F03, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A018	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis aristotelis</i>	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution
A028	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea cinerea</i>	H01, Xxp/Xxt	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS



Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A037	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	A02, B01, C03, D02, G01, H07, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other forms of pollution, Changes in biotic conditions
A038	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	A02, A11, C03, D02, G01, H07	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other forms of pollution
A046	Light-Bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	A02, A11, C03, D02, F01, G01, G05, H03, H07, I01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other Human intrusions and disturbances, Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A048	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	F01, F02, G01, H03, M01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions
A050	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, I01, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A051	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera strepera</i>	C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A052	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca crecca</i>	C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions



Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A053	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos</i>	C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A054	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A056	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution
A061	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	C03, F03, G01, H01, H07, M02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Other forms of pollution, Changes in biotic conditions
A062	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	C03, F01, F02, F03, G01, H01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution
A065	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra nigra</i>	A04, C03, F02, G01, H01, H03, I01, K03, M02	Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Invasive non-native species, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions



Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A067	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, M02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Changes in biotic conditions
A069	Red-Breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A082	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	A02, B01, B02, C01, C03, F03, G01, I01, J01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Forest and Plantation management & use, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species, Fire and Fire suppression, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A125	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra atra</i>	C03, G01, H01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)
A130	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A140	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Forest planting on open ground, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Fire and Fire suppression, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions
A141	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions



Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A142	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	A02, C03, F01, G01, H03	Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A143	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A144	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	C03, F01, G01, H03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions
A149	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A156	Black-Tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	A02, C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A157	Bar-Tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A160	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata arquata</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications



Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A162	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A179	Black-Headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A183	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A184	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A188	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution
A191	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	C03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Invasive non-native species
A192	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>	C03, D01, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species
A193	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	C03, D01, D03, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species
A194	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	C03, D01, G01, I01, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species, Changes in abiotic conditions
A195	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons albifrons</i>	C03, D01, I01, I02, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Invasive non-native species, Problematic native species, Changes in abiotic conditions
A199	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge albionis</i>	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution



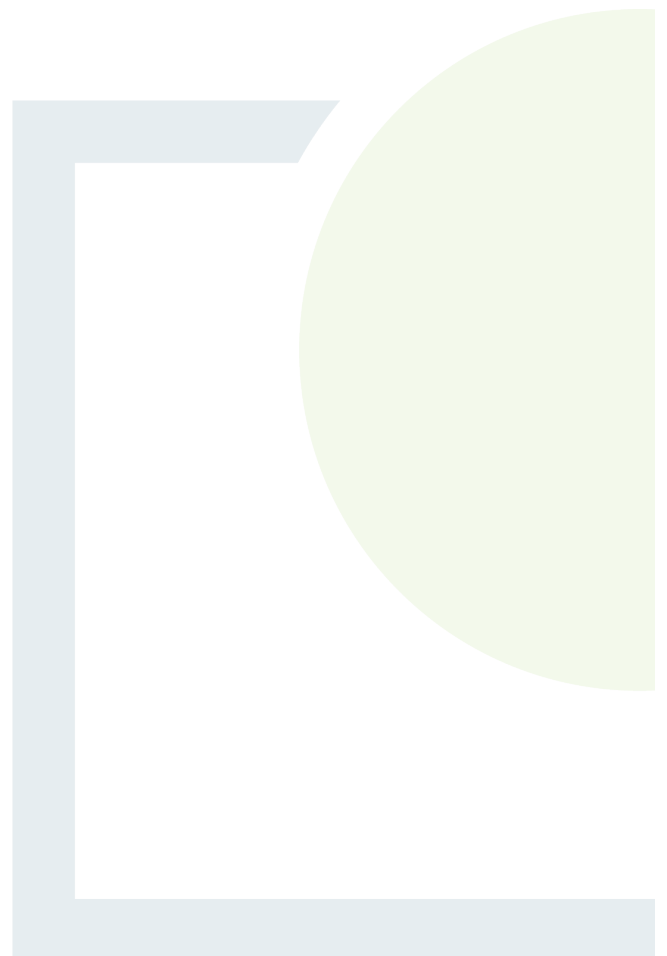
Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A200	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution
A204	Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	C03, H03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution, Invasive non-native species
A229	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	A11, D01, G01, H01, I01, J02	Agriculture activities not referred to above, Roads, paths and railroads, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A395	Greenland White-Fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	A02, A04, A06, A11, B01, C03, D02, D05, F01, F03, G01, H03, H07, K03, M01, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Annual and perennial non-timber crops, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Forest planting on open ground, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Improved access to site, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in abiotic conditions, Changes in biotic conditions



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
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APPENDIX 2

Relationship with other plans
and programmes



This appendix is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of inter-related Plans or Programmes, EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive, and it is recommended to consult the Plan or Programme, Directive or Regulation to become familiar with the full details of each.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<p>given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.</p>	<p>Annex III.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. 	<p>regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. The species included in Annex I shall be the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. • Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance. 	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Bathing Water Directive (revised) 2006 [2006/7/EC]	The purpose of this Directive is to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing Directive 2000/60/EC	<p>This Directive lays down provisions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; • the management of bathing water quality; and • the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution.	<p>Ireland’s Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland’s third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State’s NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year • set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk • set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial	The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and	<p>The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energy; 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
emissions	land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. <p>All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.</p>	and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and • the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest • Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. • Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Renewable Energy Directive (EU/2018/2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Directive sets an overall European renewable energy target of 32% by 2030 and includes rules to ensure the uptake of renewables in the transport sector and in heating and cooling. • The directive sets common principles and rules for renewable energy support schemes, sustainability criteria for biomass and the right to produce and consume renewable energy and to establish renewable energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. • The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. • EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<p>communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It also establishes rules to remove barriers, stimulate investments and drive cost reductions in renewable energy technologies and empowers citizens and businesses to participate in the clean energy transformation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports. 	
<p>Directive 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)</p>	<p>This Directive establishes a common framework for the promotion of energy from renewable sources. It sets a binding European Union target for the overall share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030: Member States shall collectively ensure that the share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030 is at least 32%. Support schemes for energy from renewable sources shall be adopted by Member States.</p> <p>Provisions on joint projects between Member States and between Member States and third countries are laid down too.</p>	<p>The Directive lays down rules on financial support for electricity from renewable sources, on self-consumption of such electricity, on the use of energy from renewable sources in the heating and cooling sector and in the transport sector, on regional cooperation between Member States, and between Member States and third countries, on guarantees of origin, on administrative procedures and on information and training. It also establishes sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels. The latter include fuels produced from waste, from agricultural biomass and from forest biomass.</p> <p>The Commission shall monitor the origin of biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels consumed in the European Union and the impact of their production, including the impact as a result of displacement, on land use in the Union and in the main third countries of supply.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)</p>	<p>This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport.</p>	<p>This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Energy Efficiency Directive (EU) 2023/1791</p>	<p>The new directive introduces a series of measures to help accelerate energy efficiency, including embracing the “energy efficiency first” principle in the energy and non-energy policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing an EU legally binding target to reduce the EU’s final energy consumption by 11.7% by 2030 (relative to the 2020 reference scenario). This includes for each Member State the requirement to set its indicative national contribution based on objective criteria reflecting national circumstances. If the national contributions do not add up to the EU target, an ambition gap mechanism is applied by the Commission. • Increasing annual energy savings from 0.8% (at present) to 1.3% (2024-2025), then 1.5% (2026-2027) and 1.9% from 2028 onwards. That’s an average of 1.49% of new annual savings for the period from 2024-2030. • Obliging Member States to prioritise vulnerable customers and social housing within the scope of their energy savings measures. • Introducing an annual energy consumption reduction target of 1.9% for the public sector as a whole. • Extending the annual 3% buildings renovation obligation to all the levels of public administration. • Introducing a different approach, based on energy consumption, for business to have an energy management system or to carry out an energy audit. • Bringing in a new obligation to monitor the energy performance of data centres, with an EU-level database collecting and publishing data. • Promoting local heating & cooling plans in larger municipalities. • Progressively increasing the efficient energy consumption in heat or cold supply, also in district 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</p>	<p>This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.</p>	<p>heating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas: • Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; • The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; • The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; • Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; • Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU)</p>	<p>This Directive establishes a framework for maritime spatial planning aimed at promoting the sustainable growth of maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Member State shall establish and implement maritime spatial planning. • In doing so, Member States shall take into account land-sea interactions. • The resulting plan or plans shall be developed and produced in accordance with the institutional and governance levels determined by Member States. This Directive shall not interfere with Member States' competence to design and determine the format and content of that plan or those plans. • Maritime spatial planning shall aim to contribute to the objectives listed in Article 5 and fulfil the requirements laid down in Articles 6 and 8. • When establishing maritime spatial planning, Member States shall have due regard to the particularities of the marine regions, relevant existing and future activities and uses and their impacts on the environment, as well as to natural resources, and shall also take into account land-sea interactions. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member States may include or build on existing national policies, regulations or mechanisms that have been or are being established before the entry into force of this Directive, provided they are in conformity with the requirements of this Directive. 	
UK Marine Policy Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving a sustainable marine economy Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society Living within environmental limits Promoting good governance Using sound science responsibly 	<p>The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable economic development; Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and heritage assets; and Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to provide the legal mechanism to help ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas by putting in place a new system for improved management and protection of the marine and coastal environment. 	<p>The Marine Act comprises eight key elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Strategic Marine Planning System Streamlined Marine Licensing System Marine Nature Conservation Fisheries Management and Marine Enforcement Migratory and Freshwater Fisheries Coastal Access Coastal and Estuarine Management 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Marine (Northern Ireland) Act 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to provide for marine plans in relation to the Northern Ireland inshore region; to provide for marine conservation zones in that region; to make further provision in relation to marine licensing for certain electricity works in that region; and for connected purposes. <p>This Act may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.</p>	<p>The Marine Act sets out a new framework for Northern Ireland’s seas based on a system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resource needs; improved management for marine nature conservation and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects. The main provisions of the Act are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Planning Nature Conservation Marine Licensing 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)	<p>The EU’s biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030 and contains specific actions and commitments.</p>	<p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision making. Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.	
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. • Supporting EU-level GI projects. • Improving access to finance for GI projects. • Improving information and promoting innovation. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and • recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them; • each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage; • encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	<p>The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); • the sustainable use of its components; and • the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute

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			towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change	<p>It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.</p>	<p>The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). • EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. • Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. • Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. • Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. • Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. 	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. • Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. • Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. • Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. • Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030: • A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). • New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. • First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). • Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. • Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. • Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. • Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

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	<p>compliance against limit values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM₁₀) or up to five years (NO₂, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. 	<p>resulting from national and community measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. 	<p>protection and management.</p>
<p>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</p>	<p>The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.</p>	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks • Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment • Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. • Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. • Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. • Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain “good status” of water bodies. • Promote sustainable water usage. • The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive • Sampling Drinking Water Directive • Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive • Shellfish Directive • Freshwater Fish Directive • Groundwater Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. • Achieve "good status" for all waters. • Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. • Involve the public and streamline legislation. • Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. • Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. • Recover costs for water services. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous Substances Directive 		
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, control and conserve groundwater. • Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. • Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. • Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recast Drinking Water Directive is the EU’s main law on drinking water. It concerns the access to, and the quality of water intended for human consumption to protect human health. • The EU adopted the recast Drinking Water Directive in December 2020 and the Directive entered into force in January 2021. Member States have to transpose the Directive into national law and comply with its provisions by 12 January 2023. The recast Drinking Water Directive will further protect human health thanks to updated water quality standards, tackling pollutants of concern, such as endocrine disruptors and microplastics, and leading to even cleaner water from the tap for all. 	<p>Key features of the revised Directive are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reinforced water quality standards, in line or, in some cases, even more stringent than the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations • tackling emerging pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors and PFAs, as well as microplastics • a preventive approach favouring actions to reduce pollution at source by introducing the risk-based approach • measures to ensure better access to water, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups • measures to promote tap water, including in public spaces and restaurants, to reduce (plastic) bottle consumption • harmonisation of the quality standards for materials and products in contact with water • measures to reduce water leakages and to increase transparency of the sector 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU	<p>Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. • The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. • The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. • The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the Guidelines. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing • knowledge and new needs. 	
<p>Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC), as amended</p>	<p>The aim of the European Union's ambitious Marine Strategy Framework Directive is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe.</p>	<p>The Directive provides various requirements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an initial assessment of Irish marine waters; • Establishment of establish environmental targets and indicators; • Establishment of a monitoring programme; • Establishment of a programme of measures; and • Implementation of the programme of measures and monitoring programme. <p>Implementation of the Directive is contributed towards by a set of detailed criteria and methodological standards that were revised in 2017 leading to a Commission Decision on “laying down criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters and specifications and standardised</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<p>methods for monitoring and assessment and repealing Decision 2010/477/EU". Annex III "Indicative lists of characteristics, pressures and impacts" of the Directive was amended in 2017.</p>	
<p>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</p>	<p>The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.</p>	<p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage.</p> <p>It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</p>	<p>The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co- operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. • The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co- operation between states and regions. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and</p>	<p>It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; • (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and • (IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research. 	Climate Action 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.
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. • A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. • Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. • Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. • Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. • Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Landscape Convention 2000	The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. • Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.		
The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital • to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy • to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment- related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing 	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better implementation of legislation. • Better information by improving the knowledge base. • More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. • Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. • Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme: • To make the Union's cities more sustainable. • To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats • to promote cooperation between states • to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species 	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. • Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. • Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. • Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co- operation with other organisations. • Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. 	
Bali Road Map (2007)	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and • To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities. 	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mitigation • adaptation • technology • financing 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Cancun Agreements (2010)	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation • Transparency of actions • Technology • Finance • Adaptation • Forests • Capacity building 	<p>Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference: • Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); • Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries. 	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Common Agricultural Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)(as amended)	Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation; and Restriction of chemicals. <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p>	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Stockholm Convention	The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention. Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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

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		<p>are listed in Annex B to the Convention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention • Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner • To target additional POPs • Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance 	<p>regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Ramsar Convention	<p>The Convention’s mission is “the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world”.</p>	<p>Under the “three pillars” of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; • Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the “Ramsar List”) and ensure their effective management; • Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
OSPAR Convention	<p>The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.</p>	<p>OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy • Eutrophication Strategy • Hazardous Substances Strategy • Offshore Industry Strategy • Radioactive Substances Strategy 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme <p>These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.</p>	protection and management.
European 2020 Strategy for Growth	<p>Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe’s social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. 	<p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 3% of the EU’s GDP should be invested in R&D; the “20/20/20” climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019	<p>The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people’s quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

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EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030 and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Commission’s Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector as part of its Fisheries Policy Package	The main objectives of the measures defined in this communication are to promote the use of cleaner energy sources and reduce dependency on fossil fuels in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, in line with one of the ambitions of the European Green Deal to reach climate neutrality in the EU by 2050.	The communication defines various measures to support the sector in accelerating its energy transition, by improving fuel efficiency and switching to renewable, low-carbon power sources. A summary of the measures broadly proposed by the communication is presented below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of an Energy Transition Partnership for EU Fisheries and Aquaculture for the purpose of promoting collaboration and stakeholder engagement • Promotion of new innovative technologies and ways of operating • Improving energy efficiency Moving to renewable and zero or low-carbon energy sources (e.g., use of alternative fuels).	The communication noted the current dependency of the sector on fossil fuel based energy (e.g., marine diesel). It defines a vision for climate-neutral fisheries and aquaculture.

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National Level			
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan (2021 - 2030)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people. 	<p>The National Planning Framework published alongside the National Development Plan yields ten National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. Sustainable Mobility 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 6. High-Quality International Connectivity 7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage 8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [In Preparation]	<p>The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. 	<p>In preparation.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	<p>The core principle objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2022 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. • There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. • Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects. • Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. • These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. • Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)	These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. • The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C- 418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009 (S.I 296 of 2009)	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). • Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. • Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2016 (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)</p>	<p>To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.</p>	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. • Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values • Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>S.I. No. 113/2022 - European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022</p>	<p>The purpose of the Regulations is to provide a basic set of measures to ensure the protection of waters, including drinking water sources, against pollution caused by nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural sources, with the primary emphasis on the management of livestock manures and other fertilisers. The set of measures also provide some basic safeguards against possible harmful impacts on water quality arising from agricultural expansion. This basic set of measures has been strengthened over the last two reviews and this new programme provides a further strengthened set of measures to help reduce nitrogen and phosphorus losses from agriculture and</p>	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited • Limits on the land application of fertilisers • Storage requirements for livestock manure; and • Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	contribute to improvements in water quality.		
<p>National legislation transport the Industrial Emissions Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, amended by the Protection of the Environment Act 2003; and • Environmental Protection Agency (Integrated Pollution Control) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment)(Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992)(Amendment) Regulations 2020 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. • European Union (Industrial 	<p>The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection. This legislation transposes the provision of the Directive</p>	<p>The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. <p>All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>Emissions) Regulations 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing)Regulations 2013. <p>Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013</p>			
<p>Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (S.I. 79 of 2008)</p>	<p>These Regulations provide for transposition of the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (Directive 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006) which aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve health protection for bathers To establish a more pro-active approach to management of bathing waters, and To promote increased public involvement and dissemination of information to the public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations establish a new classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications “poor”, “sufficient”, “good” and “excellent” and generally require that a classification of at least “sufficient” be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters. Local authorities must take appropriate measures with a view to improving waters which are classified as “poor” and increasing the number of bathing waters classified as “good” or “excellent”. A permanent advice against bathing must be issued in a case where a bathing water is classified as “poor” for five consecutive years. Local authorities are required annually to identify bathing waters, establish a monitoring calendar, carry out the specified monitoring, report the results to the EPA, carry out appropriate management measures where necessary and provide information to the public. There must be public participation in the identification of waters and the general implementation of the Regulations. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EPA is required by the Regulations to classify bathing waters, generally on the basis of the monitoring results for the four preceding bathing seasons, and to publish an annual report in relation to bathing water quality. • Monitoring by local authorities is to commence not later than 2011 with a view to ensuring that a classification is assigned to bathing waters not later than 2015. • Private controllers of access lands may be required to contribute towards the costs incurred by a local authority or the EPA. 	
Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I 351 of 2011)	<p>This Regulation defines further the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment.</p>	<p>Further defines the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021	<p>An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.</p>	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<p>objective,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy of the Government on climate change, • Climate justice, • Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and • The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency. 	
<p>Climate Action Plan 2023</p>	<p>The Climate Action Plan 2023 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.</p>	<p>The Plan lists the actions needed to deliver on our climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated annually, to ensure alignment with Ireland’s legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Ireland’s Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). • The first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also included a 	<p>The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development; • To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs; • Greater partnerships for the Goals; 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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	<p>'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and Strong reporting mechanisms 	
<p>Clean Air Strategy for Ireland (2023)</p>	<p>The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through this document Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount, this is a strong theme of the Strategy. 	<p>Implementation of the Guidelines need to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EirGrid 's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017 - 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EirGrid 's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland. “Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way.” 	<p>Grid25, EirGrid 's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</p>	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

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	<p>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.</p>	<p>activity tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. 	<p>protection and management.</p>
<p>National Water Resources Plan (2021)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment. 	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland’s water resources Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development 2030	<p>This multi-annual National Strategic Plan Sustainable Aquaculture Development (2022 – 2030) (NSPSA) overlaps with the EU’s new ‘Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030’, as well as the programming period (2021 to 2027) of the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF). As such, this plan provides the strategic vision and framework for funding under EMFAF, as well as other EU and national initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop ‘Designated Marine Area Plans’ (DMAPs) for aquaculture to ensure that the sector is championed in Ireland’s Marine Spatial Plan to facilitate investment in different forms of sustainable aquaculture. • More vigilant and responsive monitoring if aquatic diseases and food safety risks. • Develop a comprehensive human capacity plan for Irish aquaculture to promote the sector as an attractive career option, develop leadership, management and business capacity in the sector and provide the necessary skills required over the strategy time period. • Provide coordinated messaging on the sustainable, low carbon nature of Irish aquaculture production, supported by independent certification and open dialogue. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. • The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated. 	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; • Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; • The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; • Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; • Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector. 	
<p>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: “Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning.” 	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2021 - 2027</p>	<p>This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the</p>	<p>The revised Plan makes 20 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy and Regulation Prevention Collection and Treatment 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

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	<p>previous plan was published.</p> <p>Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; • To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a • view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; • To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; • To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation 	<p>regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Ports Policy 2013</p>	<p>The core objective of National Ports Policy is to facilitate a competitive and effective market for maritime transport services.</p>	<p>National Ports Policy introduces clear categorisation of the ports sector into Ports of National Significance (Tier 1), Ports of National Significance (Tier 2) and Ports of Regional Significance.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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National Aviation Policy 2015	<p>Specifically, the principal goals of this National Aviation Policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance Ireland’s connectivity by ensuring safe, secure and competitive access responsive to the needs of business, tourism and consumers; • To foster the growth of aviation enterprise in Ireland to support job creation and position Ireland as a recognised global leader in aviation; and • To maximise the contribution of the aviation sector to Ireland’s economic growth and development. 	<p>The National Aviation Policy commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining safety as the number one priority in Irish aviation and ensuring that safety regulation is robust, effective and efficient; • Creating conditions to encourage the development of new routes and services, particularly to new and emerging markets; • Ensuring a high level of competition among airlines operating in the Irish market; • Optimising the operation of the Irish airport network to ensure maximum connectivity to the rest of the world; • Ensuring that the regulatory framework for aviation reflects best international practice and that economic regulation facilitates continued investment in aviation infrastructure at Irish airports to support traffic growth; • Supporting the aircraft leasing and aviation finance sectors to maintain Ireland’s leading global position in these spheres; and • Maintaining a safe and innovative general aviation sector to support Ireland’s broader aviation industry 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	<p>The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.</p>	<p>The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	<p>The vision is: “A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.”</p>	<p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life • Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities • Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing • Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Marine Planning Framework 2021	<p>The NMPF is a key consideration for decision makers on all marine authorisations. The NMPF creates the overarching framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence based, and secures a sustainable future for the maritime area.</p>	<p>The National Marine Planning Framework is a succinct strategic document that will deal with, inter alia, the following environmental, social and economic issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key marine activities such as fisheries, tourism, transport, offshore renewable energy generation, oil and gas exploration and production, aquaculture, and how they interact; • Climate change and related impacts; • Communities and health; • Cultural heritage; • Marine environment and biodiversity; • Transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	<p>The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas and is a sector in which people want to work.</p>	<p>The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year • net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; • 250,000 people employed in tourism; and • 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute</p>

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			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 Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Strategy will be published in 2024. • The plan sets out a 10-year plan for the growth of the tourism sector in Northern Ireland., with an aim to increase the value of tourism to the economy by 50-75% compared to 2019. • Vision is to “Establish Northern Ireland as a year-round world class destination which is renowned for its authentic experiences, landscape, heritage and culture and which benefits communities, the economy and the environment, with sustainability at its core.” This Plan may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery. 	<p>The strategic goals and core themes of the Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative • Inclusive • Sustainable • Attractive • Collaborative <p>The document identifies the key challenges and drivers for growth.</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.
Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.	Implementation of the Climate Action 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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National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIFTI is the Department of Transport's framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network to support the delivery of the National Strategic Outcomes. The NIFTI will guide transport investment in the years ahead to enable the National Planning Framework, support the Climate Action Plan, and promote social, environmental and economic outcomes throughout Ireland. 	<p>The four investment priorities stated in NIFTI are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobility of people and goods in urban areas. Protection and renewal. Enhanced regional and rural connectivity. Decarbonisation. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans (including transport)	<p>NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance based actions. Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)	<p>The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.</p>	<p>2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>Wildlife Act of 1976</p> <p>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</p>	<p>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems • Give statutory protection to NHAs • Enhances wildlife species and their habitats • Includes more species for protection 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan</p>	<p>Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors. • To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. • To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. • To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. <p>To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Broadband Plan (2012)</p>	<p>Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.</p>	<p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband. • Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. • The strategy and interventions that will underpin 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

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		<p>the successful implementation of these targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. 	<p>regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process. • Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications. • Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels. • Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. • Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off. • Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains. • Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth. • Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders. • Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation • are complied with at all stages of flood risk management. <p>The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. • Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. • Identifies the competent authorities in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. • Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and</p>

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<p>2003)</p> <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</p> <p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)(as amended)</p>	<p>charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. • Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. • Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. • Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. • Outlines surface water quality standards. • Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality. 	<p>bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 to 1990</p>	<p>The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.</p>	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecute for water pollution offences. • Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. • Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. • issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; • Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. 	
<p>Water Services Act 2007</p> <p>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</p> <p>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</p> <p>Water Services Act 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the water services infrastructure. • Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. • Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply. • Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland. 	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. • Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services. • Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards • Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. • Promoting water conservation through Irish Water’s Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. • Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. • Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. • Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER. 	<p>Implementation of the Guidelines need to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Irish Water’s (now known as Uisce Eireann) Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet Customer Expectations. • Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. • Provide Effective Management of Wastewater. • Protect and Enhance the Environment. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2020 - 2024)	short and medium term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Social and Economic Growth. • Invest in the Future. 	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas 2017 - 2022	Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. • Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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	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.	Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)</p> <p>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)</p> <p>Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. • GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. • Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. • Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. • Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. • Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Rural Development Programme</p>	<p>The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas</p>	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; • Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and • Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as • non-agricultural activities 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027	<p>The new Forestry Programme 2023-2027 came into force in 2023, as soon as State Aid approval by the European Commission has been received. The new Programme sets out increased support for a number of schemes.</p>	<p>The proposed Forestry Programme 2023-2027 contains a series of eight different interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest creation; • Agroforestry; • Infrastructure and technology investments; • Sustainable forest management; • Developing skills and empowering the forest sector for sustainable forest management; • Open forests - social, cultural and heritage forests; • Climate resilient reforestation; • Reconstruction. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
River Basin Management Plan	<p>River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. • Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. • Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. • Involve the public through consultations. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)	<p>This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.</p>	<p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To give direction to Ireland’s approach to peatland management. • To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. • To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. • To ensure that Ireland’s peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<p>responsible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs. <p>To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</p>	
<p>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</p>	<p>The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.</p>	<p>CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020</p>	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner. 	<p>Three high level goals of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. To ensure that bioenergy developments do not 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.	
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCA) 2016	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2018/2001: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFV forecasts • Electricity targets • Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets • Hydrogen targets • Biofuels targets • LPG targets • Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. • 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. • 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. • The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high end value added product development. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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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Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) NI	<p>The SPPS consolidates some twenty separate policy publications into one document and sets out strategic subject planning policy for a wide range of planning matters. It also provides the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development.</p>	<p>The overall objective of the planning system is to further sustainable development and improve well-being for the people of the North.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National 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. 	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce overall travel demand • Maximise the efficiency of the transport network • Reduce reliance on fossil fuels • Reduce transport emissions • Improve accessibility to transport <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Coastal Change Management Strategy	<p>The Government has adopted a policy to assess and manage coastal flood risk with regard to both existing risk and the potential impacts of climate change.</p> <p>This strategy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a framework to determine the key decisions to be taken on how Ireland could best manage its coast, being aware of the future risks and the associated planning requirements. 	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing governance and capacity building (a dual approach of both mitigation and adaptation measures) • Understanding the risk and identifying potential risk management options <p>Developing management (a dual approach of both mitigation (tackling the cause) and adaptation measures) to coastal change</p>	<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.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a framework to best inform both where and how decisions regarding appropriate development / projects along the coast should be taken in the future, in coordination with investment in flood risk management. 		
Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage in Ireland ranges from private homes, commercial and public buildings, national monuments, underwater and buried archaeology and the physical and cultural settings of all of these. This plan considers not only those structures and sites that have been statutorily listed, but all man-made assets that have historical, aesthetic and cultural value, but does not consider natural heritage. <p>Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build adaptive capacity within the sector Reduce the vulnerability of built and archaeological heritage to climate change Identify and capitalise on the various potential opportunities for the sector 	<p>The five adaptation goals for built and archaeological heritage in Ireland are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To improve understanding of each heritage resource and its vulnerability to climate change To develop and mainstream sustainable policies and plans for climate-change adaptation of built and archaeological heritage To conserve Ireland’s heritage for future generations To communicate and transfer knowledge <p>To exploit the opportunities for built and archaeological heritage to demonstrate value and secure resources</p>	<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.</p>
Heritage related legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Monuments Act 1930 as amended; Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the LACAPs. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage. 	<p>Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the LACAPs. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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.</p>

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<p>Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Heritage Act 2018. 			
<p>All-Island Strategic Rail Review</p>	<p>The Review aims to inform policy and future strategy for the railways in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland.</p>	<p>The Review sets out six high-level goals which aim to use rail as effectively as possible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contribute to decarbonisation; improve All Island connectivity between major cities; enhance regional accessibility; stimulate economic activity; encourage sustainable mobility; and <p>achieve economic and financial feasibility.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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.</p>
<p>Regional/ County/Local Level</p>			
<p>Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies</p>	<p>The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>The Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.</p> <p>The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Waterford City and County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Tipperary County Council, Wexford County Council, Kerry County Council, Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council,</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<p>Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council.</p> <p>The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its eight constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council, Leitrim County Council, Sligo County Council, Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, and Galway County Council.</p>	
<p>Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Northern Ireland)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland. • Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors. <p>This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.</p>	<p>Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Guidelines need to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2022-2042)</p>	<p>It sets out how transport will be developed across the region, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare, over the period of the strategy and has been approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in accordance with the relevant legislation.</p> <p>This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.</p>	<p>They set out a number of core principles deriving from the strategic vision, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, national, regional and local needs. • The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country. • The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<p>World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form. • Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form. • Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses. 	
<p>Transport Strategy for the Cork Metropolitan Area 2040</p>	<p>The Strategy addresses all transport modes, and its objective will be to provide a long-term strategic planning framework for the integrated development of transport infrastructure and services in the Cork Metropolitan Area, over the next two decades.</p> <p>This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.</p>	<p>It will be used to inform transport investment levels and investment prioritisation over both the longer and shorter terms and will be able to inform sustainable integrated land use and transport policy formulation at the strategic (Metropolitan Area) level and at the local level.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow • Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically • The Plan refers to the EuroVelo International Cycle Route Network of the European Cyclists Federation is a network of 15 long distance cycle routes connecting and uniting 	<p>Aims to identify and determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Urban Cycle Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level • The Inter-Urban Cycle Network linking the relevant sections of the Urban Network including the elements of the National Cycle Network within the Greater Dublin Area including linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<p>the whole European continent. Two of these routes are in Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> including EV2 from Galway through Dublin to London, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow. <p>This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.</p>	<p>ports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Green Route Network being cycle routes for development of tourist, recreational and leisure purposes. 	
<p>Dublin to Galway Greenway Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a segregated cycling and walking trail to international standards, extending from Dublin City to Galway which is of a scale that will allow Ireland to harness the potential of an identified growing tourism market for cycling. This route forms part of an interconnected National Cycle Network of high quality, traffic free, inter urban routes, which will establish Ireland as a quality international tourism destination for a broad range of associated recreational activities and pursuits. <p>This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.</p>	<p>To provide a segregated, substantially off road cycle route from Dublin City to Clifden via Galway City, maximising the use of – where feasible – existing and approved routes and disused railway line corridors and to also use existing plans and/or permitted projects where these have been subject to a consent process that has previously included the carrying out or screening for SEA, EIA and AA.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Local Transport Plans and Strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transport Plans and Strategies relevant to a particular local authority functional area provide a more granular framework for the delivery of sustainable transport systems in accordance with higher-level plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote sustainable transport. To promote integrated and proper transport planning. To promote safe travel. To promote active travel infrastructural development. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action 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</p>

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		To encourage modal shift.	protection and management.
Water Quality Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained. • Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards. • Outlines management programmes for water catchments. • Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Port Masterplans (such as Dublin Port Masterplan 2040 and 2017 Review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Masterplan sets out a vision for the operations of the port and land utilisation. • The Masterplan is a non-statutory plan which has nonetheless been framed within the context of EU, national, regional and local development plan policies. 	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. • These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the	Implementation of the Climate Action

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Protection Schemes	guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	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)	The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities”	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Implementation of the Climate Action 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies future infrastructure, development and zoning required. • Protects and enhances amenities and environment. • Guides planning authority in assessing proposals. • Aims to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. • Aims to promote sustainable development. • Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Green Infrastructure Plans/Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes the maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure in an area. • Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats. 	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
			bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Biodiversity Action Plans	Aims to protect, conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services across all spectrums.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines the status of biodiversity and identifies species of importance. • Outlines objectives and targets to be met to maintain and improve biodiversity. • Aims to increase awareness. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Heritage Plans	Aims to highlight the importance of heritage at a strategic level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and promote heritage as well as increased awareness. • Aim to conserve and protect heritage. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
County Landscape Character Assessments	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. • Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub- Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status. 	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 Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced by Local Authorities. Outlines areas local flood risk. Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level. 	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.
Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes	Aims to improve water quality and ensure the protection or improvement of designated shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth and contribute to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies key and secondary pressures on water quality in designated shellfish areas. Outlines specific measures to address identified key and secondary pressures on water quality. Addresses the specific pressures acting on water quality in each area. 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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 Waste Management Plans	These plans (for the Connacht-Ulster, Southern, and Eastern-Midlands regions) give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Implementation of the Climate Action 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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
			achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Noise Action Plans	The Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The main purpose of the Noise Action Plan is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems • Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects • Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good 	Implementation of the Climate Action 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.

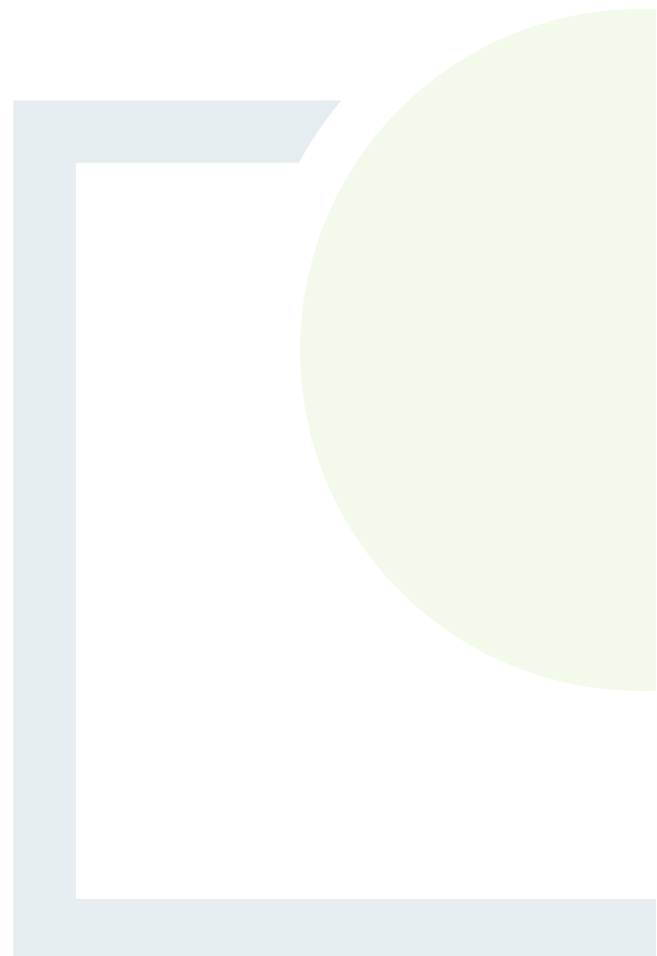


**FEHILY
TIMONEY**

**CONSULTANTS N ENGINEERING,
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& PLANNING**

APPENDIX 3

AA Screening of Plan
Modifications





CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &
PLANNING

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

AA Screening Report For Modifications To The Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029

Prepared for:
Wexford County Council (WCC)



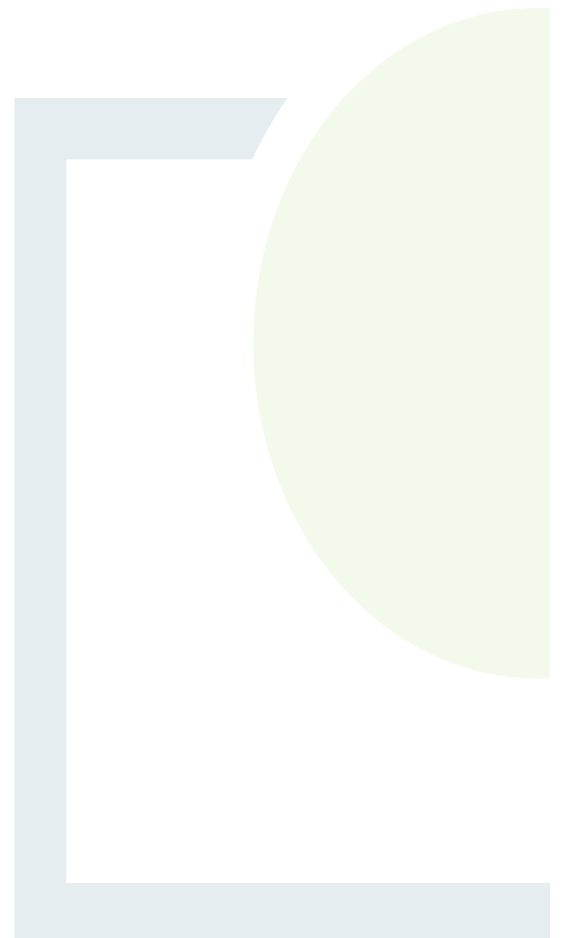
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Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for Modifications to the Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

User is responsible for Checking the Revision Status of This Document

Rev. No.	Description of Changes	Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Date:
1	Final	BF/MG	AT	AT	17/01/2024

Client: Wexford County Council

Keywords: Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, Appropriate Assessment, AA, Natura Impact Report, LACAP, Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan.

Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this AA Screening Report for Modifications to the Local Authority Climate Action 2024 - 2029 to Wexford County Council (WCC).

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This is the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report for modifications to the Wexford County Council (WCC) Local Authority Climate Action Plan (referred to as either the 'LACAP' or the 'Plan') 2024 - 2029.

Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 sets out the provisions governing the establishment and operation of a LACAP. The broad purpose of a LACAP will be to define adaptation and mitigation measures at local level to support the reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions within a local authority as an organization and throughout the local community. LACAPs shall be implemented over a five-year period.

1.2 Plan-making Process to Date

A draft version of the LACAP was prepared. This document was accompanied by a Draft Natura Impact Report (NIR) which considered, evaluated and presented the environmental effects of the Draft LACAP on European sites and presented mitigation measures to avoid or minimise identified effects. This AA process was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive¹ and transposing national legislation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was also undertaken on the Draft LACAP in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive² and transposing national legislation. A Draft SEA Environmental Report which considered the effects of the Draft LACAP on the environment was therefore prepared also. The Draft NIR suitably informed this report.

A period of consultation has been undertaken in relation to the Draft LACAP, the Draft SEA Environmental Report and the Draft NIR. Statutory environmental authorities interested stakeholders and members of the public were invited to make submissions in connection with the Draft LACAP and the associated Draft SEA Environmental Report and Draft NIR.

All submissions made on this documentation have been reviewed by WCC. These submissions were taken into consideration prior to finalisation of the LACAP. WCC have prepared a Chief Executive Report on the submissions received. This document details the submissions received, WCC responses to the submissions, and Plan Action modifications arising following consideration of the submissions.

1.3 Purpose of this Assessment

An AA Screening Assessment must be carried out on all modifications made to the Draft LACAP Actions arising following consideration of submissions. The purpose of this assessment is to identify whether the Plan Action modifications will result in additional effects on European sites not previously considered in the AA process to date, and to inform whether or not a full AA is required on the Plan Action modifications. This AA Screening Assessment considers changes the binding 'Actions' defined within the Plan.

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

² Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment



This report documents the AA Screening undertaken to identify the need for full AA in this case. This report accompanies the documented Plan Action modifications.

This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

1. The Wexford County Council (WCC) LACAP 2024 - 2029.
2. The Draft NIR for the Wexford County (WCC) Council LACAP 2024 - 2029.
3. The Draft SEA Environmental Report for the Wexford County Council (WCC) LACAP 2024 - 2029.
4. Wexford County Council (WCC) LACAP Submissions Chief Executive Report.
5. The SEA Screening Report for modifications to Wexford County Council (WCC) LACAP 2024 - 2029.



2. APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING METHODOLOGY

2.1 Legislative Requirements

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. 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 (Habitats Directive as above and 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 among them. These two designations are collectively known and referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect such sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA. These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public".

Therefore, the AA process is an assessment of the following key concepts:

- Whether a plan or project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site.
- Whether the project will have a potentially significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential impacts.

The provisions of Article 6(3) do not apply where the proposed plan or project is ‘connected with or necessary to the management of the site’. Where a formal consent process applies, the AA process is concluded by the relevant competent authority making a determination in accordance with article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

2.2 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- 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, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (European Commission, 2002).



- This document was updated by Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C(2021) 6913 final;
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010);
- Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2018). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019;
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission 2013;
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator (2021).

The AA screening 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 Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives. The EPA Envision Map-viewer (www.epa.ie) and available reports were also reviewed:

- Definitions of conservation status, integrity and significance used in this assessment are defined in accordance with 'Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC' (EC, 2000).
- The conservation status of a natural habitat is defined as the sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long-term survival of its typical species;
- The conservation status of a species is defined as the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its population;
- The integrity of a European Site is defined as the coherence of the site's ecological structure and function, across its whole area, or the habitats, complex of habitats and/or populations of species for which the site is or will be classified; and
- Significant effect should be determined in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the protected site concerned by the plan or project, taking particular account of the site's conservation objectives.

2.3 Assessment Process and Approach

A Draft NIR has been produced for the WCC Draft LACAP. This report contains the information on the receiving environment, European sites, and potential effects of the Draft LACAP on European sites. The report also defines mitigation measures designed to avoid and minimise effects on European sites. The information contained in this Draft NIR has been referred to during the carrying out of the AA Screening Assessment documented in this report.

This assessment commences with a description of the Plan Action modifications being considered. The type of impacts that are likely due to the Plan Action modifications are then identified and evaluated having regard to nature and characteristics of the Plan Action modifications. The overall AA process will be completed in a revised full NIR at the end of the plan development process incorporating all interim steps, modifications and reports/assessments.



An ecological desktop study has been completed for the AA Screening Assessment of the Plan Action modifications, which comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European sites that may be impacted by Plan Action modifications.
- Identification of European sites pathways.
- Review of the NPWS site synopses and conservation objectives for relevant European sites.
- Examination of available information on protected species.

This desktop assessment mainly involved a review of the Draft NIR produced for the Draft LACAP.

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a plan or a project on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) model. 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 mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance:

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off, noise, removal of vegetation etc.;
- Pathway(s) – ecological connectivity linkages e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and,
- Receptor(s) – ecological resources supporting the qualifying habitats and species of European sites.

In the context of this report, a receptor is an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the Qualifying Interests (QI) or Special Conservation Interests (SCI) of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the Plan Action modifications that is known to interact with ecological processes. A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor³.

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the Conservation Objectives, QIs and/ or 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 likelihood of significant effects, including in-combination effects, on European Sites is then interrogated having regard to the nature and characteristics of Plan Action modifications, environmental pathways, and the sensitivity of relevant European sites.

Where significant effects are determined to be likely, or where there is uncertainty regarding the likelihood of significant effects, the Plan Action modification must be will be subject to Stage 2 AA and the preparation of a Natura Impact Report (NIR).

³ Qualifying interest or special conservation interests of the European site in question and the known sensitivities of these key ecological receptors



Having regard to the European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2000) the:

“absence of scientific evidence on the significant negative effect of an action cannot be used as justification for approval of this action. When applied to Article 6(3) procedure, the precautionary principle implies that the absence of a negative effect on Natura 2000 sites has to be demonstrated before a plan or project can be authorised. In other words, if there is a lack of certainty as to whether there will be any negative effects, then the plan or project cannot be approved.”

This AA screening is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological 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 Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives.



3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

A summary of Plan Action modifications arising following consideration of consultation submissions is provided in Table 3-1:

Table 3-1: Summary of Plan Action Modifications

Action	Summary of Modification
GL3	<p>The words "Facilities Manager" have been added to the following action: Appointment of a dedicated Energy Officer, Facilities Manager and a Biodiversity Officer (in addition to the existing Heritage Officer) and the continued commitment to the three positions of a Climate Action Coordinator, a Climate Action Officer and a Community Climate Action Officer.</p> <p>The words "Facilities Manager" have been added to the KPI of this action: Appointment of Biodiversity Officer, Facilities Manager & Energy Officer. Role commitment for the three dedicated roles within the Climate Action team. "Corporate Services" has been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>
GL4	<p>The following action has been reworded: Wexford County Council (WCC) will continue to develop emergency response coordination, including severe weather plan, flood plan, and major emergency plan and adverse weather Emergency Housing protocol to increase staff and public awareness, highlight potential risk to safety and to ensure all people staff travel, only in safe conditions and design and document a process in providing a severe weather event incident logging system.</p> <p>Lead Dept & Partners have been included: An Garda Siochana Housing Section Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU) Voluntary Groups</p>
GL6	<p>The KPI "increase in awareness" has been deleted from this action. Environmental Section, PPN and IFA have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>
GL8	<p>The KPI of this action has been updated from "Wexford and Waterford Education and Training Board data" to "No of Training events and No of attendees".</p>
GL9	<p>The KPI "Number of groups within organisation where climate action is included on agenda" has been added to this action. PPN have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>
GL12	<p>The words "or citizen science projects" have been added to the following action: Identify research and collaborative opportunities with third level institutes on climate & sustainability projects/initiatives e.g. SETU and Maynooth University or citizen science projects. "PPN and 3rd Level Institutions" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>
GL13	<p>The following KPI has been added to this action "No. of referrals to/from agencies".</p>
GL14	<p>The following KPI has been added to this action, replacing the previous one "To prepare a climate proofing matrix".</p>



Action	Summary of Modification
BET3	The following KPI has been deleted from this action "Procure an additional Environment Warden electric van for Environment use".
BET4	The following words have been added to the KPI of this action "Department targets per annum": Number of upgrades of Social Housing in line with Department targets per annum.
BET5	The following KPI has been deleted from this action "Percentage of Public Lighting completed".
BET6	PPN have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
BET7	The words "charging infrastructure" and "facilitate" have been added to the following action: Revise & update Wexford County Council (WCC) Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy to take account of national guidance and work with ZEVI to facilitate the EV Charging Infrastructure within the public realm of County Wexford for Cars, buses & coaches having due regard to ensuring disabled access to EV charging, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage. "Completion of revised Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy for County Wexford in line with Department of Transport National Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022 – 2025" has been added as KPI of this action. "County Council Yearly comparison of EV Charging Infrastructure within the county" has been deleted from KPI column.
BET10	"Percentage increase in walking routes" has been added as KPI of this action. "Percentage of facilities that are multi-user accessible Sports Active - increased number of programmes Active Travel" has been deleted from KPI column.
BET11	"Amount of CO2 saved" has been added as KPI of this action. "scheme on a trial basis and potential roll out of the scheme on a wider basis to reach a wider population" has been deleted from KPI column.
BET14	"within Croí Cónaithe " has been added to the KPI of this action: Record the number of grant applications. Record the Number of vacant houses reoccupied within Croí Cónaithe. "CO2 savings calculated on reoccupation versus a new build" has been deleted from KPI column.
BET15	The words "Carry out Climate Risk assessment of historic sites and structures and" have been added to the following action: Carry out Climate Risk assessment of historic sites and structures and build climate resilience of archaeological and architectural heritage in public and private ownership through schemes such as at the Built Heritage Scheme, Historic Towns Initiative, Irish Walled Towns Network, Community Monuments Fund and Historic Structures Fund having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species. "Number of Risk Assessments Completed." has been added as KPI of this action.
BET18	"Progress on stages of Greenways/Blueways/ Trails developed" has been added as KPI of this action.



Action	Summary of Modification
BET19	"Progress on Renewable Energy Hub through various stages of planning, funding and delivery " has been added as KPI of this action. "Number of engagement meetings" has been deleted from KPI column.
BET23	The following KPI has been added to this action, replacing the previous one: "This requirement will be implemented through planning applications. All relevant planning applications will be required to meet the standards in the County Development Plan."
BET28	Energy Officer have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
BET6	Bus Eireann, Wexford Bus and Local Link have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
BET29	"Development of the proofing Index" has been added as KPI of this action. "Score of the social and environmental value of a residential development" has been deleted from KPI column.
NEGI 9	"Number of planning applications that include climate change mitigation/adaptation measures" has been added as KPI of this action.
NEGI 15	The following KPI has been added to this action, replacing the previous one: "This requirement will be implemented as a condition of planning permission on 100% of planning application for single houses in rural areas."
NEGI17	"Number of" has been added to the KPI of this action: Number of farm inspections in line with EU Water Framework Directive 3rd cycle data.
NEGI18	The words "and businesses" have been added to the following action: Promote Water Conservation in the community and businesses by liaising with Uisce Eireann Stewardship programme and the Local Enterprise Office as well a Public Participation Network. The following KPI has been added to the action: Number of trainees attending Stewardship events. "Local Enterprise Office and PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
NEGI19	The words "other advisors" and "Forestry Schemes" have been added to the following action: Liaise & collaborate with Teagasc and other advisors to influence and advocate towards more sustainable agricultural and forestry practices including signpost programmes and Forestry Schemes. The following words "attending farming sustainability" have been added to this action's KPI: Number of people attending farming sustainability events. "Uisce Éireann" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
NEGI20	"Uisce Éireann" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
NEGI21	The words "and forestry" have been added to the following action: Implement a collaboration project with a series of "champion farmer" events around the county to showcase what agriculture and forestry is doing for climate change, water quality and biodiversity.



Action	Summary of Modification
	"PPN and Uisce Éireann" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
NEGI22	"Environment" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
NEGI23	"BIM" and "Seal Sanctuary" have been removed and replaced with "Biodiversity Officer and Farmers" in the Lead Dept & Partners Column.
NEGI25	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
CRT1	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
CRT2	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
CRT3	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
CRT5	<p>The words "communities and" and "allotments to support local food/vegetable production" have been added to the following action: Engage with communities and residents' association about the part they can play to combat climate change in their shared & individual gardens\allotments to support local food/vegetable production.</p> <p>The following KPIs have been added to this action: Completion of a community garden/allotment needs assessment Percentage Increase in number of gardens/allotments Number of entries in Keep Wexford Beautiful under the following categories: 1. Best Community Environment Initiative 2. Best Community Project that tackles and reduces the impacts of Climate Change 3. Best Community Project to Improve Accessibility in Gardens/Parks</p> <p>"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>
CRT15	<p>The following new action to be included in the Communities, Resilience & Transition section of the Plan: Explore and develop just transition opportunities, particularly in sectors vulnerable to the effects of climate mitigation and climate Adaptation such as skills training, and energy poverty reduction measures.</p>
SRM1	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
SRM3	<p>The words "(where possible) and promoting sustainable travel through park & ride/active travel" have been added to the following action: Promotion of the Fleadh Ceoil in Wexford as a sustainable event, aiming to reduce single use plastics (where possible) and promoting sustainable travel through park & ride/active travel and encourage circular economy through awareness initiatives and apply lessons learned to future events.</p> <p>"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>
SRM4	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
DZ GL1	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
DZ NEGI3	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.
DZ SRM2	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.



4. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any likely significant effects to European Sites from the Plan Action modifications, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.

The following has been considered when carrying out the AA Screening Assessment of Plan Action modifications to the Draft LACAP:

- The likely significant effect on the environment and European sites of implementing the Draft LACAP.
- The likely significant effect on the environment and European sites of implementing the Plan Action modifications.
- The mitigation measures defined in Section 5 of the Draft NIR.

Therefore, the Plan Action modifications must be considered in relation to the current Draft LACAP which has already been subject to SEA and AA considerations. All Plan Action modifications are considered therefore in the context of potential additional sources for impacts/effects which were not previously considered.

The first stage of the Screening process in this case involved interrogating Plan Action modifications to ascertain the materiality of the modifications and whether the modifications will result in the occurrence of additional effects on European sites not previously considered in the AA process to date.

4.2 Assessment Criteria

The following parameters are described when characterising impacts (following CIEEM (2016), EPA (2002) and NRA (2009)):

- **Direct and Indirect Impacts** - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a proposed development.
- **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.



The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines for ecological impact assessment (2016) define: an ecologically significant impact as 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; and the integrity of a site as 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 SSCO's 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 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 Objectives for SACs have been provided as follows:

- 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 has been provided for SPAs as follows:

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

EC guidance⁴ outlines the types of effects that may affect European sites. These include effects from the following activities:

- Land take;
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.);
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air);

⁴ 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, 2001.



- Excavation Requirements;
- Transportation Requirements;
- Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning.

In addition, the guidance outlines the following likely changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Reduction of Habitat Area.
- Disturbance to Key Species.
- Habitat or Species Fragmentation.
- Reduction in Species Density.
- Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.).
- Climate Change.

4.3 Elements of the Plan Modifications with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

An evaluation of the potential environmental implications of each Plan Action modification has been carried out. This evaluation is presented in Table 4-1.



Table 4-1: Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification

Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
GL3	<p>The words "Facilities Manager" have been added to the following action:</p> <p>Appointment of a dedicated Energy Officer, Facilities Manager and a Biodiversity Officer (in addition to the existing Heritage Officer) and the continued commitment to the three positions of a Climate Action Coordinator, a Climate Action Officer and a Community Climate Action Officer.</p> <p>The words "Facilities Manager" have been added to the KPI of this action:</p> <p>Appointment of Biodiversity Officer, Facilities Manager & Energy Officer.</p> <p>Role commitment for the three dedicated roles within the Climate Action team.</p> <p>"Corporate Services" has been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>	<p>This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. It adds one more position to be appointed.</p> <p>The inclusion of this specific, measurable, and time bound KPI for this Plan Action better supports the delivery of the action.</p> <p>This amendment also clarifies the lead departments of the action.</p> <p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>
GL4	<p>The following action has been reworded:</p> <p>Wexford County Council (WCC) will continue to develop emergency response coordination, including severe weather plan, flood plan, and major emergency plan and adverse weather Emergency Housing protocol to increase staff and public awareness, highlight potential risk to safety and to ensure all people staff travel, only in safe conditions and design and document a process in providing a severe weather event incident logging system.</p> <p>Lead Dept & Partners have been included:</p> <p>An Garda Siochana Housing Section Homeless Services and Support Unit (HSSU)</p>	<p>This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. It clarifies the County will continue with the development of emergency response plans, as well as includes the public as part of the awareness protocol.</p> <p>This amendment also clarifies the lead departments of the action.</p> <p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>



Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
	Voluntary Groups	
GL6	The KPI "increase in awareness" has been deleted from this action. Environmental Section, PPN and IFA have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.	This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better supports the delivery of the action. This amendment also clarifies the lead departments of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
GL8	The KPI of this action has been updated from "Wexford and Waterford Education and Training Board data" to "No of Training events and No of attendees".	This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better support the delivery of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
GL9	The KPI "Number of groups within organisation where climate action is included on agenda" has been added to this action. PPN have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.	This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better supports the delivery of the action. This amendment also clarifies the lead departments of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
GL12	The words "or citizen science projects" have been added to the following action: Identify research and collaborative opportunities with third level institutes on climate & sustainability projects/initiatives e.g. SETU and Maynooth University or citizen science projects. "PPN and 3rd Level Institutions" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.	This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. It adds one more example of research opportunities to be considered. This amendment also clarifies the lead departments of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.



Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
GL13	The following KPI has been added to this action "No. of referrals to/from agencies".	This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better support the delivery of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
GL14	The following KPI has been added to this action, replacing the previous one "To prepare a climate proofing matrix".	This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better support the delivery of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
BET3	The following KPI has been deleted from this action "Procure an additional Environment Warden electric van for Environment use".	This amendment involves the removal of a KPI and will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
BET4	The following words have been added to the KPI of this action "Department targets per annum": Number of upgrades of Social Housing in line with Department targets per annum.	This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better support the delivery of the action. It does change the focus and intent of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
BET5	The following KPI has been deleted from this action "Percentage of Public Lighting completed".	This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better support the delivery of the action. It does change the focus and intent of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.



Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
BET6	PPN have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.	This amendment clarifies the lead departments of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
BET7	<p>The words "charging infrastructure" and "facilitate" have been added to the following action:</p> <p>Revise & update Wexford County Council (WCC) Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy to take account of national guidance and work with ZEVl to facilitate the EV Charging Infrastructure within the public realm of County Wexford for Cars, buses & coaches having due regard to ensuring disabled access to EV charging, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage.</p> <p>"Completion of revised Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy for County Wexford in line with Department of Transport National Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022 – 2025" has been added as KPI of this action. "County Council Yearly comparison of EV Charging Infrastructure within the county" has been deleted from KPI column.</p>	<p>This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. It clarifies the strategy to be developed relates to charging infrastructure.</p> <p>It also amended the action's KPI, which is now specific, measurable, and time bound and better supports the delivery of the action.</p> <p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>
BET10	"Percentage increase in walking routes" has been added as KPI of this action. "Percentage of facilities that are multi-user accessible Sports Active - increased number of programmes Active Travel" has been deleted from KPI column.	<p>This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better supports the delivery of the action.</p> <p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>
BET11	"Amount of CO2 saved" has been added as KPI of this action. "scheme on a trial basis and potential roll out of the scheme on a wider basis to reach a wider population" has been deleted from KPI column.	<p>This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better supports the delivery of the action.</p> <p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>



Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
BET14	<p>"within Croí Cónaithe " has been added to the KPI of this action: Record the number of grant applications. Record the Number of vacant houses reoccupied within Croí Cónaithe. "CO2 savings calculated on reoccupation versus a new build" has been deleted from KPI column.</p>	<p>This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better supports the delivery of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>
BET15	<p>The words "Carry out Climate Risk assessment of historic sites and structures and" have been added to the following action: Carry out Climate Risk assessment of historic sites and structures and build climate resilience of archaeological and architectural heritage in public and private ownership through schemes such as at the Built Heritage Scheme, Historic Towns Initiative, Irish Walled Towns Network, Community Monuments Fund and Historic Structures Fund having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species. "Number of Risk Assessments Completed." has been added as KPI of this action.</p>	<p>This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. It specifies the action relates to Climate Risk Assessment of historic sites and structures. Such risk assessment will inform Plan implementation, but will not generate any real environmental effects in and off itself. It also added a specific, measurable, and time bound KPI to better support the delivery of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>
BET18	<p>"Progress on stages of Greenways/Blueways/ Trails developed" has been added as KPI of this action.</p>	<p>This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better support the delivery of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>
BET19	<p>"Progress on Renewable Energy Hub through various stages of planning, funding and delivery " has been added as KPI of this action. "Number of engagement meetings" has been deleted from KPI column.</p>	<p>This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better supports the delivery of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>



Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
BET28	Energy Officer have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.	This amendment clarifies the lead departments of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
BET6	Bus Eireann, Wexford Bus and Local Link have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.	This amendment clarifies the lead departments of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
BET23	The following KPI has been added to this action, replacing the previous one: "This requirement will be implemented through planning applications. All relevant planning applications will be required to meet the standards in the County Development Plan."	This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better support the delivery of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
BET29	"Development of the proofing Index" has been added as KPI of this action. "Score of the social and environmental value of a residential development" has been deleted from KPI column.	This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better supports the delivery of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
NEGI 9	"Number of planning applications that include climate change mitigation/adaptation measures" has been added as KPI of this action.	This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better supports the delivery of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
NEGI 15	The following KPI has been added to this action, replacing the previous one: "This requirement will be implemented as a condition of planning permission on 100% of planning application for single houses in rural areas."	This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better support the delivery of the action.



Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
		This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
NEGI 17	"Number of" has been added to the KPI of this action: Number of farm inspections in line with EU Water Framework Directive 3rd cycle data.	This amended KPI is specific, measurable, and time bound and better supports the delivery of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
NEGI18	The words "and businesses" have been added to the following action: Promote Water Conservation in the community and businesses by liaising with Uisce Eireann Stewardship programme and the Local Enterprise Office as well a Public Participation Network. The following KPI has been added to the action: Number of trainees attending Stewardship events. "Local Enterprise Office and PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.	This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. It now considers the businesses in the promotion of water conservation. The action still just focuses on advocacy and community engagement. It does not support activities or development that are likely to give rise to 'likely, significant' environmental effects. The inclusion of this specific, measurable, and time bound KPI for this Plan Action better supports the delivery of the action. This amendment also clarifies the lead departments of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
NEGI19	The words "other advisors" and "Forestry Schemes" have been added to the following action: Liaise & collaborate with Teagasc and other advisors to influence and advocate towards more sustainable agricultural and forestry practices including signpost programmes and Forestry Schemes.	This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. It now considers other advisors in the process of making programmes and schemes for forestry and agricultural practices more sustainable.



Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
	<p>The following words "attending farming sustainability" have been added to this action's KPI: Number of people attending farming sustainability events.</p> <p>"Uisce Éireann" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>	<p>The action still just focuses on advocacy and community engagement. It does not support activities or development that are likely to give rise to 'likely, significant' environmental effects.</p> <p>The inclusion of this specific, measurable, and time bound KPI for this Plan Action better supports the delivery of the action.</p> <p>This amendment also clarifies the lead departments of the action.</p> <p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>
NEGI20	<p>"Uisce Éireann" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>	<p>This amendment clarifies the lead departments of the action.</p> <p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>
NEGI21	<p>The words "and forestry" have been added to the following action: Implement a collaboration project with a series of "champion farmer" events around the county to showcase what agriculture and forestry is doing for climate change, water quality and biodiversity.</p> <p>"PPN and Uisce Éireann" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>	<p>This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. It now considers the forestry sector.</p> <p>The action still just focuses on advocacy and community engagement. It does not support activities or development that are likely to give rise to 'likely, significant' environmental effects.</p> <p>This amendment also clarifies the lead departments of the action.</p> <p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>
NEGI22	<p>"Environment" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>	<p>This amendment clarifies the lead departments of the action.</p> <p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>



Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
NEGI23	"BIM" and "Seal Sanctuary" have been removed and replaced with "Biodiversity Officer and Farmers" in the Lead Dept & Partners Column.	This amendment clarifies the lead departments of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
NEGI25	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.	This amendment clarifies the lead departments of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
CRT1	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.	This amendment clarifies the lead departments of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
CRT2	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.	This amendment clarifies the lead departments of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
CRT3	"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.	This amendment clarifies the lead departments of the action. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
CRT5	The words "communities and" and "allotments to support local food/vegetable production" have been added to the following action: Engage with communities and residents' association about the part they can play to combat climate change in their shared & individual gardens\allotments to support local food/vegetable production.	This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. It now promotes community gardens/allotments. Local authority community engagement related to the promotion of community gardens/allotments will not give rise to any 'likely, significant' environmental effects, in and off itself. The development of such facilities is subject to relevant public open space policy which has



Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
	<p>The following KPIs have been added to this action: Completion of a community garden/allotment needs assessment Percentage Increase in number of gardens/allotments Number of entries in Keep Wexford Beautiful under the following categories: 1. Best Community Environment Initiative 2. Best Community Project that tackles and reduces the impacts of Climate Change 3. Best Community Project to Improve Accessibility in Gardens/Parks</p> <p>"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>	<p>been defined in the County Development Plan (which has been environmental assessed seperately).</p> <p>The inclusion of these specific, measurable, and time bound KPIs for this Plan Action better support the delivery of the action.</p> <p>This amendment also clarifies the lead departments of the action.</p> <p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>
CRT15	<p>The following new action to be included in the Communities, Resilience & Transition section of the Plan: Explore and develop just transition opportunities, particularly in sectors vulnerable to the effects of climate mitigation and climate Adaptation such as skills training, and energy poverty reduction measures.</p>	<p>This additional action is training related and it will serve to promote opportunities and climate action within the vulnerable sectors and community. The action supports the full realisation of the vision and objectives of the plan within the local authority. This action will be beneficial; however, it is in keeping with the environmental effects identified and considered under the SEA/AA process to date. There are no additional sources for likely, significant environmental effects.</p>
SRM1	<p>"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>	<p>This amendment clarifies the lead departments of the action.</p> <p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>
SRM3	<p>The words "(where possible) and promoting sustainable travel through park & ride/active travel" have been added to the following action: Promotion of the Fleadh Ceoil in Wexford as a sustainable event, aiming to reduce single use plastics (where possible) and promoting sustainable travel through park & ride/active travel and encourage</p>	<p>This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. It now considers to promote sustainable travel to the event.</p> <p>This amendment also clarifies the lead departments of the action.</p>



Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
	<p>circular economy through awareness initiatives and apply lessons learned to future events.</p> <p>"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>	<p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>
SRM4	<p>"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>	<p>This amendment clarifies the lead departments of the action.</p> <p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>
DZ GL1	<p>"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>	<p>This amendment clarifies the lead departments of the action.</p> <p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>
DZ NEG13	<p>"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>	<p>This amendment clarifies the lead departments of the action.</p> <p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>
DZ SRM2	<p>"PPN" have been included as Lead Dept & Partners.</p>	<p>This amendment clarifies the lead departments of the action.</p> <p>This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.</p>



4.1 Summary of the Evaluation

The Plan Action modifications are broadly intended to provide clarification on existing information and give better effect to the LACAP having regard to the consultation process. They will not result in any additional sources for likely, significant environmental effects, including effects on ecological processes or European sites, not already considered by the existing NIR for the Draft LACAP.

The Plan Action modifications will not introduce any of the following types of additional environmental effect that have the potential to affect European sites.

- Land take;
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.);
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air);
- Excavation;
- Transportation;
- Construction, Operation, Decommissioning activities.

The Plan Action modifications will not result in any of the following types of change that may occur at a European site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Reduction of Habitat Area.
- Disturbance to Key Species.
- Habitat or Species Fragmentation.
- Reduction in Species Density.
- Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.).
- Climate Change impact.

Further assessment is therefore not required.

4.2 Other Plans and Programs

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. There are no additional sources for effects identified within the Proposed amendments; therefore, there are no in-combination effects.



5. CONCLUSION

Stage 1 Screening for AA of Plan modifications was carried out to determine the need for a full AA for the Plan modifications to the Draft LACAP in this case. It has been demonstrated that implementation of the Plan modifications are not foreseen to have any significant effects on any European Site.

The principal reasons the Modifications to the Draft LACAP do will not give rise to any likely significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, are as follows:

The modifications are only intended to provide clarification on existing Climate Actions defined in the Draft LACAP and make the LACAP more operative and focussed.

- The modifications are not material and will not result in any additional, likely significant environmental effects, including effects in ecological processes or European sites, not already considered in the NIR for the Draft LACAP.

It is concluded in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of conservation objectives, that the Modifications to the Draft LACAP will not give rise to any likely significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Consequently, a Stage 2 AA is not required for the Plan modifications.



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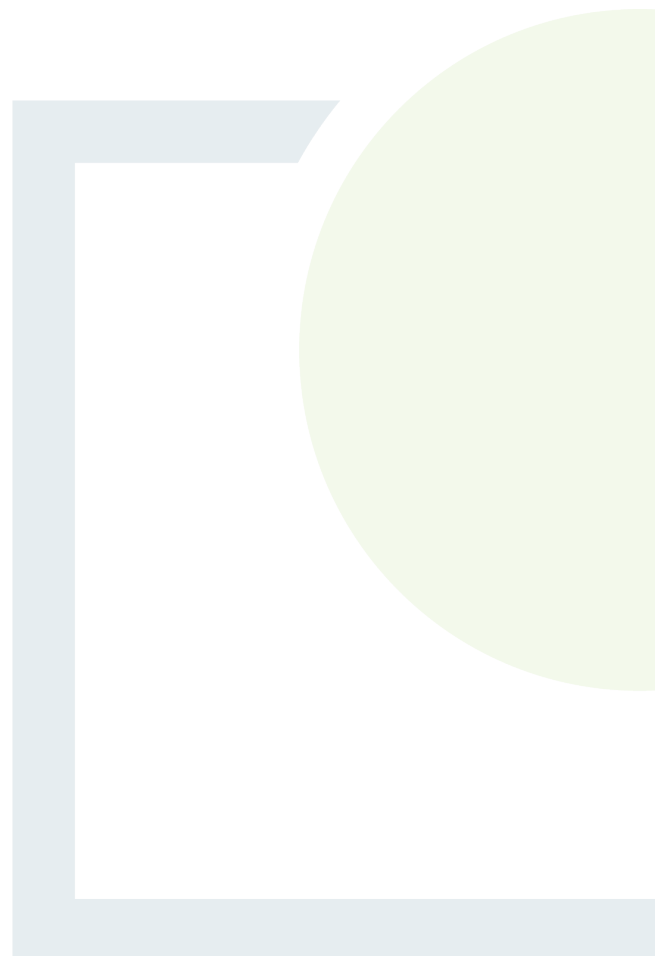
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APPENDIX 1

Author Details



Author Details

Lead Author - Andrew Torsney is a Principal Ecologist with over 12 years' experience working on major national and local scale projects. Andrew graduated from University College Dublin in 2011 with a B.Sc. degree in Zoology and obtained Master's degree in Biodiversity and Conservation from the University of Leeds in 2012. He has a range of ecological skills which include habitat mapping, ecological surveying, data interpretation and report writing. Andrew is a vegetative plant specialist, who has a wealth of experience classifying riparian habitats and identifying rare floral species. Andrew has a vast knowledge of riparian and freshwater ecosystems and undertakes freshwater surveys regularly. Andrew holds 4 national protected species licenses and has a lot of experience optioning surveying licenses for aquatic species such as the white clawed crayfish. He is also a Bat specialist with a wealth of experience, in acoustic surveying and monitoring of bats. Throughout Andrews's career he has worked on a number of large-scale multifaceted projects such as the Killaloe to Dublin water supply project NIS. For this work, Andrew designed and oversaw all ecological field work relating to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and AA.

Andrew has been the principal ecologist for a range of projects including the AA of the National Wind Energy Guidelines, a number of AAs for County Councils and a range of large-scale infrastructure projects.



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