FEHILY TIMONEY

CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

# WICKLOW LOCAL AREA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024-2029

## Natura Impact Report

**Prepared for:**

**Wicklow County Council**

WICKLOW
ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

**Date:** **September 2023**

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# Natura Impact Report for the Wicklow Local Area Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

**REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT**

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**Client:** Wicklow County Council

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

**Abstract:** Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Natura Impact Report for the Local Area Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Draft Wicklow Local Area Climate Action Plan 2024-2028 [the Draft LACAP] in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

This report is part of the ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Draft LACAP. It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, when Wicklow County Council finalises the AA at adoption of the Draft LACAP.

## 1.2 Legislative Context

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

## 1.3 Approach

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and grey literature[1] 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 new Draft County Development Plan and accompanying the SEA Environmental Report and the Council's current County Development Plan and associated SEA Environmental Report and AA Natura Impact Report.

[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.

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 Draft LACAP comprised the following elements:

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

***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 model[2], 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 Draft 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 Draft 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.

The scope of the AA was informed by the submissions received on the scope of the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment[3] (SEA) process being undertaken on the Draft LACAP, including a submission from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that provided various information and suggestions relevant to the AA.

[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

[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 DRAFT LOCAL AREA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

## 2.1 Overview

The Draft Wicklow LACAP 2024-2029 will be prepared over the coming months. The Plan will provide 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) by 2050 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 Objective[4].

The preparation of the LACAP will be 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 Wicklow County Council.

## 2.2 Context setting background to Wicklow County Council's Role and the LACAP

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.

[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 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**

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
Local Authority Climate Action Plans

**FIGURE NO:** 2.1

**CLIENT:** WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**DATE:** 26/07/2023 **SCALE:** 1:252,500 @ A3

N W E S

0 2 4 7 km

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## 2.3 Wicklow 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 Wicklow 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.

Wicklow County Council is free to determine their own approach to the style and structure of their climate action plans but 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 Wicklow Local Authority Climate Action Plan (2024-2029) will consider specific adaptation and mitigation measures across key themes including Governance & Leadership, Built Environment & Transport, Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure, Communities Resilience & Transition and Sustainability & Resource Management.

### 2.4.2 Overview of the Draft LACAP

The Vision guiding the LACAP is:

> *"Leverage the capability, operations and resources of Wicklow County Council to effectively lead and coordinate climate mitigation and adaptation to develop a vibrant decarbonized future for communities with resilient and regenerative natural systems throughout County Wicklow."*

The County Council's Mission is to:

> *"Deliver transformative change and measurable climate action in the operation of our services for the people of Wicklow, through leadership and example. Mobilise action on mitigation and adaptation through partnership with communities, enterprise and other stakeholders at regional and local level. Create a low carbon, climate resilient future, for the county."*

Wicklow County Council has set eight Strategic Goals for our plan which address our commitments through the Climate Charter, the National Climate Plan and the role assigned under the Climate action and Low Carbon Development Act 2021. They are based on the objectives of the Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 and are listed as follows:

1. Adopt climate focused governance, provide leadership, and build partnerships for climate action.
2. Achieve carbon emissions reduction of 51% and energy efficiency improvement of 50% in our operations by 2030, creating a pathway to net zero by 2050.
3. Deliver on climate adaptation, biodiversity resilience and enhanced capacity for our environment to adapt to changing conditions.
4. Mobilise and empower climate action in local communities.
5. Mobilise climate action in enterprise and agriculture supporting the transition to an inclusive, net zero and circular economy.

6. Achieve a 'just transition' particularly for communities that may be economically disadvantaged by decarbonising projects or impacted by climate change.
7. Support decarbonisation of transport and modal shift from cars to active travel and public transport.
8. Test the scope and scale of decarbonisation in Arklow with the aim of creating a vibrant town which has low carbon living at its core.

The primary focus will be to transform the County Council's own operations and delivery of services. As an organisation they work with a diverse range of stakeholders at national and local level and the plan will build collaboration with stakeholders and communities to strengthen both their shared and their own delivery of Climate Action. As part of plan development, they engaged with stakeholders and communities to get a better understanding of issues that they feel can be addressed through the plan and to identify opportunity to build collaboration.

Wicklow County Council delivers services through five directorates all of which will play a role in embedding and delivering Climate Action the five directorates and their key service areas which have roles to play in delivering Climate Action are listed below:

| | |
|---|---|
| Corporate and Enterprise Services | Governance, Primary role in policy development, Supporting the elected members, Staff Training, Communications, Economic strategy and support |
| Transport, Water & Emergency Services | Roads & infrastructure maintenance, Development of infrastructure, Active Travel, Supporting development of public transport, Local water schemes, Emergency services coordination and planning, Municipal Districts, Fleet management, public lighting. |
| Housing and Corporate Estate | Social housing provision, retrofitting of social housing, Estates management, Management of corporate buildings |
| Planning Development and Environment | Planning, Planning Enforcement, Development Planning including the County Development Plan and Local Area Plans, Waste Management, Pollution Control, Flood relief and coastal protection works, Harbour management, Climate Action, Environmental Awareness, Biodiversity, Heritage, Energy Management |
| Community, Culture and Social Development | Community Development, Community Funding, Social inclusion, Libraries, Local Sports Partnership, Arts |

The plan takes a place-based approach considering the strategic challenges and opportunities at local level within the county. Wicklow had a population of 155,851 recorded in Census 2022, distributed mostly in the East and North of the county where the major settlements are located while the south and west are more rural in character.

Geographically the county is divided by the Wicklow Mountains running north to south. The Wicklow Uplands contain Wicklow National Park and the wider Wicklow Mountains SAC. Hill farming and forestry are significant land use activities. The uplands are a catchment source for local and regional rivers including the River Liffey and the River Slaney. The uplands contain significant areas of blanket peatland and hillside vegetation with potential to hold and sequestrate carbon. Wicklow has a coast line from Bray to south of Arklow. Parts of this coastline are vulnerable to coastal erosion most notably from Greystones to Wicklow Town but also including areas such as Brittas Bay and the Arklow Area. Settlements in the coastal zone are vulnerable to flooding from fluvial, pluvial and coastal inundation.

#### *2.4.2.1 LACAP Geographic Area*

The LACAP area covers Wicklow 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.

# 3. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

## 3.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

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

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

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat[5] or species[6] 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 Draft 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 Draft 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 North Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000206] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000210] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Pollardstown Fen SAC [IE0000396] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Red Bog, Kildare SAC [IE0000397] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Ballyman Glen SAC [IE0000713] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Bray Head SAC [IE0000714] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Carriggower Bog SAC [IE0000716] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC [IE0000717] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Glen of the Downs SAC [IE0000719] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Knocksink Wood SAC [IE0000725] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC [IE0000729] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC [IE0000733] 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 (2021) Conservation Objectives for Glenasmole Valley SAC [IE0001209] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [IE0001398] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC [IE0001742] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Holdenstown Bog SAC [IE0001757] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Magherabeg Dunes SAC [IE0001766] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SAC [IE0002122] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for River Barrow and River Nore SAC [IE0002162] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for The Murrough Wetlands SAC [IE0002249] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Reef SAC [IE0002274] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [IE0003000] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for North Bull Island SPA [IE0004006] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [IE0004024] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [IE0004040] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA [IE0004063] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Head SPA [IE0004127] Version 9.

- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [IE0004172] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for The Murrough SPA [IE0004186] Version 9.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA [IE0004076] Version 1.

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 Draft 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 Draft LACAP Necessary to the Management of European Sites?

The overarching objective of the Draft 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 Draft LACAP is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites.

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

The Draft 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:

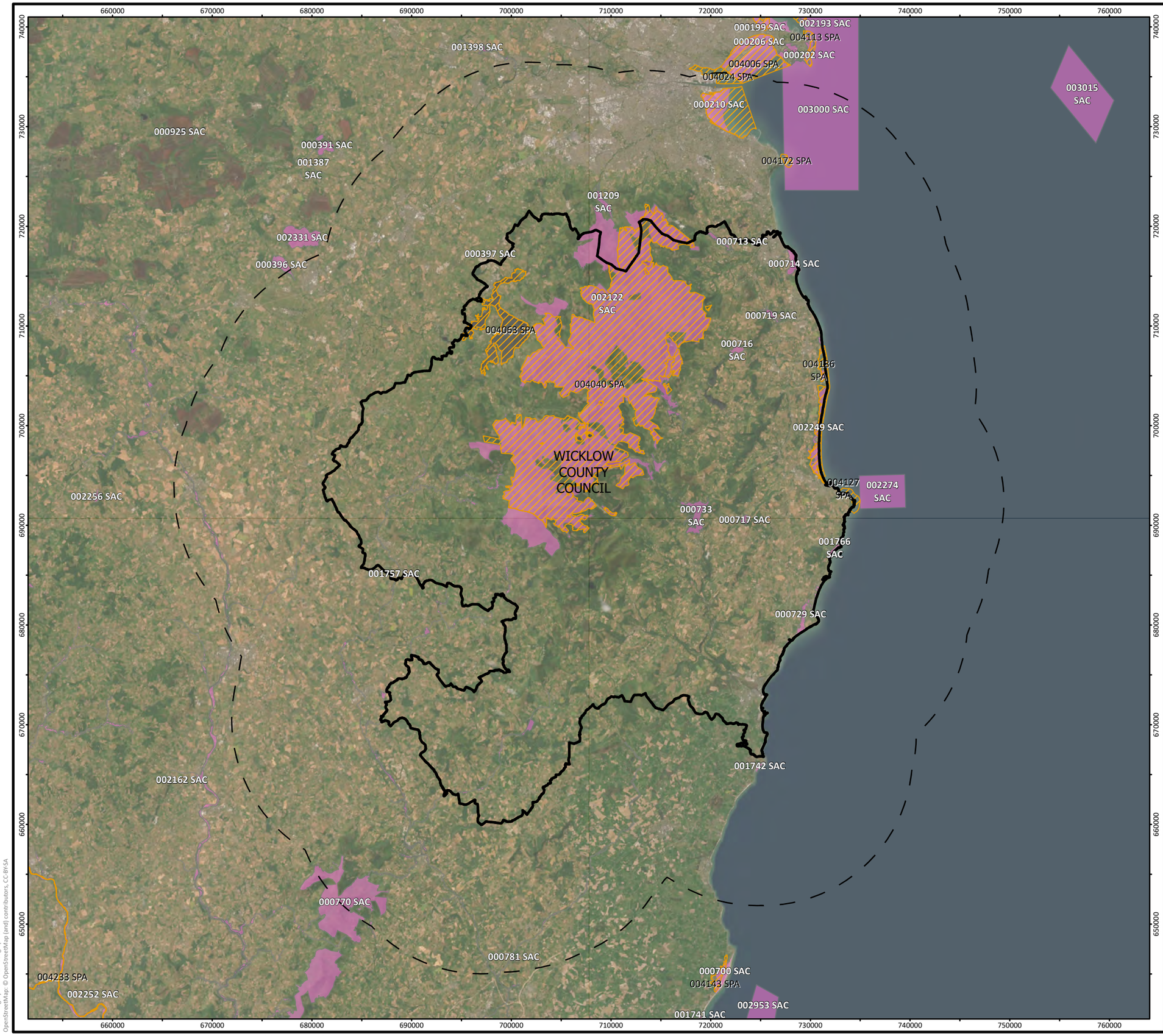
- *Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:*
  - *Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and 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.*
- *Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity is needed to ensure the mitigation of potential conflicts).*
- *Emissions to air including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions.*

The elements of the Draft LACAP with the highest potential to give rise to the effects indicated above are associated with construction phase elements of the implementation of the Draft LACAP. The operational phase elements of the Draft 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, Draft LACAP proposals and the site to be screened;
- The distance of the relevant site from the Draft LACAP boundary; and
- The existence of a link between identified threats or vulnerabilities at a site to potential impacts that may arise from the Draft 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**

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
Local Authority Climate Action Plans

**FIGURE NO:** 3.1

**CLIENT:** WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**DATE:** 15/08/2023 **SCALE:** 1:375,000 @ A3

N W E S 0 3 5 10 km

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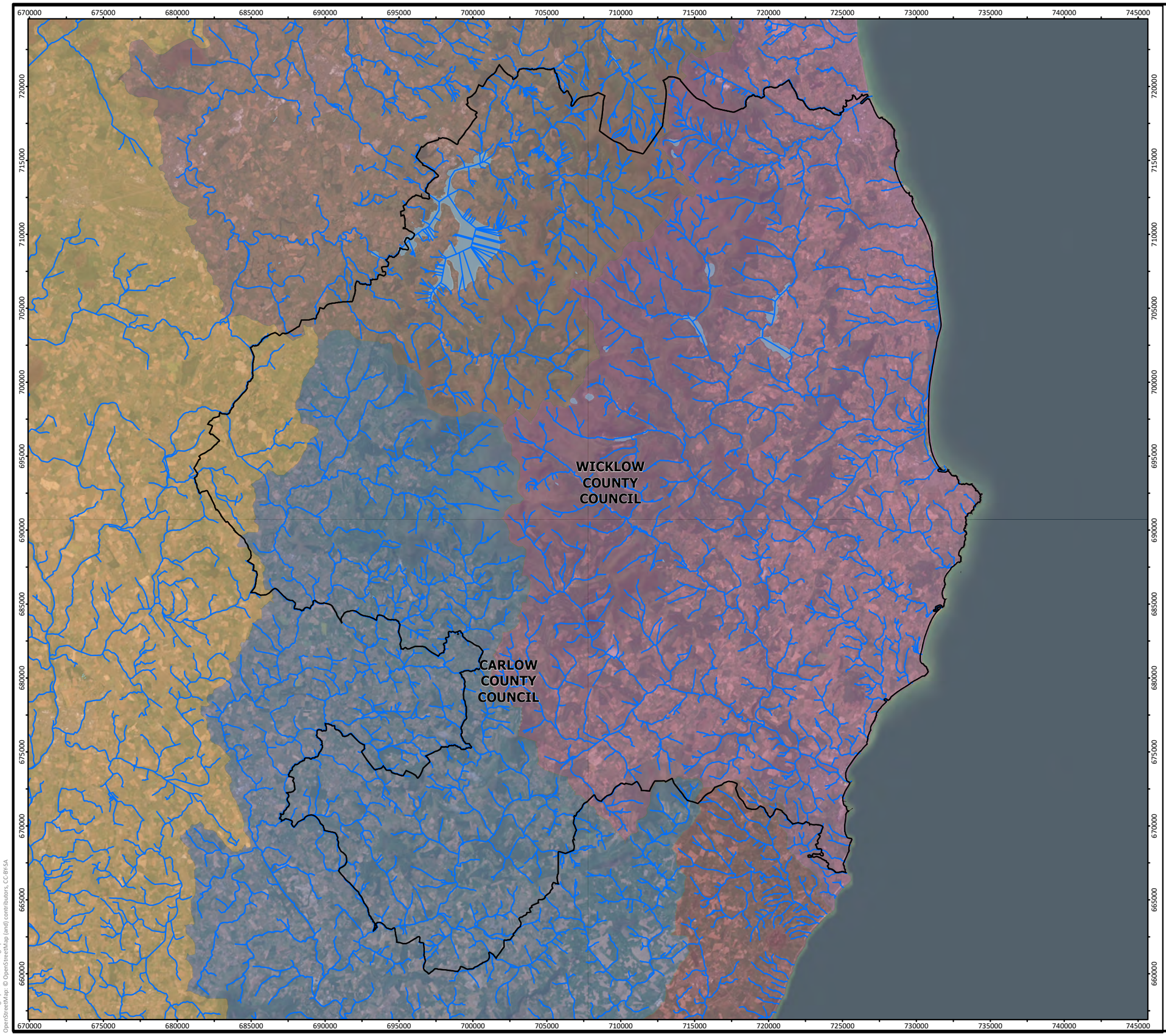



Legend

- Local Authority Boundaries
- Rivers

WFD Catchments

Catchment Name

- Barrow
- Liffey and Dublin Bay
- Ovoca-Vartry
- Owenavorragh
- Slaney & Wexford Harbour

**Hydrology**

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
Local Authority Climate Action Plans

| | |
|---|---|
| **FIGURE NO:** | 3.2 |
| **CLIENT:** | WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL |
| **DATE:** | 15/08/2023 |
| **SCALE:** | 1:252,500 @ A3 |

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**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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 000713 | Ballyman Glen SAC | 0 | Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Alkaline fens [7230] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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. | Yes | Yes |
| 000714 | Bray Head SAC | 0 | European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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. | 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 000716 | Carriggower Bog SAC | 0 | Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interest as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | Yes | Yes |
| 000717 | Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC | 0 | Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interest as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | Yes | Yes |
| 000719 | Glen of the Downs SAC | 0 | Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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 Interest as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | | |
| 000725 | Knocksink Wood SAC | 0 | Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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. | Yes | Yes |
| 000729 | Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC | 0 | Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Humid dune slacks [2190], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae) [2170], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150], Alkaline fens [7230], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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. | 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 000733 | Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC | 0 | Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interest as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | Yes | Yes |
| 000781 | Slaney River Valley SAC | 0 | Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], Twaite shad (Alosa fallax) [1103], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina) [1365], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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. | 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] | | | |
| 001742 | Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC | 0 | Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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. | Yes | Yes |
| 001757 | Holdenstown Bog SAC | 0 | Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interest as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 001766 | Magherabeg Dunes SAC | 0 | Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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. | Yes | Yes |
| 002122 | Wicklow Mountains SAC | 0 | Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], European dry heaths [4030], Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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. | 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 002249 | The Murrough Wetlands SAC | 0 | Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Alkaline fens [7230] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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. | Yes | Yes |
| 004040 | Wicklow Mountains SPA | 0 | Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) [A103], Merlin (Falco columbarius) [A098] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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 |
| 004063 | Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA | 0 | Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183], Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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 Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | | |
| 004127 | Wicklow Head SPA | 0 | Black-legged kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interest as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | Yes | Yes |
| 004186 | The Murrough SPA | 0 | Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) [A195], Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata) [A001], Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043] | The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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 |

| 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 000397 | Red Bog, Kildare SAC | 0.3 | Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] | There is a separation distance of ca. 0.3 km between this European Site and the area of Wicklow County LACAP and a potential groundwater connection is present.<br>The Draft 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.<br>There is the potential for significant effects to the Qualifying Interest of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | Yes | Yes |
| 002274 | Wicklow Reef SAC | 0.44 | Reefs [1170] | There is a separation distance of ca. 440 m between this European Site and the area of Wicklow County LACAP.<br>The Draft 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.<br>At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interest as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 001209 | Glenasmole Valley SAC | 1.77 | Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210] | There is a separation distance of ca. 1.77 km between this European Site and the area of Wicklow County LACAP and a potential groundwater connection is present.<br>The Draft 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.<br>There is the potential for significant effects to the Qualifying Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | Yes | Yes |
| 003000 | Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC | 4.17 | Reefs [1170], Harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) [1351] | There is a separation distance of ca. 4.17 km between this European Site and the area of Wicklow County LACAP and no hydrological connection is present.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 004172 | Dalkey Islands SPA | 6.52 | Roseate tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192], Common tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193], Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194] | This European Site is within 15km of the area of Wicklow LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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. | Yes | Yes |
| 000210 | South Dublin Bay SAC | 8.52 | Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] | There is a separation distance of ca. 8.52 km between this European Site and the area of Wicklow County LACAP and no hydrological connection is present.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 004024 | South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA | 8.52 | Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Common tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] | This European Site is within 15km of the area of Wicklow LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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. | Yes | Yes |
| 000770 | Blackstairs Mountains SAC | 10.73 | Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], European dry heaths [4030] | There is a separation distance of ca. 10.73 km between this European Site and the area of Wicklow County LACAP.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 002162 | River Barrow and River Nore SAC | 12.87 | Nore Pearl Mussel (Margaritifera durrovensis) [1990], White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) [1092], Reefs [1170], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], Killarney fern (Trichomanes speciosum) [1421], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Desmoulin`s whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], European dry heaths [4030], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Twaite shad (Alosa fallax) [1103], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Estuaries [1130], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] | There is a separation distance of ca. 12.87 km between this European Site and the area of Wicklow County LACAP and a hydrological connection of 6.85 km (instream distance) is present.<br><br>The Draft 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.<br><br>There is the potential for significant effects to the Qualifying Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 000396 | Pollardstown Fen SAC | 13.75 | Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Desmoulin`s whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (Vertigo angustior) [1014], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Geyer`s whorl snail (Vertigo geyeri) [1013] | There is a separation distance of ca. 13.75 km between this European Site and the area of Wicklow County LACAP and a potential groundwater connection is present.<br>The Draft 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.<br>There is the potential for significant effects to the Qualifying Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | Yes | Yes |
| 004006 | North Bull Island SPA | 13.97 | Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056] | This European Site is within 15km of the area of Wicklow LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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. | 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 000206 | North Dublin Bay SAC | 13.98 | Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii) [1395], Humid dune slacks [2190], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] | There is a separation distance of ca. 13.98 km between this European Site and the area of Wicklow County LACAP and no hydrological connection is present.<br>The Draft 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.<br>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 |
| 001398 | Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC | 14.33 | Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (Vertigo angustior) [1014], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Desmoulin`s whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016] | There is a separation distance of ca. 14.33 km between this European Site and the area of Wicklow County LACAP and a potential groundwater connection is present.<br>The Draft 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.<br>There is the potential for significant effects to the Qualifying Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | Yes | Yes |
| 004076 | Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA | 21.11 | Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A053], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Golden Plover | There is a separation distance of ca. 21.11 km between this European Site and the area of Wicklow County LACAP and a | 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Coot (Fulica atra) [A125], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Little Tern (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] | hydrological connection of 40.81 km (instream distance) is present.<br>The Draft 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.<br>There is the potential for significant effects to the Qualifying Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | | |

## 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 Draft 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 Eastern and Midland 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 Draft LACAP. As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Draft LACAP is consistent with and conforms with national and regional policies, plans and programmes, including the NPF and the RSES for the Eastern and Midland Region. The County Development Plan may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions, such as the that will be subject to their own lower-tier environmental assessments.

In order to be realised, projects included in the Draft 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 Draft 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 Draft LACAP. Given the uncertainties that exist with regard to the scale and location of developments facilitated by the Draft 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 Draft 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 Draft LACAP:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant adverse effects on 28 (no.) European sites.

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

# 4. STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

## 4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the Draft LACAP alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 28 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 28 European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Draft 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 website[7].

## 4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts[8]:

- 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 SSCOs 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 cSACs:

> *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 Draft 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 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 Draft LACAP; however, several mitigation measures have been integrated into the Draft 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 5NEGI[9], 8NEGI[10], 11NEGI[11], 15NEGI[12], 22NEGI[13], 25NEGI[14], 27NEGI[15], 28NEGI[16], 14ADZ[17] and 18ADZ[18] etc.

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.

[9] Engage with neighbouring Local Authorities and other relevant organisations (including Irish Rail) on coastal erosion.
[10] Incorporate Nature Based Measures for coastal erosion in order to support the conservation and management of Sand Dunes at Brittas Bay, having due regard to environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value etc.
[11] Generally seek a buffer of 25-metre set back riparian zone for Urban Areas is adhered to for all water courses in compliance with the Inland Fisheries Ireland publication 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment'.
[12] Provide guidelines on landscape design and maintenance including the retention of trees and hedgerows.
[13] Develop an integrated programme to address Invasive Alien Species through education and with recording and eradication programmes in the public realm. This programme shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage and prevent the spread of invasive species.
[14] Assist local community stakeholders engaging in peatland rewetting, woodland creation and nature restoration to access funding to undertaker projects in upland areas.
[15] Develop a hill and forest fire management response and prevention strategy, including protocols for responding to fires, enforcement, awareness campaigns of the impact of fires and systems to measure the extent and economic costs of fires, having appropriate regard to the need to support the achievement of conservation objectives and protect and enhance important habitats or the qualifying interests of any protected sites.
[16] Review the Tree Management Policy and support its implementation.
[17] Implement the Wicklow SuDS Policy, Tree Management Policy and Landscape Development Guidelines to promote biodiversity gain.
[18] Undertake a pilot with the Native Oyster Reef Restoration Ireland project to test the re-establishment of oyster beds and kelp restoration on a demonstration scale.

- 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.
- Flood defence projects or related maintenance works supported by plan actions shall be carried out in a manner that promotes climate action-biodiversity related co-benefits, and shall have due regard for the protection and enhancement of rare, protected or important habitats and species.
- Ensure climate action related projects are carried out in a manner that promotes climate action-cultural heritage co-benefits, and do not result in unauthorised physical damage to cultural, archaeological or architectural features, or unauthorised or inappropriate alteration of the context of sensitive cultural heritage features.
- Ensure climate action related projects are carried out in a manner that promotes climate action water quality co-benefits, and align with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and relevant River Basin Management Plan.
- Promote climate action projects that support protected trees, hedgerows and other habitats such as wetlands, floodzones which contribute to green infrastructure.
- 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.
- Ensure all projects supported by the council have taken the necessary precautions to identify and manage invasives species, particularly with regard to Schedule III species. No climate action related development project that is likely to cause the spread of invasives species listed in Schedule III shall be supported.
- Support opportunities to support peatland restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance while achieving climate targets through the implementation of the climate actions within the plan.

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 Draft 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 Draft 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 Draft LACAP provides actions to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as hedgerows; mitigation measures such as 11NEGI[11], 14NEGI[19], 15NEGI[12], 28NEGI[16], 29NEGI[20], 14ADZ[17] etc. (see full list of measures reproduced at 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: 8BET[21] and 30NEGI[22].

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 Draft 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 Draft LACAP.

#### *4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species*

Disturbance effects are cause 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 Draft LACAP due to the provision of active travel schemes and other green initiatives within the Draft LACAP; from the perspective that many of the tourism destinations or attractions in the area are in or adjacent to European sites.

[19] Create green infrastructure standards for managing greenspace by Municipal District to include: Mowing regimes, Hedgerow management, Tree care, Management of weeds and Managing Riparian zones. These standards shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage these habitats.
[20] Develop a hedgerow plan for the county with actions to map, protect and develop hedgerows, having due regard to hedgerow area conservation requirements and the need to avoid habitat fragmentation.
[21] Complete the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme following guidance in the Public Lighting Retrofitting Guidance Document and reviewing the existing public lighting levels including the use of lower Colour Temperature in National Park areas and areas with recorded bat populations, having due regard for the impact the spectrum of light used will have on protected nocturnal species such as bats.
[22] Work with stakeholders to delineate and establish a Dark Sky reserve for County Wicklow, undertaking a light assessment of Laragh and Roundwood to explore opportunities to reduce light pollution.

The Draft 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 Draft LACAP avoid or minimise noise in compliance with the Environmental Noise Directive and associated National Regulations through the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2018 - 2023. Actions to ensure the protection of habitat quality with respect to disturbance effects from noise and other sources have been built into the Draft LACAP; namely 11BET[23], 12BET[24], 13BET[25], 17BET[26], 26BET[27], 4ADZ[28] and 13ADZ[29] 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.

[23] Deliver the development of a high quality cycling and pedestrian network through Active Travel measures in urban areas and connecting communities. Ensure supported active travel development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology.
[24] Increase the number of schools involved in Safer Routes to Schools. Ensure supported active travel development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology.
[25] Strengthen towns and villages through enhancement of green infrastructure measures and sustainable transport linkages, having due regards for environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology.
[26] Assist the development of shared mobility services by increasing the number of bike facilities, e-bike schemes and shared mobility parking areas.
[27] Develop a mobility plan to reduce emissions from travel by staff including promoting the Cycle to Work scheme, shared mobility options including a Smart Mobility Hub at the County Buildings including E-bikes, an EV pool car and training for staff on the operation of same.
[28] Investigate opportunities for a shared travel scheme.
[29] Increase the number of schools involved in Safer Routes to Schools, ensuring any ancillary development have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.

#### *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 Draft 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 Draft LACAP contains provisions to enhance biodiversity, landscape and the environment within Council boundary 8NEGI[10], 13NEGI[30], 15NEGI[12], 18NEGI[31], 20NEGI[32], 21NEGI[33], 22NEGI[13], 24NEGI[34] and 25NEGI[14] etc. Similarly, the Draft 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 8NEGI[10], 11NEGI[11], 13NEGI[30], 20NEGI[32], 21NEGI[33], 22NEGI[13], 28NEGI[16], 29NEGI[20], 30NEGI[22] and 14CRT[35] 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 Draft 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 Draft LACAP.

[30] Undertake an audit of Council owned land for suitability for micro-woodlands/biodiversity by end-2025 and to set targets for planting/management with suitable vegetation.
Incorporate three pilot Woodlands on Public lands schemes in Bray, Wicklow & Grange Con.

[31] Review and Update the Wicklow Heritage Plan to record, conserve, and raise awareness of all aspects of built, natural and cultural heritage, having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.

[32] Review and update the Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan to protect and enhance local biodiversity, including climate-relevant measures, having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive. This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage these habitats.

[33] Implement pollinator conservation initiatives on public realm sites, creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly habitats based on most up to date scientific advice from All Ireland Pollinator Plan, ensuring sites and actions are mapped with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

[34] Pilot a biodiversity inclusive design for a social housing estate considering the following elements within the design: green roofs, green walls, wetland & pond NBSuDS, green car parking, nest boxes in facades, grasslands, and wildlife friendly shrubs and trees in open space, ensuring development have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.

[35] Promote native tree planting by providing:
- an annual native tree planting grant for communities and schools
- native trees to communities during National Tree Week

#### 4.3.1.5 *Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value*

Water quality is the primary macro indicator of conservation value. The Draft 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 24BET[36], 1NEGI[37], 10NEGI[38], 11NEGI[11], 25NEGI[14], 20SRM[39] and 17ADZ[40] etc. Similarly, emissions to air have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European sites; however, the Draft LACAP contains actions – such as 11BET[23], 12BET[24], 13BET[25], 15BET[41], 16BET[42], 17BET[26], 18BET[43] and 26BET[27] etc. – which account for this.

[36] Standardise the management of drainage systems within the council including:
• the regular maintenance of regional and local roads drainage systems (Annual Programme), having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.
• the recording and mapping of the areas impacted by weather events (Climate Change events) including the implementation of technology such as the Weather Impact REgister (WIRE) App to capture impacts, response and costs (including ecosystem services/natural capital costs).
• Mapping the location of attenuation tanks and drainage systems an Arc GIS.

[37] Transpose all relevant legislation and regulation on Climate Change and Flood Management into WCC Policies and guidelines. Including the promoting of natural flood measures where possible
- whilst having appropriate regard to environmental protection requirements associated with flood resilience development.

[38] Develop and implement an integrated SUDS policy to guide planning, installation, and monitoring to improve storm water management. Provide training on SUDS implementation to key staff. Incorporate guidance for maintenance of SUDS, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites and water quality.

[39] Upgrading of Council Owned Buildings to include for Nature Based SuDS and Water Demand. Ensure all SuDS related construction works are designed and implemented in a manner that does not result in the occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects.

[40] Promote rainwater harvesting, green roofs, green walls and water demand reducing projects, while ensuring projects have appropriate regard to local environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity European sites and cultural heritage considerations.

[41] Facilitate the planning and delivery of the Bus Connects and Bus Service Corridors to facilitate modal transfer to bus services on the N11 including the N11 Bus Corridor

and the Park and Ride Infrastructure Strategy for facilities at the following locations:

• Fassaroe,

• Ashford / Rathnew

• Kilpedder

[42] Facilitate the planning and delivery of
the Dart Plus Scheme. Ensure supported development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology.

[43] Implement measures to increase modal shift from private cars by visitors to the county using Public transport, Looped tourism bus services, E-mobility infrastructure, Regulation of parking, Glendalough masterplan. Ensure supported development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology.

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 11NEGI[11], 24NEGI[33], 25NEGI[14] and 18ADZ[18] etc.

#### *4.3.1.6 Climate change*

The Draft 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; 16GL[44], 1BET[45], 2BET[46], 3BET[47], 5BET[48], 6BET[49], 10BET[50], 15BET[41], 17BET[26], 18BET[43], 21BET[51], 22BET[52], 23BET[53] and 26BET[27] etc.

Therefore, there are no sources for significant effects to climate change factors identified within the Draft 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.

[44] Promote the development and uptake of remote/ blended working policies through Climate Action and other communication strategies, wherever these can reduce car commuting journeys

[45] Prioritise decarbonisation of Significant Energy Usage buildings within the Local Authority whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure due regard is had to environmental sensitivities such as protected species associated with such buildings, European sites and biodiversity.

- Four leisure centres
- County Buildings
- Bray Fire Station

[46] Investigate and undertake a pilot to incorporate reuse of material or systems into a development, lowering lifecycle carbon emissions

[47] Use low carbon construction methods, materials and low carbon cement as far as practicable for construction projects. Whole life-cycle analysis should be considered in all projects.

[48] Implement the Retrofitting Housing Programme for Wicklow housing stock achieving a BER of B2 or in compliance with TCG Part L updates utilising renewable technologies to a minimum of 700 housing units refurbished, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species associated with such buildings, European sites and biodiversity.

[49] Provide a minimum of 750 newly constructed housing units to an A2 BER rating or in compliance with TCG Part L within the lifetime of the Climate Action Plan.

[50] Install EV Charge points within Local Authority Housing developments ie Part L and Development Plan compliance as a minimum, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, and local air quality.

[51] Procure only zero emission vehicles, unless the vehicle is exempt under EC Regs SI381 of 2021. Advocate and exert influence and control, as appropriate, to ensure any development required to facilitate this action promotes climate action co-benefits and does not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.

[52] Convert the existing Fleet to a low carbon fuel source where feasible such as Hydro-treated Vegetable Oil (HVO), whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced.

[53] Incorporate the use of more sustainable methods of delivering road improvements cyclepaths and footpaths. (Eg the use of RAP, Road Recycling methods, Mico Surfacing into the annual roads program)

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

| Site Code | Site Name | Characterisation of Potential Effects |
|---|---|---|
| 000397 | Red Bog, Kildare SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to agricultural practices, mining, direct interaction with species and populations through fishing and hunting, and recreation.<br>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. |
| 000713 | Ballyman Glen SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to agricultural practices, forestry, mining, hydrological interactions, waste management, other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 000714 | Bray Head SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to burning, agricultural practices, vandalism, species composition change, erosion, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 000716 | Carriggower Bog SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to agricultural practices, forestry, species composition change, hydrological interactions, waste management, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Characterisation of Potential Effects |
|---|---|---|
| 000717 | Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to agricultural practices, vandalism, forestry, invasive species, waste management, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 000719 | Glen of the Downs SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to burning, agricultural practices, forestry, invasive species, vandalism, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 000725 | Knocksink Wood SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to burning, agricultural practices, forestry, invasive species, waste management, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 000729 | Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to burning, agricultural practices, forestry, invasive species, vandalism, species composition change, hydrological interactions, waste management, direct interaction with species and populations through hunting, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Characterisation of Potential Effects |
|---|---|---|
| 000733 | Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to burning, agricultural practices, forestry, invasive species, direct interaction with species and populations through taking and removal of animals, poaching and collection, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 000781 | Slaney River Valley SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to agricultural practices, forestry, invasive species, mining, hydrological interactions, waste management, direct interaction with species and populations through predator control, and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 001742 | Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to burning, problematic native species, species composition change, erosion, hydrological interactions, waste management, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 001757 | Holdenstown Bog SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to agricultural practices, forestry, hydrological interactions, recreation and other direct land use practices. |

| 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. |
| 001766 | Magherabeg Dunes SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to agricultural practices, erosion, species composition change, vandalism, mining, hydrological interactions, waste management, and recreation.<br>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. |
| 002122 | Wicklow Mountains SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to burning, agricultural practices, forestry, invasive species, erosion, vandalism, waste management, direct interaction with species and populations through taking from nests, collection of species and hunting, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 002249 | The Murrough Wetlands SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to agricultural practices, forestry, erosion, mining, hydrological interactions, waste management, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 002274 | Wicklow Reef SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to waste management, direct interaction with species and populations through fishing, and recreation. |

| 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. |
| 004040 | Wicklow Mountains SPA | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agricultural practices, forestry and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 004063 | Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to forestry, hydrological interactions, direct interaction with species and populations through fishing and hunting, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 004127 | Wicklow Head SPA | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to recreation.<br>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. |
| 004186 | The Murrough SPA | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agricultural practices, recreation, and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Characterisation of Potential Effects |
|---|---|---|
| 001209 | Glenasmole Valley SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to agricultural practices, forestry, invasive species, hydrological interactions, waste management, direct interaction with species and populations through fishing, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 002162 | River Barrow and River Nore SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to burning, agricultural practices, forestry, invasive species, erosion, mining, hydrological interactions, changes in abiotic conditions, direct interaction with species and populations through fishing and hunting, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 000396 | Pollardstown Fen SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to burning, agricultural practices, forestry, mining, waste management, direct interaction with species and populations through fishing and hunting, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 004006 | North Bull Island SPA | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agricultural practices, transportation, waste management, hydrological interactions, recreation and other direct land use practices. |

| 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. |
| 001398 | Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to burning, agricultural practices, forestry, hydrological interactions, and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 004172 | Dalkey Islands SPA | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agricultural practices, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 004024 | South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to transportation, hydrological interaction, waste management, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |
| 004076 | Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA | 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.<br>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to agriculture, forestry, infrastructure, direct interaction with species and populations through hunting, aquaculture, recreation and other direct land use practices.<br>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. |

# 5. MITIGATION MEASURES

This section outlines measures that have been incorporated into the Draft LACAP in order to mitigate against potential effects to European sites as identified above. The Draft 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 Draft LACAP. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European sites are identified in Table 5-1 below[54]. 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.

Some of the key text integrated into the Draft LACAP as a direct result of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and AA recommendations for the Draft LACAP are detailed on Table 5.2.

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 Draft LACAP were developed and then integrated into the Draft 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 Draft LACAP.

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

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. 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.

In addition to this, additional text clarifying environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to a variety of defined actions in the plan. This text has been shaped to ensure that environmental considerations are appropriately taken into account during plan implementation. Again, 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.

[54] 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.

Environmental mitigation measures to be integrated into the Draft LACAP to prevent, reduce and fully offset any potential significant negative environmental effects, and to maximize potential environmental benefits and co-benefits of the Draft LACAP. The reader is asked to refer to the SEA ER Appendix 3.2 - Detailed Evaluation of Environmental Effects of Plan Implementation, for an understanding of the potential environmental effects associated with each individual action which are being mitigated (in the case of negative environmental effects) or maximized (in the case of positive environmental effects).

Due to the inter-relationship between various environmental components, environmental mitigation measures defined for one component can also serve to benefit another environmental component.

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 Draft LACAP were developed and then integrated into the Draft 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 Draft LACAP.

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

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. 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.

In addition to this, additional text clarifying environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to a variety of defined actions in the plan. This text has been shaped to ensure that environmental considerations are appropriately taken into account during plan implementation. Again, 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.

Environmental mitigation measures to be integrated into the Draft LACAP to prevent, reduce and fully offset any potential significant negative environmental effects, and to maximize potential environmental benefits and co-benefits of the Draft LACAP. The reader is asked to refer to the SEA ER Appendix 3.2 - Detailed Evaluation of Environmental Effects of Plan Implementation, for an understanding of the potential environmental effects associated with each individual action which are being mitigated (in the case of negative environmental effects) or maximized (in the case of positive environmental effects).

Due to the inter-relationship between various environmental components, environmental mitigation measures defined for one component can also serve to benefit another environmental component.

**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: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 BET | Prioritise decarbonisating of Significant Energy Usage buildings within the Local Authority<br>• Four leisure centres<br>• County Buildings<br>• Bray Fire Station | This action will support the reduction/offset of the LA GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.<br><br>This action may support refurbishment or retrofitting of LA buildings. There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Older houses have the potential to house bats, retrofitting works could therefore disturb bats using these buildings. | Prioritise decarbonisation of Significant Energy Usage buildings within the Local Authority whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure due regard is had to environmental sensitivities such as protected species associated with such buildings, European sites and biodiversity<br>• Four leisure centres<br>• County Buildings<br>• Bray Fire Station |
| 4 BET | Phase out installation of heating systems that use Fossil Fuels in any new dwellings or buildings or major renovation retrofit projects by 2025. | This action has the potential to lead to several positive environmental effects of varying magnitude. It could lead to positive effects on the climate sector and circularity benefits. It has the potential to result in the offset of Residential sector GHG emissions and lifecycle GHG emissions associated with construction materials and projects.<br><br>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Older houses have the potential to house bats, retrofitting works could therefore disturb bats using these buildings. | Phase out installation of heating systems that use Fossil Fuels in any new dwellings or buildings or major renovation retrofit projects by 2025, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, protected species associated with such buildings, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 BET | Implement the Retrofitting Housing Programme for Wicklow housing stock achieving a BER of B2 or in compliance with TCG Part L updates utilising renewable technoligies to a minimum of 700 housing units refurbished. | This action will support the reduction/offset of Residential sector GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.<br><br>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Older houses have the potential to house bats, retrofitting works could therefore disturb bats using these buildings. | Implement the Retrofitting Housing Programme for Wicklow housing stock achieving a BER of B2 or in compliance with TCG Part L updates utilising renewable technoligies to a minimum of 700 housing units refurbished, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species associated with such buildings, European sites and biodiversity. |
| 7 BET | Develop a pilot to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures - using exemplar retrofitting projects. | This action has the potential to have adverse effects on Bats which are Annex IV species, as many roosts are located within old unused buildings. | Develop a pilot to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures - using exemplar retrofitting projects, having appropriate regard to the need to protect species that may be present in such buildings. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8 BET | Complete the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme following guidance in the Public Lighting Retrofitting Guidance Document and reviewing the existing public lighting levels including the use of lower Colour Temperature in National Park areas and areas with recorded bat populations. | This action will support the local authority in reducing its organisational GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. 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. | Complete the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme following guidance in the Public Lighting Retrofitting Guidance Document and reviewing the existing public lighting levels including the use of lower Colour Temperature in National Park areas and areas with recorded bat populations, having due regard for the impact the spectrum of light used will have on protected nocturnal species such as bats. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9 BET | Develop and implement an EV charging strategy that ensures geographic spread and access in areas without opportunity for homeowners to charge on their own properties. Revise and update EV Strategy in 3 years. | The expansion of the EV charging network will lead to the development of multiple charging points and ancillary electrical infrastructure including grid connection routes across the extent of the local authority's functional area.<br><br>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 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.<br><br>The delivery of good network of charging infrastructure has the potential to promote the use of sustainable travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. | Develop and implement an EV charging strategy that ensures geographic spread and access in areas without opportunity for homeowners to charge on their own properties, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, and local air quality. Revise and update EV Strategy in 3 years. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10 BET | Install EV Charge points within Local Authority Housing developments ie Part L and Development Plan compliance as a minimum. | The expansion of the EV charging network will lead to the development of multiple charging points and ancillary electrical infrastructure including grid connection routes across the extent of the local authority's functional area.<br><br>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 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.<br><br>The delivery of good network of charging infrastructure has the potential to promote the use of sustainable travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. | Install EV Charge points within Local Authority Housing developments ie Part L and Development Plan compliance as a minimum, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, and local air quality. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11 BET | Deliver the development of a high quality cycling and pedestrian network through Active Travel measures in urban areas and connecting communities. | This action supports the development of additional pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.<br><br>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional pedestrian or cycling infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of environmental effects, including 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.<br><br>This action also has the potential to generate some degree of positive environmental effect due to a reduction in vehicle use. | Deliver the development of a high quality cycling and pedestrian network through Active Travel measures in urban areas and connecting communities. Ensure supported active travel development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 BET | Increase the number of schools involved in Safer Routes to Schools. | This action supports the development of additional pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.<br><br>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional pedestrian or cycling infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of environmental effects, including 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.<br><br>This action also has the potential to generate some degree of positive environmental effect due to a reduction in vehicle use. | Increase the number of schools involved in Safer Routes to Schools. Ensure supported active travel development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13 BET | Strengthen towns and villages through enhancement of green infrastructure measures and sustainable transport linkages. | This action will promote the protection and further development of green infrastructure. The protection and development of green infrastructure has the potential to have wide ranging slight to very significant positive effects on biodiversity, and slight to significant positive effects on and water quality and hydrology.<br><br>Green infrastructure can also support GHG sequestration leading to a slight positive effect on the climate environment.<br><br>In absence of appropriate design and mitigation, the development of green infrastructure could potentially result in negative environmental effects, including negative effects on biodiversity. | Strengthen towns and villages through enhancement of green infrastructure measures and sustainable transport linkages, having due regards for environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16 BET | Facilitate the planning and delivery of the Dart Plus Scheme. | This action has the potential to encourage modal shift and the use of public transport networks. This action supports the development of additional DART infrastructure.<br><br>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional DART infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including 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.<br><br>This action also has the potential to generate some degree of positive environmental effect due to a reduction in vehicle use. | Facilitate the planning and delivery of the Dart Plus Scheme. Ensure supported development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 18 BET | Implement measures to increase modal shift from private cars by visitors to the county using Public transport, Looped tourism bus services, E-mobility infrastructure, Regulation of parking, Glendalough masterplan. | This action has the potential to encourage modal shift and the use of public transport networks. This action supports the development of additional transport infrastructure.<br><br>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including 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.<br><br>This action also has the potential to generate some degree of positive environmental effect due to a reduction in vehicle use. | Implement measures to increase modal shift from private cars by visitors to the county using Public transport, Looped tourism bus services, E-mobility infrastructure, Regulation of parking, Glendalough masterplan. Ensure supported development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 19 BET | Complete a inventory of the existing Fleet and develop a Fleet management policy to achieve a target of 51% reduction in emissions, which includes the procurement of the fleet and an objective decarbonisating the existing fleet. | This action will support the local authority in reducing its organisational GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. The action is likely to have a slight to significant positive environmental effect in terms of fuel efficiency improvements in the local authority vehicle fleet which will reduce/minimise vehicle fleet related GHG emissions. This has the potential to generate some degree of positive effects on climate and local air quality.<br><br>This action could lead to the LA transitioning its vehicle fleet to a renewable fuel. The scaleable 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. | Complete a inventory of the existing Fleet and develop a Fleet management policy to achieve a target of 51% reduction in emissions, which includes the procurement of the fleet and an objective decarbonisating the existing fleet. 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. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 21 BET | Procure only zero emission vehicles, unless the vehicle is exempt under EC Regs SI381 of 2021. | This action will support the local authority in reducing its organisational GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets.<br><br>This action has the potential to lead to an expansion of the EV charging network, which will lead to the development of multiple charging points and ancillary electrical infrastructure including grid connection routes across the extent of the local authority's functional area.<br><br>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 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. | Procure only zero emission vehicles, unless the vehicle is exempt under EC Regs SI381 of 2021. Advocate and exert influence and control, as appropriate, to ensure any development required to facilitate this action promotes climate action co-benefits and does not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause signficant negative environmental effects. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 22 BET | Convert the existing Fleet to a low carbon fuel source where feasible such as Hydro-treated Vegetable Oil (HVO). | This action will support the local authority in reducing its organisational GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. The action is likely to have a slight to significant positive environmental effect in terms of fuel efficiency improvements in the local authority vehicle fleet which will reduce/minimise vehicle fleet related GHG emissions. This has the potential to generate some degree of positive effects on climate and local air quality.<br><br>This action could lead to the LA transitioning its vehicle fleet to a renewable fuel. The scaleable 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. | Convert the existing Fleet to a low carbon fuel source where feasible such as Hydro-treated Vegetable Oil (HVO), 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: |
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| 24 BET | Standardise the management of drainage systems within the council including:<br>• the regular maintenance of regional and local roads drainage systems (Annual Programme)<br>• the recording and mapping of the areas impacted by weather events (Climate Change events) including the implementation of technology such as the Weather Impact REgister (WIRE) App to capture impacts, response and costs (including ecosystem services/natural capital costs).<br>• Mapping the location of attenuation tanks and drainage systems an Arc GIS. | This action has the potential to negatively affect water quality through innapropriate maintenance practices of drains. | Standardise the management of drainage systems within the council including:<br>• the regular maintenance of regional and local roads drainage systems (Annual Programme), having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.<br>• the recording and mapping of the areas impacted by weather events (Climate Change events) including the implementation of technology such as the Weather Impact REgister (WIRE) App to capture impacts, response and costs (including ecosystem services/natural capital costs).<br>• Mapping the location of attenuation tanks and drainage systems an Arc GIS. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 25 BET | Deliver climate adaptation works on the infrastructure through the Climate Change Adaption & Resilience Works and Drainage funding programs. | This action will likely involve works on drainage networks within the LA. These works have the potential to negatively affect water quality through innapropriate maintenance practices of drains. | Deliver climate adaptation works on the infrastructure through the Climate Change Adaption & Resilience Works and Drainage funding programs, having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology. |
| 1 NEGI | Transpose all relevant legislation and regulation on Climate Change and Flood Management into WCC Policies and guidelines. Including the promoting of natural flood measures where possible. | This action will support development conforming with flood risk management guidelines. It has the potential to shape development and lead to ancillary flood resilience-related development and nature-based solutions and SUDS. | Transpose all relevant legislation and regulation on Climate Change and Flood Management into WCC Policies and guidelines. Including the promoting of natural flood measures where possible<br>- whilst having appropriate regard to environmental protection requirements associated with flood resilience development. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 2 NEGI | Implement the OPW Flood Risk Management Guidelines and ensure that all relevant developments consider climate resilience and demonstrate that they integrate Nature Based SUDS and Nature Based solutions to address surface water management. | This flood resilience related action has the potential to lead to significant development taking place at and in the vicinity of water bodies.<br>In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust).<br><br>Flood resilience action has the potential to have positive environmental effects also. The possible development of nature based solutions and SUDS as part of surface water management has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body.<br><br>The delivery of this flood resilience action also has the potential to reduce flood risk and prevent flood events. Reducing flood risk can generate significant, positive effects for a variety of environmental receptors that could be negatively impacted by flood events; including human receptors, ecological receptors and cultural heritage assets. | Implement the OPW Flood Risk Management Guidelines and ensure that all relevant developments consider climate resilience and demonstrate that they integrate Nature Based SUDS and Nature Based solutions to address surface water management. Ensure due regard is given to the need to promote Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 6 NEGI | Deliver the following Flood Relief Schemes:<br>• Arklow Flood Relief Scheme<br>• Avoca Flood Relief Scheme<br>• Baltinglass Flood Relief Scheme | The progression of flood resilience related action has the potential to lead to significant development taking place at and in the vicinity of water bodies.<br>In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), and the receiving human environment.<br><br>Flood resilience action has the potential to have positive environmental effects also. The possible development of nature based solutions and SuDS as part of a flood resilience scheme has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body.<br><br>The delivery of flood resilience action also has the potential to reduce flood risk and prevent flood events. Reducing flood risk can generate significant, positive effects for a variety of environmental receptors that could be negatively impacted by flood events; including ecological receptors. | Deliver the following Flood Relief Schemes:<br>• Arklow Flood Relief Scheme<br>• Avoca Flood Relief Scheme<br>• Baltinglass Flood Relief Scheme<br><br>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 etc. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 7 NEGI | Engage with the OPW in order to review and progress a number of various climate adaption schemes including:<br>• Blessington Flood Relief Scheme<br>• Greystones & Environs Flood Relief Scheme<br>• Wicklow & Ashford Flood Relief Scheme<br>• Facilitate the hydraulic modelling of the Bray Flood Relief Scheme<br>• Facilitate the OPW to conduect a review of the PFRA with regard to flood risk arising from floods on surface water infrastructure such as Culverts. | The progression of flood resilience related action has the potential to lead to significant development taking place at and in the vicinity of water bodies.<br><br>In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust).<br><br>Flood resilience action has the potential to have positive environmental effects also. The possible development of nature based solutions and SuDS as part of a flood resilience scheme has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body.<br><br>The delivery of flood resilience action also has the potential to reduce flood risk and prevent flood events. Reducing flood risk can generate significant, positive effects for a variety of environmental receptors that could be negatively impacted by flood events; ecological receptors. | Engage with the OPW in order to review and progress a number of various climate adaption schemes including:<br>• Blessington Flood Relief Scheme<br>• Greystones & Environs Flood Relief Scheme<br>• Wicklow & Ashford Flood Relief Scheme<br>• facilitate the hydraulic modelling of the Bray Flood Relief Scheme<br>• facilitate the OPW to conduect a review of the PFRA with regard to flood risk arising from floods on surface water infrastructure such as Culverts.<br><br>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 etc. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 8 NEGI | Incorporate Nature Based Measures for coastal erosion in order to support the conservation and management of Sand Dunes at Brittas Bay. | The carrying out of coastal protection has the potential to lead to significant development taking place at and in the vicinity of the coast.<br><br>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; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust).<br><br>The development of nature-based solutions has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality.<br><br>This action is likely to have slight to significant positive effects on the receiving soils environment - through the prevention of coastal erosion. This may have also a beneficial impact on inter-related environmental effects. | Incorporate Nature Based Measures for coastal erosion in order to support the conservation and management of Sand Dunes at Brittas Bay, having due regard to environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value etc. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 9 NEGI | Develop demonstration sites highlighting Nature Based SuDS providing flood attenuation systems within existing Urban Areas. | The progression of flood resilience related action has the potential to lead to significant development taking place at and in the vicinity of water bodies.<br><br>In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust).<br><br>Flood resilience action has the potential to have positive environmental effects also. The possible development of nature based solutions and SuDS as part of a flood resilience scheme has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body.<br><br>The delivery of flood resilience action also has the potential to reduce flood risk and prevent flood events. Reducing flood risk can generate significant, positive effects for a variety of environmental receptors that could be negatively impacted by flood events; including ecological receptors. | Develop demonstration sites highlighting Nature Based SuDS providing flood attenuation systems within existing Urban Areas, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites and water quality. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 10 NEGI | Develop and implement an integrated SUDS policy to guide planning, installation, and monitoring to improve storm water management. Provide training on SUDS implementation to key staff. Incorporate guidance for maintenance of SUDS. | This action has the potential to lead to significant drainage development taking place at and in the vicinity of water bodies.<br><br>In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust).<br><br>This action will promote the integration and implementation of SUDS within the local authority functional area.<br><br>The development of SUDS as part of a flood resilience scheme has the potential to have slight to significant positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body. | Develop and implement an integrated SUDS policy to guide planning, installation, and monitoring to improve storm water management. Provide training on SUDS implementation to key staff. Incorporate guidance for maintenance of SUDS, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites and water quality. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 12 NEGI | Prioritise the use of Nature Based SuDS on local authority schemes within the following areas:<br><br>1. Roads:<br>Ensure drainage works are considered at the preliminary design stage of project development for all road and infrastructure projects.<br>2. Housing:<br>Integrate NBSuDS techniques from the initial preliminary development design and include within the completion of projects. Additionally utilise water demand technoligies into all housing capital projects. | This action has the potential to lead to significant drainage development taking place at and in the vicinity of water bodies.<br><br>In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust).<br><br>Flood resilience action has the potential to have positive environmental effects also. The integration of nature-based solutions and SuDS as part of drainage design and development has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body.<br><br>The delivery of flood resilience action also has the potential to reduce flood risk and prevent flood events. Reducing flood risk can generate significant, positive effects for a variety of environmental receptors that could be negatively impacted by flood events; including ecological receptors. | Prioritise the use of Nature Based SuDS on local authority schemes within the following areas:<br>1. Roads:<br>Ensure drainage works are considered at the preliminary design stage of project development for all road and infrastructure projects.<br>2. Housing:<br>Integrate NBSuDS techniques from the initial preliminary development design and include within the completion of projects. Additionally utilise water demand technologies into all housing capital projects.<br>Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites and water quality. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 14 NEGI | Create green infrastructure standards for managing greenspace by Municipal District to include: Mowing regimes, Hedgerow management, Tree care, Management of weeds and Managing Riparian zones. | This naction has the potential to negatively effect biodiversity if misguided or innapropriate regimes.<br><br>This action will promote the protection and enhancement of trees and hedgerows and has the potential to generate slight to significant effects on biodiversity in the county. The enhancement of trees and hedgerows and the promotion of proper mowing regimes may result in an additional degree of carbon sequestration, marginally offsetting the effects of GHG emissions. | Create green infrastructure standards for managing greenspace by Municipal District to include: Mowing regimes, Hedgerow management, Tree care, Management of weeds and Managing Riparian zones. These standards shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage these habitats. |
| 16 NEGI | Support and facilitate LAWPRO projects improving water quality within the county catchments. Example scheme: Avonmore Waters of Life Project. | This action has the potential to lead to significant drainage development taking place at and in the vicinity of water bodies.<br><br>In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust).<br><br>This action has the potential to generate slight to significant positive effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna, protected species and important watercourse habitat. | Support and facilitate LAWPRO projects improving water quality within the county catchments. Example scheme: Avonmore Waters of Life Project, having due regard to the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 18 NEGI | Review and Update the Wicklow Heritage Plan to record, conserve, and raise awareness of all aspects of built, natural and cultural heritage. | This action has the potential to have significant positive effects on built, natural and cultural heritage assets and the amenity value attained by people from these assets.<br>This action has the potential to support carrying out retrofitting/upgrade/maintenance works at historic structures, traditional buildings and monuments which could result in significant negative effects if unmitigated.<br><br>This action has the potential to have adverse effects on Bats which are Annex IV species, as many roosts are located within old unused buildings. | Review and Update the Wicklow Heritage Plan to record, conserve, and raise awareness of all aspects of built, natural and cultural heritage, having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive. |
| 20 NEGI | Review and update the Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan to protect and enhance local biodiversity, including climate-relevant measures. | This naction has the potential to negatively effect biodiversity if misguided or innapropriate regimes.<br><br>This action has the potential to have wide ranging slight to moderate positive effects on local biodiversity, flora and fauna. | Review and update the Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan to protect and enhance local biodiversity, including climate-relevant measures, having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive. This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage these habitats. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 22 NEGI | Develop an integrated programme to address Invasive Alien Species through education and with recording and eradication programmes in the public realm. | Inappropriate or improper invasive species manageement could lead to negative environmental impacts on biodiversity.<br><br>This action hast the potential to lead to positive effects on biodiversity. | Develop an integrated programme to address Invasive Alien Species through education and with recording and eradication programmes in the public realm. This programme shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage and prevent the spread of invasive species. |
| 24 NEGI | Pilot a biodiversity inclusive design for a social housing estate considering the following elements within the design: green roofs, green walls, wetland & pond NBSuDS, green car parking, nest boxes in facades, grasslands, and wildlife friendly shrubs and trees in open space. | This action has the potential to lead to positive effects on the climate environment, by promoting GHG emission sequestration. It also has the potential to lead to positive effects on local air quality and biodiversity.<br><br>The action will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation (e.g., design stage), however, supports the development of a social housing estate. In the absence of any mitigation, the construction works have the potential to generate a range of environmental effects, including 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. | Pilot a biodiversity inclusive design for a social housing estate considering the following elements within the design: green roofs, green walls, wetland & pond NBSuDS, green car parking, nest boxes in facades, grasslands, and wildlife friendly shrubs and trees in open space, ensuring development have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 27 NEGI | Develop a hill and forest fire management response and prevention strategy, including protocols for responding to fires, enforcement, awareness campaigns of the impact of fires and systems to measure the extent and economic costs of fires. | This action has the potential to negatively effect biodiversity and European Sites through certain management practices to prevent fires.<br><br>This action will promote the protection of biodiversity from climate change influenced hill and forest fire risks - and has the potential to have wide ranging slight to significant positive effects on local biodiversity. | Develop a hill and forest fire management response and prevention strategy, including protocols for responding to fires, enforcement, awareness campaigns of the impact of fires and systems to measure the extent and economic costs of fires, having appropriate regard to the need to support the achievement of conservation objectives and protect and enhance important habitats or the qualifying interests of any protected sites. |
| 29 NEGI | Develop a hedgerow plan for the county with actions to map, protect and develop hedgerows. | This action has the potential to have wide ranging slight to moderate significant effects on local biodiversity. Promoting vegetative growth may result in an additional degree of carbon sequestration, marginally offsetting the effects of GHG emissions.<br><br>Inappropriate or improper hedgerow or riparian area maintenance could lead to negative environmental impacts on biodiversity and flora and fauna species present in such hedgerows. | Develop a hedgerow plan for the county with actions to map, protect and develop hedgerows, having due regard to hedgerow area conservation requirements and the need to avoid habitat fragmentation. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 32 NEGI | Build climate resilience and improve the energy performance of architectural and archaeological heritage in public and private ownership through schemes such as the BHIS,HSF, HTI, IWTN and Community Monument Fund. | This action has the potential to support carrying out retrofitting/upgrade works at historic structures and traditional buildings which could result in significant negative effects if unmitigated. There is adverse effects on Bats which are Annex IV species, as many roosts are located within old unused buildings. There is also potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. | Build climate resilience and improve energy performance of architectural and archaeological heritage in public and private ownership through schemes such as BHIS, HSF, HTI, IWTN and Community Monument Fund, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, protected species associated with such buildings, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 12 CRT | Incorporate Climate Action into all plans under the following:<br>• Rural Development Fund<br>• Urban Regeneration and Development Fund<br>• Town and Village Renewal Scheme<br>• CLÁR Scheme | The action has the potential to provide access to climate action initiatives to all within the community - which could lead to a positive impact on the climate environment and a general lowering of GHG emissions in the LA Region.<br><br>This action has the potential to support the development of renewable energy development and building retrofits in the LA region that could have a variety of slight to potentially signficant negative environmental effects, including biodiversity impacts. | Incorporate Climate Action into all plans under the following:<br>• Rural Development Fund<br>• Urban Regeneration and Development Fund<br>• Town and Village Renewal Scheme<br>• CLÁR Scheme<br><br>Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European Sites and biodiversity related sensitivities, senstive human receptors and the need appropriately protected and conserve cultural heritage features. |
| 14 CRT | Promote tree planting by providing:<br>• an annual tree planting grant for communities and schools<br>• trees to communities during National Tree Week | This action has the potential to have light to moderate significant effects on local biodiversity, and slight effects on landscape character and visual amenity. Promoting vegetative growth may result in an additional degree of carbon sequestration, marginally offsetting the effects of GHG emissions. | Promote native tree planting by providing:<br>• an annual native tree planting grant for communities and schools<br>• native trees to communities during National Tree Week |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 22 CRT | Assess five existing large local authority housing schemes for public transport links and active travel access. | This is a study/communication based action. While this action may have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation. The action could lead to the development of infrastructure for both public transport and active travel.<br><br>In the absence of mitigation, the action could support the carrying out of potentially significant development which could have negative slight to significant environmental effects, inluding biodiversity 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. | Assess five existing large local authority housing schemes for public transport links and active travel access, whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and water and air quality. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 5 SRM | Promote uptake of energy performance measures in business and agricultural sectors through the promotion of:<br>• SEAI programmes and Energy Audits,<br>• Support Scheme for renewable heat,<br>• Micro and small scale renewable generation,<br>• Anaerobic digestion,<br>• Energy efficient and heating control technology | The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.<br><br>The development of anaerobic digestion facilities have the potential to create unintended localized, negative environmental impacts, including impacts on water quality. | Promote uptake of energy performance measures in business and agricultural sectors through the promotion of:<br>• SEAI programmes and Energy Audits,<br>• Support Scheme for renewable heat,<br>• Micro and small scale renewable generation,<br>• Anaerobic digestion,<br>• Energy efficient and heating control technology<br><br>- whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported renewable energy development does 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: |
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| 7 SRM | Develop a renewables hub at the Wicklow Campus in Clermont to support development of the sector in County Wicklow. | This action will promote and support renewable energy development within the county that could generate a range of slight to significant positive environmental effects, including positive effects on climate, water quality, the soils environment and biodiversity.<br>In the absence of mitigation, renewable energy development could have negative slight to significant environmental effects, including impacts on landscape character and visual amenity (in the case of renewable energy projects such as the development wind turbines or ground-based or rooftop solar PV panels, for example), impacts on population and human health (due to solar panel glint and glare, or wind turbine related noise impacts, for example), biodiversity 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. | Develop a renewables hub at the Wicklow Campus in Clermont to support development of the sector in County Wicklow, while ensuring that the businesses and projects supported accord with relevant planning and environmental protection criteria. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 9 SRM | Identify and implement Rural Development Fund initiatives that deliver on a transition towards a climate neutral rural economy to include:<br>• Rural Transport,<br>• Working hubs,<br>• Town and Village regeneration<br>• Nature Based solutions<br>• Digital initiatives<br>• Green Economy<br>• Bio economy | This action may lead to the carrying out of climate action projects and development that could generate a range of slight to significant positive environmental effects, including positive effects on climate, water quality, the soils environment, and biodiversity.<br><br>In the absence of mitigation, the carrying out of climate action related development may have unintended negative environmental effects.<br><br>Such development could potentially be large-scale infrastructural and renewable projects that may generate a wide variety of negative environmental effects - that range from slight in magnitude to profound - on, inter alia, ecological receptors, the soils and geological environment, the water environment.<br><br>Promoting regeneration in rural towns and villages has the potential to result in increasing transport-related GHG emissions, however, where such settlement is not adequately served by a sustainable/public transport network. | Identify and implement Rural Development Fund initiatives that deliver on a transition towards a climate neutral rural economy to include:<br>• Rural Transport,<br>• Working hubs,<br>• Town and Village regeneration<br>• Nature Based solutions<br>• Digital initiatives<br>• Green Economy<br>• Bio economy<br><br>- having appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection requirements, environmental sensitivities such as European Sites, biodiversity and opportunities for promoting climate action co-benefits and interconnectivity. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 12 SRM | Liaise with Signpost and ACRES Schemes to support climate action in the agricultural sector. Help to promote farms to become demonstration farmers and highlight the work being done in Wicklow to decarbonize agriculture and manage land using best practice for sustainability. | The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.<br><br>This action has the potential to lead to the development of anaerobic digestion facilities which have the potential to create unintended localized, negative environmental impacts, including impacts on water quality. | Liaise with Signpost and ACRES Schemes to support climate action in the agricultural sector. Help to promote farms to become demonstration farmers and highlight the work being done in Wicklow to decarbonize agriculture and manage land using best practice for sustainability, development planning and environmental protection and enhancement. |
| 14 SRM | Examine the potential of the former landfill sites of Ballymurtagh (Avoca) and Rampere (Baltinglass) for the development of green energy uses. | This action has the potential to lead to renewable energy development at these sites and GHG emissions reductions.<br><br>Such development may have unintended negative environmental effects, including effects on biodiversity European site, landscape character and visual amenity, or soil, hydrological or water quality related effects. | Examine the potential of the former landfill sites of Ballymurtagh (Avoca) and Rampere (Baltinglass) for the development of green energy uses, having due regard to planning and environmental protection considerations. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 20 SRM | Upgrading of Council Owned Buildings to include for Nature Based SuDS and Water Demand. | The development of nature-based solutions and SuDS has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body.<br><br>The construction of Nature Based SuDS could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust). | Upgrading of Council Owned Buildings to include for Nature Based SuDS and Water Demand. Ensure all SuDS related construction works are designed and implemented in a manner that does not result in the occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 3 ADZ BE&T | Complete a Local Transport Plan taking the following into account<br>• the 10 minute town concept<br>• Active Travel<br>• Permeability<br>• Public Transport Requirements<br>• Shared Services<br>• Mobility Hub<br>• Active travel bridges | The development of this plan will support active travel and may lead to reduced internal combustion engine based vehicle use and associated GHG emissions and local air quality impacts.<br><br>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. | Complete a Local Transport Plan taking the following into account<br>• The 10 minute town concept<br>• Active Travel<br>• Permeability<br>• Public Transport Requirements<br>• Shared Services<br>• Mobility Hub<br>• Active travel bridges<br><br>Ensure any required development is planned in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites and cultural heritage. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 5 ADZ BE&T | Implement the Retrofitting Housing Programme for existing housing stock achieving a BER of B2 or in compliance with TCG Part L. Create awareness of works undertaken and their benefits to encourage retrofitting in private housing stock. | This action will support the reduction/offset of Residential sector GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.<br><br>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Older houses have the potential to house bats, retrofitting works could therefore disturb bats using these buildings. | Implement the Retrofitting Housing Programme for existing housing stock achieving a BER of B2 or in compliance with TCG Part L, 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 in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations. Create awareness of works undertaken and their benefits to encourage retrofitting in private housing stock. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
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| 6 ADZ BE&T | Provide newly constructed housing units to an A2 BER rating or in compliance with TCG Part L within the lifetime of the Climate Action Plan. | This action will support the reduction of Residential sector GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.<br><br>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of the additional housing units have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including 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. | Provide newly constructed housing units to an A2 BER rating or in compliance with TCG Part L within the lifetime of the Climate Action Plan, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as visual amenity and quality, local human receptors, Biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology, and amenity value. |
| 7 ADZ BE&T | Undertake a retrofit of the Coral Leisure Centre pool and sports hall. | There is the potential for negative effects during retrofitting works, including 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. | Undertake a retrofit of the Coral Leisure Centre pool and sports hall, 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. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8 ADZ BE&T | Undertake a retrofit of the Civic Amenity Site and install solar pv panels under the small scale generation scheme. | There is the potential for negative effects during retrofitting works, including 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. | Undertake a retrofit of the Civic Amenity Site and install solar pv panels under the small scale generation scheme, 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. |
| 9 ADZ BE&T | Investigate district heating opportunities from the planned Data Centre. | This is a study-related action and will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation. Depending on the outcome of this study, it has the potential to support the delivery of Residential sector GHG emission reductions and energy efficiency in the DZ.<br><br>In the absence of any mitigation, such development, which could include extensive pipe laying works, could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality, biodiversity, flora and fauna; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust). | Investigate district heating opportunities from the planned Data Centre, ensuring appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10 ADZ BE&T | Within the Arklow Municipal District increase the number of EV's and convert the existing fleet to a low carbon fuel source. | This action will support the local authority in reducing its transport sector GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. This has the potential to generate some degree of positive effects on climate and local air quality.<br><br>This action could lead to transitioning the Municipal District vehicle fleet 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.<br><br>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 DZ. 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. | Within the Arklow Municipal District increase the number of EV's and convert the existing fleet to a low carbon fuel source, 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 and ensuring any ancillary development have 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. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 ADZ BE&T | Develop a pilot to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures. | This is a study related action which will not have a real environmental effect in isolation.<br><br>This action has the potential to support the use of historic structures and traditional buildings which could result in significant negative effects if unmitigated. This action has the potential to have adverse effects on Bats which are Annex IV species, as many roosts are located within old unused buildings. | Develop a pilot to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures, 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 that may be present in such buildings and European sites. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13 ADZ BE&T | Increase the number of schools involved in Safer Routes to Schools. | This action has the potential to encourage modal shift and the use of active travel networks and public transport. This action supports the development of additional cycling and walkway infrastructure.<br><br>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) and biodiversity impacts.<br><br>This action also has the potential to generate some degree of positive environmental effect due to a reduction in vehicle use. | Increase the number of schools involved in Safer Routes to Schools, ensuring any ancillary development have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16 ADZ NE&GI | Map and identify green infrastructure opportunities in the town to support the development of NBSuDS improving climate resilience. | The development of nature-based SuDS has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body.<br><br>The construction of Nature Based SuDS could also potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust). | Map and identify green infrastructure opportunities in the town to support the development of NBSuDS improving climate resilience, while ensuring projects have due regard to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology. |
| 17 ADZ NE&GI | Promote rainwater harvesting, green roofs, green walls and water demand reducing projects. | The development of nature-based solutions has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body.<br><br>The development of such green infrastructure, in particular construction related activity has the potential to have a range of unintended, negative environmental impacts if carried out. | Promote rainwater harvesting, green roofs, green walls and water demand reducing projects, while ensuring projects have appropriate regard to local environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity European sites and cultural heritage considerations. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 21 ADZ CR&T | Promote greater uptake of solar PV in the town through promoting the micro generation and the small scale generation scheme. | This action will support the local authority in reducing its GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. | Promote greater uptake of solar PV in the town through promoting the micro generation and the small scale generation scheme, where it is confirmed through a glint and glare assessment that any solar development will not have any potential glint and glare impact on sensitive receptors, or otherwise, where it is confirmed that any solar development constitutes exempted development under the Planning and Development Regulations by virtue of its size or location outside a Solar Safeguarding Zone. |

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 24 ADZ S&RM | Investigate opportunity to develop anaerobic digestion in Arklow, identifying potential feed stock. | This study action has no real environmental effect when considered in isolation. Depending on the outcome of the study, there is potential for the development of anaerobic digestion facilities.<br><br>In the absence of any mitigation, the construction anaerobic digestion facilities could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, flora and fauna; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust).<br><br>The consequent development of anaerobic digestion facilities could result in a variety of environmental effects, including potential positive climate and material asset related effects, and potential negative construction or operational effects, including effects on biodiversity.<br><br>This delivery of this action generally has the potential to have a moderate to significant positive effect on climate - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. | Investigate opportunity to develop anaerobic digestion in Arklow, identifying potential feed stock, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure anaerobic digestion related development and activities promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects. |

**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. |
| Flood defence projects or related maintenance works supported by plan actions shall be carried out in a manner that promotes climate action-biodiversity related co-benefits, and shall have due regard for the protection and enhancement of rare, protected or important habitats and species. |
| Ensure climate action related projects are carried out in a manner that promotes climate action-cultural heritage co-benefits, and do not result in unauthorised physical damage to cultural, archaeological or architectural features, or unauthorised or inappropriate alteration of the context of sensitive cultural heritage features. |
| Ensure climate action related projects are carried out in a manner that promotes climate action water quality co-benefits, and align with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and relevant River Basin Management Plan. |
| Promote climate action projects that support protected trees, hedgerows and other habitats such as wetlands, floodzones which contribute to green infrastructure. |
| 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. |
| Ensure all projects supported by the council have taken the necessary precautions to identify and manage invasives species, particularly with regard to Schedule III species. No climate action related development project that is likely to cause the spread of invasives species listed in Schedule III shall be supported. |
| Support opportunities to support peatland restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance while achieving climate targets through the implementation of the climate actions within the plan. |

# 6. CONCLUSION

Stage 1 AA Screening and Stage 2 AA of the Draft Wicklow Local Area Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 has been carried out. Implementation of the Draft 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 Draft 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 Draft LACAP either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Draft Wicklow Local Area 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 projects[55]. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

The AA process is ongoing and will inform and be concluded at adoption of the Plan.

[55] 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 000397 | Red Bog Kildare SAC | The site displays a succession from open water (eutrophic in status) to ombrotrophic bog. Transition mire vegetation is considered to be well represented at this site with some typical species. A small colony of Larus ridibundus has bred in the past (current status unknown) which is one of few nesting sites in eastern Ireland and the site also has breeding Aythya fuligula and Fulica atra. | The site comprises a relatively small wetland which lies between moranic ridges. Open water is a principal habitat though there are no obvious inflowing or outflowing streams. Open water is fringed by various wetland habitats with bog (raised type) fens and freshwater marsh. Some willow (Salix spp.) occurs. The surrounding land is improved grassland. An extensive quarrying operation occurs to the east and south of site. |
| 000714 | Bray Head SAC | Site supports a fine diversity of maritime habitats and is particularly important for vegetated sea cliffs and dry heath. Both of these are good representatives of the types which occur in eastern Ireland and are generally of good quality. Four Red Data Book plant species occur within site. Has breeding Falco peregrinus and a significant seabird colony especially for Rissa tridactyla and Cepphus grylle (both nationally important). Site is noted for the presence of the fossil Oldhamia radiata which is of Cambrian age. Owing to its proximity to urban areas site has important educational potential. | Site is situated in the north-east of Co. Wicklow between the towns of Bray and Greystones. Bedrock geology is Cambrian quartzites and shales (with mudstones and greywackes). Bray Head consists of a plateau of high ground with five prominent quartzite knolls and a maximum height of 241 m. The more exposed higher ground has a covering of shallow acidic soils with protruding bedrock and scree. Elsewhere deeper soils are formed by drift deposits calcareous in character. In addition to heath and cliff habitats the site supports calcareous grassland some native woodland and scrub and a sandy/shingle beach. An area of shallow marine water is included for ornithological reasons. Main landuse within site is recreation especially walking. |
| 000781 | Slaney River Valley SAC | 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. | 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. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | The site is of high importance for the conservation of fish species notably Salmo salar Petromyzon marinus Lampetra fluviatilis L. planeri and the very localised Alosa fallax fallax. Lutra lutra is well distributed throughout while a significant population of Margaritifera margaritifera occurs on the Derreen River. The site provides year-round haul-out habitat for the Annex II species Phoca vitulina and includes regionally significant breeding and moulting sites. The site has high ornithological importance especially for wintering waterfowl with internationally important populations of Branta bernicla hrota Cygnus olor Limosa limosa and Limosa lapponica. There is at least a further 14 species of wintering waterfowl which occur in numbers of national importance. Wintering Larus gulls are well represented especially Larus ridibundus and Larus fuscus. A nesting colony of Egretta garzetta 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 Acrocephalus scirpaeus in the country. A range of flora and fauna species listed as Red Data Book species occur within the site. | 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. |
| 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. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|---|---|---|---|
| 003000 | Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC | The area selected for designation represents a key habitat for the Annex II species - harbour porpoise within the Irish Sea. Population survey data show that porpoise occurrence within the site boundary meets suitable reference values for other designated sites in Ireland. The species occurs year-round within the site and comparatively high group sizes have been recorded. Porpoises with young (i.e. calves) are observed at favourable typical reference values for the species. Casual and effort-related sighting rates from coastal observation stations are significant for the east coast of Ireland and the latter appear to be relatively stable across all seasons. The selected site contains a wide array of habitats believed to be important for harbour porpoise including inshore shallow sand and mud-banks and rocky reefs scoured by strong current flow. The site also contains two Annex II seal species – Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina vitulina) Grey seal (Halichoerus grypus) for which terrestrial haul-out sites occur in immediate proximity to the site. Bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus) has also occasionally been recorded in the area. Along the eastern seaboard the habitat type Reef is uncommon due to prevailing geology and hydrographical conditions. Expansive surveys of the Irish coast have indicated that the greatest resource of this habitat within the Irish Sea is found fringing offshore islands which are concentrated along the Dublin coast. A detailed survey of selected suitable islands has shown areas with typical biodiversity for this habitat both intertidally and subtidally. These Reefs are subject to strong tidal currents with an abundant supply of suspended matter resulting in good representation of filter feeding fauna such as sponges anemones and echinoderms. | The selected site forms a strip of dynamic inshore and coastal waters in the western Irish Sea extending approximately 40 km in length and encompassing a range of comparatively shallow marine habitats including diverse seabed structures reefs islets and islands. It borders existing designated sites for Annexed species and habitats and is adjacent to a wide array of coastal features e.g. mudflats lagoons estuaries coastal cliffs sea caves several of which are also designated. Extending east from Dublin Bay towards the offshore Kish Bank the site contains the entire Burford Bank a sedimentary seabed structure (i.e. fine sand) at the mouth of Dublin Bay that on its north side is flanked by gravel and coarse sand deposits. The site also contains the northern segment of the Frazer Bank (i.e. fine sand) off Dalkey Island and Killiney Bay. Reef habitats within the site occur at Dalkey Island Maiden Rock and Muglins in the southern portion off Howth Head Ireland's Eye and Lambay Island in the central portion and Rockabill in North Dublin. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|---|---|---|---|
| 004006 | North Bull Island SPA | The site is among the top ten sites for wintering waterfowl in the country. It supports internationally important populations of Branta bernicila hrota and Limosa lapponica and is the top site in the country for both of these species. A further 14 species have populations of national importance with particular notable numbers of Tadorna tadorna (8.5% of national total) Anas acuta (11.6% of national total) Pluvialis squatarola (6.9% of national total) Calidris canutus (10.5% of national total). North Bull Island SPA is a regular site for passage waders such as Philomachus pugnax Calidris ferruginea and Tringa erythropus. The site supports Asio flammeus in winter. Formerly the site had an important colony of Sterna albifrons but breeding has not occurred in recent years. The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the waterfowl species. Habitat quality for most of the estuarine habitats is very good. The site has a population of the rare Petalophyllum ralfsii which is the only known station away from the western seaboard as well as five Red Data Book vascular plant species and four bryophyte species. It is nationally important for three insect species. Wintering bird populations have been monitored more or less continuously since the late 1960s and the other scientific interests of the site have also been well documented. Future prospects are good owing to various designations assigned to site. | The North Bull Island sand spit is a relatively recent depositional feature formed as a result of improvements to Dublin Port during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is almost 5km long and 1km wide and runs parallel to the coast between Clontarf and Sutton. The sediment which forms the island is predominantly glacial in origin and siliceous in nature. A well-developed dune system runs the length of the island with good examples of embryonic shifting marram and fixed dunes as well as excellent examples of humid dune slacks. Extensive salt marshes also occur. Between the island and the mainland occur two sheltered intertidal areas which are separated by a solid causeway constructed in 1964. The seaward side of the island has a fine sandy beach. A substantial area of shallow marine water is included in the site. Part of the interior of the island has been converted to golf courses. The proximity of the North Bull Island to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also very important for educational and research purposes. Nature conservation is a main landuse within the site. |
| 004024 | South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA | The site possesses extensive intertidal flats which support wintering waterfowl which are part of the overall Dublin Bay population. It regularly has an internationally important population of Branta bernicla hrota which feeds on Zostera noltii in the autumn. It has nationally important numbers of a further 6 species: Haematopus ostralegus Charadrius hiaticula Calidris canutus Calidris alba Calidris alpina and Limosa lapponica. It is an important site for wintering gulls especially Larus ridibundus and Larus canus. South Dublin Bay is the premier site in Ireland for Larus melanocephalus with up to 20 birds present at times. | This site comprises a substantial part of Dublin Bay. It includes virtually all of the intertidal area in the south bay as well as much of the Tolka Estuary to the north of the River Liffey. A portion of the shallow bay waters is also included. In the south bay the intertidal flats extend for almost 3 km at their widest. The sediments are predominantly well-aerated sands. The sands support the largest stand of Zostera noltii on the East Coast. Several permanent channels exist the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Is a regular autumn roosting ground for significant numbers of terns including Sterna dougallii S. hirundo and S. paradisaea. | The landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. Sediments in the Tolka Estuary vary from soft thixotrophic muds with a high organic content in the inner estuary to exposed well aerated sands off the Bull Wall. The proximity of the site to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also important for educational and research purposes. |
| 004040 | Wicklow Mountains SPA | The site supports good examples of both upland and woodland bird communities. It has breeding Falco columbarius and Falco peregrinus as well as Turdus torquatus and Lagopus lagopus both of the latter being Red-listed in Ireland. It is the only site in Ireland where Mergus merganser breeds regularly. It is important for rare breeding passerines of oakwoods notably Phoenicurus phoenicurus and Phylloscopus sibilatrix. It also has Sylvia borin and Sylvia atricapilla. | This is an extensive upland site comprising a substantial part of the Wicklow Mountains. The underlying geology of the site is mainly of Leinster granites flanked by Ordovician schists mudstones and volcanics. The area was subject to glaciation and features fine examples of glacial lakes deep valleys and moraines. Most of site is over 300 m with much ground over 600 m and the highest peak of Lugnaquillia at 925 m. The substrate over much of site is peat with poor mineral soil occurring on the slopes and lower ground. Exposed rock and scree are features of the site. The dominant habitats present are blanket bog heaths and upland grassland. Fine examples of native Oak woodlands are found in the Glendalough area. The site which is within the Wicklow Mountains National Park is fragmented into about 20 separate parcels of land. |
| 004127 | Wicklow Head SPA | Wicklow Head SPA has a good diversity of breeding seabirds with nationally important populations of Rissa tridactyla and Cepphus grylle and regionally important numbers of Fulmarus glacilis Uria aalge and Alca torda. This seabird colony has developed mostly since the 1970s and has been monitored regularly since. The site also supports a pair of breeding Falco peregrinus and has some typical heathland species including Sylvia communis. | Wicklow Head is a rocky headland with extensive exposures of mica-schist. It is situated approximately 3 km south of Wicklow town. A lighthouse is located near the base of the cliffs. The cliffs which extend for about 3 km are highest immediately south of the lighthouse where they rise to about 60 m and it is here that most of the seabirds breed. The site comprises the cliffs and cliff-top vegetation as well as some heath vegetation. The marine area to a distance of 500 m from the base of the cliffs where seabirds forage bathe and socialise is included in the site. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|---|---|---|---|
| 000206 | North Dublin Bay SAC | Site possesses an excellent diversity of coastal habitats. The North Bull Island dune system is one of the most important systems on the east coast and is one of the few in Ireland that is actively accreting. It possesses extensive and mostly good quality examples of embryonic shifting marram and fixed dunes as well as excellent examples of humid dune slacks. Both Atlantic and Mediterranean salt marshes are well represented and a particularly good marsh zonation is shown. The salt marshes grade into mudflats and sandflats some of which are dominated by annual Salicornia species. Petalophyllum ralfsii occurs at its only known station away from the western seaboard. The site has five Red Data Book vascular plant species and four Red Data Book bryophyte species. This is one of the most important sites for wintering waterfowl in Ireland with internationally important populations of Branta bernicla horta Calidris canutus and Limosa lapponica plus nationally important numbers of a further 14 species. 20% of the national total of Pluvialis squatarola occurs here. Formerly it had important colony of Sterna albifrons. North Dublin Bay is nationally important for three insect species. The scientific interests of the site have been well documented and future prospects are good owing to the various designations assigned to site. | The North Bull Island sand spit is a relatively recent depositional feature formed as a result of improvements to Dublin Port during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is almost 5km long and 1km wide and runs parallel to the coast between Clontarf and Sutton. The sediment which forms the island is predominantly glacial in origin and siliceous in nature. Between the island and the mainland there occurs two sheltered intertidal areas which are separated by a solid causeway constructed in 1964. The seaward side of the island has a fine sandy beach. A substantial area of shallow marine water is included in the site. The interior of the island is excluded from the site as it has been converted to golf courses. The proximity of the North Bull Island to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also very important for educational and research purposes. Nature conservation is a main landuse within the site. |
| 000210 | South Dublin Bay SAC | Site possesses a fine and fairly extensive example of intertidal flats. Sediment type is predominantly sand with muddy sands in the more sheltered areas. A typical macro-invertebrate fauna exists. Has the largest stand of Zostera on the east coast. Supports part of the important wintering waterfowl populations of Dublin Bay. Regularly has an internationally population of Branta bernicila horta plus nationally important numbers of at least a further 6 species including Limosa lapponica. Regular autumn roosting ground for significant numbers of Sterna terns including S. dougallii. The scientific interests of the site have been well documented. | This intertidal site extends from the South Wall at Dublin Port to the West Pier at Dun Laoghaire a distance of c. 5 km. At their widest the intertidal flats extend for almost 3 km. The seaward boundary is marked by the low tide mark while the landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. Several permanent channels exist the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. A number of small streams and drains flow into the site. The proximity of the site to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also important for educational and research purposes. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|---|---|---|---|
| 000713 | Ballyman Glen SAC | A small but extremely species-rich site with a high diversity of habitats in a predominantly agricultural area. The site is notable for the presence of many petrifying springs for alkaline fen and for wet woodland. | A small glen cut through calcareous sands and gravels with a tributary stream of the Dargle river flowing west to east through it. The site supports a strip of wet woodland a small area of alkaline fen fed by petrifying springs and grades to scrub and dry calcareous grassland on the upper edges of the valley sides. |
| 000717 | Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC | This wood is a good example of the Blechno-quercetum petraeae association which is characteristic of the valleys of Wicklow mountains. Oak is dominant over more than half of the site the remainder being a mix of deciduous (native and non-native species) and coniferous woodland. The structure and species composition of the oak-dominated areas appear typical and there is natural regeneration. A narrow area of wet woodland (Fraxinus icorylus) along a small stream adds diversity to the site. This wood although relatively small is an important link in a series of oakwoods which extend from Glen of the Downs across to the Glendalough area. | This site is situated on the eastern flank of a glacial overflow channel aligned in a southwest to north east direction. The underlying rock is a mixture of cambrian and lower silurian deposits. Soils are acid brown earths to podzolics. Deputy's Pass wood is the most intact remnant of the once extensive Glenealy Oakwoods now largely replaced with conifers. Apart from afforestation the main landuse in the area surrounding the site is pastoral farming. |
| 000719 | Glen of the Downs SAC | This wood situated in an impressive glacial overflow channel is a good example of the Blechno-quercetum petraeae association which is characteristic of the dry valleys of the Wicklow mountains. Oak is dominant over about half the site the remainder being mostly mixed deciduous woodland. There is a range of habitats from the very dry oak dominated upper slopes to ash-hazel woodland on the valley floor and wet areas beside the stream. The juxtaposition of habitats on the valley floor is particularly valuable for invertebrates some of those found being very rare in Ireland. Of particular note is the occurrence of Mycetobia obscura known from only one other site in Britain and Ireland. The avifauna of the site is characteristic of Irish woodlands. This wood is the most easterly in a series of oakwoods in Co. Wicklow which extend to the Glendalough area. | This site is situated in a glacial overflow channel cut in a NW-SE direction through cambrian quartzite. In the valley bottom there is a narrow band of alluvium associated with a small stream but the steep slopes are covered with a thin sandy brown-earth/brown podzolic soil which becomes progresively thinner up the slopes. This is reflected in the trees which become shorter and more stunted up the slopes. The soil is very dry over much of the site particularly so on the NE side. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
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| 000725 | Knocksink Wood SAC | A relatively small but diverse wooded valley notable for the occurrence of good examples of tufa-forming springs and associated alluvial forest. The site is also important for a number of rare plants including Erigeron acer Lamiastrum galeobdolon and Wahlenbergia hederacea and a particularly diverse woodland invertebrate fauna. Its proximity to Dublin adds to its value as an educational and amenity resource. | A wooded valley cut through calcareous glacial drift with the fast-flowing Glencullen river flowing west to east through it. Vegetation types include broadleaf deciduous woods including wet woodland near the river heath and a number of tufa-forming springs and seepage areas. |
| 000733 | Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC | A relatively large oak-dominated woodland and a good example of the dry acid oakwoods of eastern Ireland. Evidence indicates that the site has been wooded to varying degrees since at least the early 1700's. Despite damage from afforestation with conifers the wood is still of high quality with a wide range of age classes. The red data species Cephalanthera longifolia has been recorded. Past management practices since 1700's are well documented with continued management for conservation this site will become one of the most extensive oak woods in Ireland. | Situated in a deep steeply-sided valley through which runs the Avonmore River. Underlying rock is schist which weathers to an orange-brown sandy loam of Ph 4.1-4.9. A distinct mor humus often several centimetres thick overlies the mineral soil. Apart from the oak-dominated woods there is much mixed wood with non-native species as well as commercial conifer stands. Old river terraces are present along parts of the valley and there are occasional rock outcrops. |
| 001398 | Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC | The importance of the site lies in the presence of a number of rare plant and animal species and a rare habitat i.e. thermal mineral petrifying spring. The spring gives rise to a calcareous marsh the habitat for Vertigo angustior and Vertigo moulinsiana. This marsh is species-rich and holds a number of plant and insect species which are rare or locally uncommon in Ireland. Four Red Data Book plant species have been recorded from the site two of which Hypericum hirsutum and Viola hirta are legally protected. The woods at the eastern end of the site have some ornithological interest. | A river valley site which includes at its western end a large area of estate woodland and an artificial lake. The eastern section of the site includes a section of railway canal and aquaduct; it continues as far as leixlip town. The site is underlain by carboniferous limestone over which has been laid a layer of glacial drift. |
| 001757 | Holdenstown Bog SAC | The site supports an important though small example of transition mire vegetation. Transition mires associated with raised bogs are particularly rare in the region and this is probably the most easterly example in the country. | The site is a small wetland in a kettle hole amongst morainic deposits. It is mostly dominated by raised bog but there is some open water. Birch woodland is invading the drier areas of the bog. An area of semi-improved grassland is included for practical boundary purposes. The area surrounding site is agricultural land. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
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| | | It has many of the expected plant species for the habitat including the locally rare Carex limosa. The site appears to be in a fairly natural state. | |
| 002122 | Wicklow Mountains SAC | The site comprises the largest complex of upland habitats in eastern Ireland with important examples of blanket bog wet heath and dry heath extensive in area and mostly of good quality. Alpine heath occurs at high levels along with calcareous and siliceous rocky habitats harbouring an arctic-alpine flora. A fine series of oligotrophic lakes occur and some have Salvelinus alpinus. Several oakwoods of moderate quality typical of the dry acidic woods of eastern Ireland are found. Seven Red Data Book plant species occur including the rare Alchemilla alpina and Nitella gracilis at its only Irish station. The site supports significant populations of breeding Falco columbarius and Falco peregrinus. The site is important for rare breeding passerines of oakwoods notably Phoenicurus phoenicurus and Phylloscopus sibilatrix. The site also has breeding Turdus torquatus and Lagopus lagopus. Lutra lutra occurs on several of the riverine systems. | An extensive upland site comprising much of the Wicklow Mountains and extending into Co. Dublin. The solid geology is mainly Leinster granites flanked by Ordovician schists mudstones and volcanics. The area has been glaciated and features fine examples of high corrie lakes deep valleys and moraines. Most of the site is over 300m with much ground over 600m and the highest peak of Lugnaquillia at 925m. The site includes the headwaters of several major rivers including the Liffey the Dargle and the Slaney. The substrate over much of the site is peat with poor mineral soil on the slopes and lower ground. Exposed rock and scree is a feature. The dominant habitats on the site are blanket bog heaths and upland grassland. |
| 004186 | The Murrough SPA | The site is of high importance for the good numbers and wide variety of waterfowl species that it holds in winter and on passage. The improved grassland provides feeding for Greylag Geese (Anser anser). This is one of a handful of sites around the south and east coasts at which Reed Warbler (Acrocephalus scirpaceus) has in recent years proved to be a regular breeding species. For some years in the 1980s Bearded Tit (Panurus biarmicus) bred here at its only site in Ireland emphasizing the potential of this site to hold the community of reedswamp species present in Great Britain but largely absent in Ireland. The shingle beach is a breeding site for the country's largest colony of Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) and supports 19% of the all-Ireland population. | The Murrough SPA comprises a coastal wetland complex that stretches for 13 km from Kilcoole Station east of Kilcoole village in the north to Wicklow town in the south and extends inland for up to to 1 km. The site includes area of marine water to a distance of 200 m from low water mark. There is a railway on top of the beach and much agricultural reclamation of the marshes/saltmarshes. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
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| 000396 | Pollardstown Fen SAC | The largest spring-fed fen in Ireland largely intact and responding well to restoration measures. Supports one of the largest stands of Cladium fen and is one of the most studied examples of its kind in Ireland.Type locality for the Cirsio dissecti-Schoenetum nigricantis and contains a significant number of rare and threatened species. A number of internationally important invertebrates have been recorded and rare sub-aquatic invertebrates are particularly well represented. Pollardstown is the only known site in Ireland (or Europe) to support all three Annex II Vertigo species (V. geyeri V.angustior V. moulinsiana) and thus provides unique opportunity to study their different habitat and hydrological requirements. Re-flooding of reclaimed areas has increased the ornithological value of the site. | A large spring-fed fen situated in a shallow basin composed of up to 6m of marl/peat overlying clay. The fen contains the feeder channel of the Grand Canal and has survived several attempts at drainage and reclamation. Supports extensive areas of Cladium fen Schoenus fen reed and sedge swamp Molinia grassland and species-rich seepage areas. Restoration of the central fen area following partial reclamation in 1979 has caused re-flooding and allowed the re-establishment and expansion of aquatic and reedswamp vegetation and their associated fauna. |
| 000716 | Carriggower Bog SAC | Transition mires are well represented at this site and likely to be one of the larger examples of the habitat in eastern Ireland. A range of characteristic species occur. The bryophyte flora is probably well developed (though not fully investigated). It supports a suite of invertebrate species of international importance. It also supports important wintering concentrations of Gallinago gallinago and Lymnocryptes minimus and is actually the top site in the country for Lymnocryptes minimus. The site is partly owned by State (NPW). | The site is an upland valley bog complex on the Calary plateau on the eastern side of the Wicklow Mountains. It comprises a mosaic of wet blanket bog and poor fen vegetation along with such related habitats as heath wet grassland and Betula-Salix scrub. There is no open water other than pools. The Vartry River skirts the western side of site. The bog was exploited for peat up to about 100 years ago but now old cuttings are well revegetated. An area of conifer plantation is included. Surrounding landuse is mostly semi-improved grassland and forestry. |
| 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. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
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| | | | 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. |
| 002249 | The Murrough Wetlands SAC | This is the most extensive series of wetland habitats on the east coast with six Annex I habitats occuring. Formerly the area of wetland was more extensive but the integrity of the site has been diminished through drainage agricultural improvement and levelling of sand hills. The railway line has influenced the development of the entire system. It is an important site for winter wildfowl and supports internationally important nos of Branta bernicla hrota as well as nationally important numbers of several species. Sterna albifrons (Annex I Birds Directive) breeds in the site. Many other Annex I species are also present. The site is also of importance for the populations of rare invertebrate and plant species that is supports. | The site comprises a series of coastal habitats and brackish to freshwater marshes stretching for about 15km. Drainage directly to the sea is impeded along most of the site by a shingle ridge along which runs a railway line. There are two main outlets to the sea and there is seepage into the marshes under the shingle ridge and where breaches occur. Freshwater drains into the site via the Vartry River and many drains. Freshwater springs provide a permanent source of water for a complex fen system. Other habitats present on the site include salt marsh tidal reed bed freshwater reedswamp wet grassland wet woodland mudflat dry heath and dry grassland. Parts of the site are farmed. |
| 002274 | Wicklow Reef SAC | This biogenic reef is well developed with sections of reef up to 0.6 m thick. It is the only documented example in Ireland making this a site of very high importance. | The site is located on the mid-east coast of Ireland and is just offshore from Wicklow Head Co. Wicklow. There are strong tidal streams in the area. The substrate is a mixture of cobbles bedrock and sand that is subject to the strong tidal streams of the east coast. The reef is a biogenic reef constructed by the polychaete Sabellaria alveolata. |
| 004063 | Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA | The site is of national importance for its population of Anser anser which is one of the largest in the country. The site provides the main roost for the birds with feeding mostly on improved grassland outside of the site. | Poulaphouca Reservoir located in the western foothills of the Wicklow Mountains was created in 1944 by damming of the River Liffey for the purpose of generating electricity from hydropower. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
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| | | A range of other waterfowl species occur in relatively low numbers including Cygnus cygnus Anas penelope and Bucephala clangula. The reservoir attracts roosting gulls during winter most notably a large population of Larus fuscus which in Ireland is rare in winter away from the south coast. | The reservoir covers an area of approximately 20 square kilometres and is the largest inland water body in the mid-east and south-east regions. The reservoir receives water from two main sources the River Liffey at the northern end and the Kings River at the southern end. The exit is into the Liffey gorge at the western end. Underlying the reservoir are sands and gravels deposited during the last glaciation. The shores of the lake are mostly sandy. When water levels are low exposed lake muds are colonised by an ephemeral flora of annual plant species. |
| 000729 | Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC | 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 (Calluno-Ulicetea) the humid dune slacks the dunes with Salix repens 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 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 Thelypteris palustris and Galium uliginosum. The invertebrate fauna is of high interest with some rare species including Machimus cowini. Sterna albifrons has bred at the site in the past. | 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 - Brittas 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. 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 Buckroney dune system has been acquired by National Parks and Wildlife for conservation use. |
| 001209 | Glenasmole Valley SAC | The site has important examples of petrifying springs. The physical and chemical properties of the springs have been studied. Good examples of orchid rich calcareous grassland including Pseudorchis albida (legally protected) and Orchis morio (Red Data Book species) are found. The quality of grassland is variable owing to agricultural improvement. Molinia meadows are also represented. Several other Red Data Book plant species occur along with a host of rare or scarce plant species for Co. Dublin. The botany of this site has been well studied since the 19th century. | Glenasmole Valley lies at the northern foothills of the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains. It is a glaciated valley with drift deposits consisting of fluvioglacial sands and gravels of varying thickness and rich in Carboniferous limestone occurring on the slopes. Spring lines occur along both sides of the northern part of the valley. The River Dodder flows through the valley and within the site the river has been impounded to form two reservoirs. Associated with the reservoirs are areas of swamp and marsh vegetation. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
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| | | The site has Alcedo atthis and is important for bats with four Red Data Book species present (Pipistrellus pipistrellus Nyctalus leisleri Myotis daubentoni Plecotus auritus). | The valley is heavily wooded mostly with mixed woodland of both deciduous and coniferous species but also some native woodland. Dry calcareous pasture grassland improved to varying degrees is a main habitat of the valley sides and occurs in association with wet grassland and in places of seepage fen or marsh type vegetation. |
| 001766 | Magherabeg Dunes SAC | Despite its small size this site is important as a fine example of an intact sand dune system which shows the various developmental stages of dunes with embryonic dunes white dunes grey fixed dunes and decalcified fixed dunes all represented. A fine transition is also shown between sand dunes and drift banks the latter wooded with native deciduous species. Also present is a good example of petryfying springs on the cliff-face at Ardmore. The quality of all the habitats is good. A rare hybrid sedge Carex x grossii (C. hirta x C vesicaria) has been recorded. | Situated on the south Co. Wicklow coast and extending south from Ardmore Point for up to 2 km this site comprises a mature dune system and adjacent drift banks. The Three Mile Water River flows through the site before entering the sea. Some swamp vegetation occurs behind the dunes. The drift banks are covered by deciduous woodland and dense scrub. Bedrock and low cliffs are exposed at Ardmore Point and Ardmore Head is covered by dry grassland and scrub. |
| 002162 | River Barrow and River Nore SAC | 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 - Salmo salar Margaritifera margaritifera M.m. durrovensis Alosa fallax fallax Austropotamobius pallipes Petromyzon marinus Lutra lutra Lampetra fluviatilis and L. planeri. Annex I Bird species include Anser albifrons flavirostris Falco peregrinus Cygnus cygnus Cygnus columbianus bewickii Limosa lapponica Pluvialis apricaria and Alcedo atthis. A range of rare plants and invertebrates are found in the woods along these rivers and rare plants are also associated with the saltmarsh. | 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. 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. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
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| | | | 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. |
| 004172 | Dalkey Islands SPA | Site is of importance for both breeding and staging Sterna terns. There is a well-established colony of Sterna hirundo and smaller numbers of Sterna paradisaea. Sterna dougallii bred in 2003 and 2004 one of only three known sites in the country - this came about after several years of conservation management aimed at attracting the species. The site along with other parts of south Dublin Bay is used by the three Sterna tern species as a major post-breeding/pre-migration autumn roost area. The origin of the birds is likely to be the Co. Dublin breeding sites though numbers also suggest birds from other sites perhaps outside the state. The site also has breeding Larus marinus Tadorna tadorna and Haematopus ostralegus. The site is known to be frequented in winter by significant numbers of Arenaria interpres and Calidris maritima but recent count data is unavailable. | Site comprises Dalkey Island Lamb Island Maiden Rock the intervening rocks and reefs between Dalkey Island Lamb Island and Clare Rock and the sea area around Maiden Rock to a distance of 100 m. Dalkey Island which is the largest in the group lies ca.400m off Sorrento Point and is separated by a deep channel. The island is low-lying the highest point at c.15m is marked by a Martello Tower. Soil cover consists mainly of thin peaty layers though in a few places there are boulder clay deposits. Vegetation cover is low consisting mainly of grasses. Lamb Island lies to the north of Dalkey Island attached at low-tided by a rocky reef. It has thin soil cover and a sparse vegetation cover. Further north lies Maidens Rock a bare angular granite rock up to 5m high. There is no vegetation cover. Dalkey Island is grazed by a herd of feral goats. |
| 004076 | Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA | 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 Anser albifrons flavirostris. It also has internationally important populations of Branta bernicla hrota Cygnus columbarius bewickii and Limosa lapponica and is now one of the few sites in the country which supports a regular flock of Cygnus columbarius bewickii. | 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. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
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| | | 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 Anas penelope (3.1%) Anas platyrhynchos (3.6%) Anas acuta (3.3%) Aythya marila (4.9%) Mergus serrator (4.1%) Pluvialis apricaria (3.7%) Pluvialis squatarola (11.3%) Vanellus vanellus (5.1%) and Limosa limosa (3.6%). Numbers of wintering birds are often swelled by hard-weather movements from Europe notably Pluvialis apricaria and Vanellus vanellus. The site is a regular location for Philomachus pugnax during passage and in winter and is regularly visited by a range of other passage waders most notably Tringa glareola Tringa erythropus and Tringa ochropus. Asio flammeus is a regular visitor in small numbers to the slobs during winter. A nesting colony of Egretta garzetta has recently become established within the site and birds are present in the area throughout the year. Passer montanus 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 slobs 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 Puccinellia fasciculata a Red Data Book species and has a good population of Lepus timidus hibernicus. | 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 slobs are two flat areas of farmland mainly arable and pasture grassland empoldered behind 19th century sea-walls. 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. The channels often support swamp vegetation. Several conifer plantations are included especially on the south slob. |

## 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 000206 | North Dublin Bay SAC | Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii) [1395], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Humid dune slacks [2190], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] | H01.09, I01, E03, G02.01, H01.03, G01.02, E01, J01.01, A04, E02, K03.06, G05.05, F02.03, F02.03.01, G01.01 | Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to other sources not listed, Invasive non-native species, Discharges, Golf course, Other point source pollution to surface water, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Burning down, Grazing, Industrial or commercial areas, Antagonism with domestic animals, Intensive maintenance of public parcs or cleaning of beaches, Leisure fishing, Bait digging or collection, Nautical sports |
| 000210 | South Dublin Bay SAC | Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] | J02.01.02, F02.03.01, E01, D01.02, E02, K02, E03, G01.01.02, K02.02, G01.02, M01, D01.01, G01.01, H03 | Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Bait digging or collection, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Roads, motorways, Industrial or commercial areas, Biocenotic evolution, succession, Discharges, Non-motorized nautical sports, Accumulation of organic material, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Changes in abiotic conditions, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Nautical sports, Marine water pollution |
| 000396 | Pollardstown Fen SAC | Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (Vertigo angustior) [1014], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Geyer`s whorl snail (Vertigo geyeri) [1013], Desmoulin`s whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Alkaline fens [7230] | C01.01, F03.01, A04, J01, F02.03, E01.03, B, D02.01, E03.01 | Sand and gravel extraction, Hunting, Grazing, Fire and fire suppression, Leisure fishing, Dispersed habitation, Sylviculture, forestry, Electricity and phone lines, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 000397 | Red Bog, Kildare SAC | Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] | F03.01, E01.03, A04, C01.01, F02.03, A08 | Hunting, Dispersed habitation, Grazing, Sand and gravel extraction, Leisure fishing, Fertilisation |
| 000713 | Ballyman Glen SAC | Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] | D01.02, H01.03, C01.01, A04, E01.02, E01.01, E03.01, A08, A01, B01, H02.01, A10.01 | Roads, motorways, Other point source pollution to surface water, Sand and gravel extraction, Grazing, Discontinuous urbanisation, Continuous urbanisation, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Fertilisation, Cultivation, Forest planting on open ground, Groundwater pollution by leakages from contaminated sites, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub |
| 000714 | Bray Head SAC | European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230] | G01.03, A04.02.01, A10.01, E01, G05.04, J01.01, K02.01, K01.01, D01.01 | Motorised vehicles, Non intensive cattle grazing, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Vandalism, Burning down, Species composition change (succession), Erosion, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks |
| 000716 | Carriggower Bog SAC | Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] | A04.02.03, E01.03, K02.01, J02.01, J02.08, A08, B01, A04.03 | Non intensive horse grazing, Dispersed habitation, Species composition change (succession), Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Raising the groundwater table or artificial recharge of goundwater, Fertilisation, Forest planting on open ground, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing |
| 000717 | Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC | Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] | A04, G02.06, I01, B06, E03.01, B, B02.01.01, G01.02, G05.04 | Grazing, Attraction park, Invasive non-native species, Grazing in forests or woodland, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Sylviculture, forestry, Forest replanting (native trees), Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Vandalism |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 000719 | Glen of the Downs SAC | Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] | G05.06, G02.06, A04, G05.04, G02.01, G01.02, D01.02, I01, G05.07, J01.01 | Tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, Attraction park, Grazing, Vandalism, Golf course, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Roads, motorways, Invasive non-native species, Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, Burning down |
| 000725 | Knocksink Wood SAC | Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] | E03.01, I01, B01.02, D05, G05.07, G03, E01.02, G02.08, B01, B02.03, G05.06, A04, D01.01, D01.02, G05.04, G01.02 | Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Invasive non-native species, Artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), Improved access to site, Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, Interpretative centres, Discontinuous urbanisation, Camping and caravans, Forest planting on open ground, Removal of forest undergrowth, Tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, Grazing, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Roads, motorways, Vandalism, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles |
| 000729 | Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC | Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Humid dune slacks [2190], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Alkaline fens [7230], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150], Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae) [2170], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] | D04.01, K01.01, A05.02, A08, G05.04, K02.01, G05.01, E01.02, J01, G02.01, I01, A04.02, G02.08, G01.02, A04.01.01, A03.02, J02, A10.01, F03.01, H02.07, E03.01 | Airport, Erosion, Stock feeding, Fertilisation, Vandalism, Species composition change (succession), Trampling, overuse, Discontinuous urbanisation, Fire and fire suppression, Golf course, Invasive non-native species, Non intensive grazing, Camping and caravans, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Intensive cattle grazing, Non intensive mowing, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Hunting, Diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 000733 | Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC | Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] | E01.03, B02.01.01, F05.04, F04.02, F03.01.01, B04, I01, G01.02, F03.02 | Dispersed habitation, Forest replanting (native trees), Poaching, Collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), Damage caused by game (excess population density), Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry), Invasive non-native species, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Taking and removal of animals (terrestrial) |
| 000770 | Blackstairs Mountains SAC | Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], European dry heaths [4030] | G01.03.02, K02.01, E03, A04.01.02, A04.02, G01.02, K01.01, J01.01, B02 | Off-road motorized driving, Species composition change (succession), Discharges, Intensive sheep grazing, Non intensive grazing, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Erosion, Burning down, Forest and Plantation management & use |
| 000781 | Slaney River Valley SAC | Twaite shad (Alosa fallax) [1103], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina) [1365], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Estuaries [1130], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] | A01, J02.11, B02, I01, D03.01.03, J02.12.02, H01.05, K01.01, J02, D01.05, H01, E05, E03, A08, F03.02.04, J02.06, A09, F01.03, C01.01, D01.01, A10.01, J02.05.02, F02.03.01, H01.08, H01.01, J02.06.01 | Cultivation, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Forest and Plantation management & use, Invasive non-native species, Fishing harbours, Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Erosion, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Bridge, viaduct, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Storage of materials, Discharges, Fertilisation, Predator control, Water abstractions from surface waters, Irrigation, Bottom culture, Sand and gravel extraction , Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Bait digging or collection, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, Surface water abstractions for agriculture |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 001209 | Glenasmole Valley SAC | Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210] | A03.03, B01.02, B02.01.02, D01.03, B01.01, H01.05, A04.02.01, H01.08, A04, I01, C01.03, A04.02.02, B02.02, E01.02, A03, A08, H02.07, J02, F02.03, D01, A04.02.03 | Abandonment or lack of mowing , Artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), Forest replanting (non native trees), Car parcs and parking areas, Forest planting on open ground (native trees), Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Non intensive cattle grazing, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Grazing, Invasive non-native species, Peat extraction, Non intensive sheep grazing, Forestry clearance, Discontinuous urbanisation, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Fertilisation, Diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Leisure fishing, Roads, paths and railroads, Non intensive horse grazing |
| 001398 | Rye Water Valley/Carto n SAC | Desmoulin`s whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (Vertigo angustior) [1014] | A04, E01.01, A08, J02.05.02, E01.03, D01.02, A10.01, B | Grazing, Continuous urbanisation, Fertilisation, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Dispersed habitation, Roads, motorways, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Sylviculture, forestry |
| 001742 | Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC | Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] | I02, K02.01, K01.01, X, J01.01, J02.12.01, E03.01, G01.03.02, G01 | Problematic native species, Species composition change (succession), Erosion, No threats or pressures, Burning down, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Off-road motorized driving, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities |
| 001757 | Holdenstow n Bog SAC | Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] | J02, D02.01.01, J02.01.03, X, B01, A01, A04 | Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Suspended electricity and phone lines, Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, No threats or pressures, Forest planting on open ground, Cultivation, Grazing |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 001766 | Magherabeg Dunes SAC | Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] | A04.02, G01.02, G05.04, H01.04, K02.01, A04.03, G05.07, H01.01, K01.01 | Non intensive grazing, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Vandalism, Diffuse pollution to surface waters via strom overlows or urban run-off, Species composition change (succession), Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, Pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, Erosion |
| 002122 | Wicklow Mountains SAC | Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], European dry heaths [4030], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] | G02.09, G04.01, C01.03, F03.02.02, B06, E01, G01.02, L05, K01.01, D01.01, A05.02, G05.07, K04.05, G01.03.02, B02.05, I01, G05.06, E03.01, J01.01, G05.01, G05.04, G01, A04, G01.04, G05.09, F04.02, F03 | Wildlife watching, Military manouvres, Peat extraction, Taking from nest (e.g. falcons), Grazing in forests or woodland, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Collapse of terrain, landslide, Erosion, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Stock feeding, Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, Damage by herbivores (including game species), Off-road motorized driving, Non- intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched), Invasive non-native species, Tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Burning down, Trampling, overuse, Vandalism, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Grazing, Mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, Fences, fencing, Collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial) |
| 002162 | River Barrow and River Nore SAC | Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Desmoulin`s whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) [1092], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe | J02.12.02, J03.02.01, J02.05.02, F02.01.02, B02.01.01, E02, C01.03, A04.01.01, | Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Reduction in migration or migration barriers, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Netting, Forest replanting (native trees), Industrial or commercial areas, Peat extraction, Intensive cattle grazing, Dredging or removal of limnic sediments, Port areas, Leisure fishing, Forest and Plantation management & use, Removal of |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Killarney fern (Trichomanes speciosum) [1421], European dry heaths [4030], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Twaite shad (Alosa fallax) [1103], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Nore Pearl Mussel (Margaritifera durrovensis) [1990], Estuaries [1130], Reefs [1170], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] | J02.02.01, D03.01, F02.03, B02, A10.01, F02, H01, B07, A02.01, C01.01.01, J02.06, J02, I01, K01.01, F01.01, B05, M01 | hedges and copses or scrub, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Forestry activities not referred to above, Agricultural intensification, Sand and gravel quarries, Water abstractions from surface waters, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Invasive non-native species, Erosion, Intensive fish farming, intensification , Use of fertilizers (forestry), Changes in abiotic conditions |
| 002249 | The Murrough Wetlands SAC | Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Alkaline fens [7230], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] | C01.01, K01.01, A08, D01.01, G01.02, A04, J02.12.01, J02.05.01, B, E03.02, D01.04 | Sand and gravel extraction, Erosion, Fertilisation, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Grazing, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Modification of water flow (tidal & marine currents), Sylviculture, forestry, Disposal of industrial waste, Railway lines, TGV |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 002274 | Wicklow Reef SAC | Reefs [1170] | F02.03, F02.02.01, F05.02, J02.11.01, G01.07, F02.02.05, F02.01.01, F02.01.02 | Leisure fishing, Benthic or demersal trawling, Date mussel-fishing, Dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Scubadiving, snorkelling, Benthic dredging, Potting, Netting |
| 003000 | Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC | Harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) [1351], Reefs [1170] | D03.02, F02.02, J02.02, E03, D02, X, H06.01, J02.11 | Shipping lanes, Professional active fishing, Removal of sediments (mud...), Discharges, Utility and service lines, No threats or pressures, Noise nuisance, noise pollution, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits |
| 004006 | North Bull Island SPA | Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056] | E01.04, D01.02, G03, E03, G02.01, E02, D01.05, F02.03.01, G01.01, E01.01, G01.02, D03.02 | Other patterns of habitation, Roads, motorways, Interpretative centres, Discharges, Golf course, Industrial or commercial areas, Bridge, viaduct, Bait digging or collection, Nautical sports, Continuous urbanisation, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Shipping lanes |
| 004024 | South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA | Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194], Common tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) | D01.02, G01.01, G01.02, J02.01.02, E03, | Roads, motorways, Nautical sports, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Discharges, Urbanised areas, human |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | [A192], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157] | E01, F02.03, E02, K02.03, F02.03.01 | habitation, Leisure fishing, Industrial or commercial areas, Eutrophication (natural), Bait digging or collection |
| 004040 | Wicklow Mountains SPA | Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) [A103], Merlin (Falco columbarius) [A098] | G01.02, A04, C01.03, G03, B, D01.01 | Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Grazing, Peat extraction, Interpretative centres, Sylviculture, forestry, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks |
| 004063 | Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA | Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043], Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183] | F02.03, D01.05, B01, G01.01, F03.01 | Leisure fishing, Bridge, viaduct, Forest planting on open ground, Nautical sports, Hunting |
| 004127 | Wicklow Head SPA | Black-legged kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188] | G01.02 | Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles |
| 004172 | Dalkey Islands SPA | Roseate tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192], Common tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193], Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194] | G01.01, G01.02, A04, E01 | Nautical sports, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Grazing, Urbanised areas, human habitation |
| 004186 | The Murrough SPA | Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata) [A001], Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) [A195], Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] | D01.04, G01.02, A08 | Railway lines, TGV, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Fertilisation |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 004076 | Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA | Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Coot (Fulica atra) [A125], Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Little Grebe (Tachybaptus ruficollis) [A004], Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A053], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005], Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183], Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) [A195], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Bewick's Swan (Cygnus columbianus bewickii) [A037], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) [A067], Grey Heron (Ardea cinerea) [A028], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Scaup (Aythya marila) [A062], Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus) [A082], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130] | 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 |

## 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Geyer's Whorl Snail (Vertigo geyeri) | [1013] | Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites. | Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes. |
| Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (Vertigo angustior) | [1014] | Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites. | Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes. |
| Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) | [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 (Margaritifera margaritifera) | [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 (Austropotamobius pallipes) | [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 (Petromyzon marinus) | [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 (Lampetra planeri) | [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. |

| Qualifying Interests | EU Code | Current threats to Qualifying Interests | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|---|---|---|---|
| River Lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) | [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 (Alosa fallax fallax) | [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 (Salmo salar) | [1106] | Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations. | Disease, parasites and barriers to movement. |
| 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. |
| 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 (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) | [1330] | Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (Spartina anglica); infilling and reclamation. | Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion. |
| Harbour Porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) | [1351] | Pressures acting on the species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration or from local/regional prey removal from fisheries. | Sensitive to disturbance, prey availability and pollution. |
| Otter (Lutra lutra) | [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. |
| Harbour Seal (Phoca vitulina) | [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. |
| Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii) | [1395] | There are no significant impacts affecting this species. | None identified. |
| Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) | [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. |
| Killarney Fern (Trichomanes speciosum) | [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 (Margaritifera durrovensis) | [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 (Ammophila arenaria) | [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 (Hippophae rhamnoides). | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) | [2150] | Land abandonment, recreational activity, and bracken encroachment. | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| Dunes with willow scrub (Salix repens ssp. argentea and Salicion arenariae) | [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 (Littorelletalia uniflorae) | [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. |
| Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds | [3160] | Nutrient alterations; management shifts in the associated peatland habitat, afforestation; wastewater; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution |

| Qualifying Interests | EU Code | Current threats to Qualifying Interests | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|---|---|---|---|
| Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation (Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion) | [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. |
| 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. |
| Alpine and Boreal heaths | [4060] | Abandonment; overgrazing; burning; outdoor recreation; quarries; communication networks; and wind farm developments. | Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. |
| Calaminarian grasslands of the Murawy galmanowa (Violetalia calaminariae) | [6130] | Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development. | Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species. |
| Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)* important orchid sites | [6210] | Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development. | Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species. |
| Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) | [6230] | Bracken encroachment, succession, inappropriate grazing, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development. | Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species. |
| Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) | [6410] | 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. |

| Qualifying Interests | EU Code | Current threats to Qualifying Interests | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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. |
| Blanket bogs (* if active bog) | [7130] | Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development. | Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things. |
| Transition mires and quaking bogs | [7140] | Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change. | Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things. |
| Calcareous fens with species of mariscus sedge and bog cotton (Cladium mariscus and Caricion davallianae) | [7210] | Hydrological changes, pollution to surface waters, urbanisation, roads development, groundwater interactions, grazing and cultivation practices and the inappropriate use of pesticides. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| 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. |
| Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) | [8110] | Overgrazing, undergrazing and succession were recorded as medium-importance pressures in this reporting period, and Structure and functions were again assessed as Inadequate, the trend is considered to be stable rather than improving. This change is due to improved knowledge and the habitat is considered to have been stable since before the last assessment. | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation | [8210] | Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access. | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |

| Qualifying Interests | EU Code | Current threats to Qualifying Interests | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|---|---|---|---|
| Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation | [8220] | Pressures associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb (Epilobium brunnescens). | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| 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. |

## 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 Loon | Gavia stellata | A04, C01, C03, F02, G01, H03, I01, J02, J02.06, K03, M02 | Grazing, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, 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 | Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis | Xxp/Xxt | No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS |
| A005 | Great Crested Grebe | Podiceps cristatus | Xxp/Xxt | No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS |
| A017 | Cormorant | Phalacrocorax carbo carbo | D01 | Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure |
| A028 | Grey Heron | Ardea cinerea cinerea | H01, Xxp/Xxt | Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS |
| A037 | Bewick's Swan | Cygnus columbianus bewickii | 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 | Cygnus cygnus | 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 |

| Species Code | Common Name | Scientific Name | Threats and Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A043 | Greylag Goose | Anser anser | A02, A11, C03, D02, F03, G01, H07 | Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other forms of pollution |
| A046 | Light-Bellied Brent Goose | Branta bernicla hrota | 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 | Tadorna tadorna | F01, F02, G01, H03, M01 | Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions |
| A050 | Eurasian Wigeon | Anas penelope | 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 |
| A052 | Teal | Anas crecca | Xxp/Xxt | No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS |
| A053 | Mallard | Anas platyrhynchos | Xxp/Xxt | No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS |

| Species Code | Common Name | Scientific Name | Threats and Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A054 | Northern Pintail | Anas acuta | 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 | Anas clypeata | 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 |
| A062 | Greater Scaup | Aythya marila | C03, F01, F02, F03, G01, H01, H03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, 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 |
| A067 | Common Goldeneye | Bucephala clangula | 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 | Mergus serrator | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution |

| Species Code | Common Name | Scientific Name | Threats and Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A082 | Hen Harrier | Circus cyaneus | 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 |
| A098 | Merlin | Falco columbarius | A02, B01, B02, C03, M02 | Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Forest and Plantation management & use, Renewable abiotic energy use, Changes in biotic conditions |
| A103 | Peregrine Falcon | Falco peregrinus peregrinus | C03, F03, J03, M02 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in biotic conditions |
| A125 | Eurasian Coot | Fulica atra atra | 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 | Haematopus ostralegus | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions |
| A137 | Common Ringed Plover | Charadrius hiaticula | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A140 | European Golden Plover | Pluvialis apricaria | 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 | Pluvialis squatarola | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions |
| A142 | Northern Lapwing | Vanellus vanellus | 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 | Red Knot | Calidris canutus | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, 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 | Calidris alba | 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 |

| Species Code | Common Name | Scientific Name | Threats and Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A149 | Dunlin | Calidris alpina | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, 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 | Limosa limosa islandica | A02, C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03 | Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications |
| A157 | Bar-Tailed Godwit | Limosa lapponica | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions |
| A160 | Eurasian Curlew | Numenius arquata arquata | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications |
| A162 | Common Redhank | Tringa totanus | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A169 | Ruddy Turnstone | Arenaria interpres | C03, F01, G01, H03, J03, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions |
| A179 | BLack-Headed Gull | Larus ridibundus | A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01 | Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions |
| A183 | Lesser Black-Backed Gull | Larus fuscus graellsii | C03, F02, H03, J03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications |
| A184 | European Herring Gull | Larus argentatus | C03, F02, H03, J03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications |
| A188 | BLack-Legged Kittiwake | Rissa tridactyla | C03, F02, H03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources, Marine water pollution |
| A192 | Roseate Tern | Sterna dougallii dougallii | 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 | Sterna hirundo | 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 | Sterna paradisaea | 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 |

| Species Code | Common Name | Scientific Name | Threats and Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A195 | Little Tern | Sterna albifrons albifrons | C03, D01, I01, I02, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Invasive non-native species, Problematic native species, Changes in abiotic conditions |
| A395 | Greater White-Fronted Goose | Anser albifrons flavirostris | 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 |

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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 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 Directive, Regulation, Plan or Programme to become familiar with the full details of each.

## Appendix 2 - Table 1: Other Plans and Programmes

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|---|---|---|
| **European Level** | | | |
| SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) | Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.<br>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. | Carry out and environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive.<br>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.<br>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission.<br>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects.<br>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme.<br>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive.<br>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as | Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are | All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. | Implementation of the 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **European Level** | | | |
| amended by 2014/52/EU) | likely to have significant effects on the environment.<br>Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4. | For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III.<br>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.<br>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. | environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) | Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.<br>Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.<br>Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest.<br>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. | Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species.<br>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.<br>Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present.<br>Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. | 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. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|---|---|---|
| **European Level** | | | |
| Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) | Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats.<br>Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation.<br>The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. | Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.<br>Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas).<br>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.<br>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<br>particularly wetlands of international importance. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU 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 | This Directive lays down provisions for:<br>the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality;<br>the management of bathing water quality; and<br>the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality | 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. – |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | | 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. | 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:<br>a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year<br>set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk<br>set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC) | The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive | The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:<br>an integrated approach<br>best available techniques,<br>flexibility; and<br>public participation | 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 |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions. | | framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC | 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). | 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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC) | The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020. | The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports. | 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. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288(COD)) | Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption.<br>The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor.<br>Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources. | Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive;<br>Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014;<br>Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels;<br>Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU) | 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. | This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refueling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| | | well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refueling points, and user information requirements. | combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) | Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020.<br>Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption. | Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures<br>EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs<br>The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services<br>Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy<br>Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering<br>National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits<br>Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it<br>Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities. | 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. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU) | 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. | 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:<br>Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;<br>The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism;<br>The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure;<br>Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law;<br>Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU) | 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. | Each Member State shall establish and implement maritime spatial planning.<br>In doing so, Member States shall take into account land-sea interactions.<br>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'<br>competence to design and determine the format and content of that plan or those plans.<br>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. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards<br>– 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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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | 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.<br>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<br>requirements of this Directive. | |
| UK Marine Policy Statement | Achieving a sustainable marine economy<br>Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society<br>Living within environmental limits<br>Promoting good governance<br>Using sound science responsibly | 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:<br>Promote sustainable economic development;<br>Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of<br>climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects;<br>Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and heritage assets; and<br>Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to<br>address local social and economic issues | 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. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 | 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. | The Marine Act comprises eight key elements:<br>Marine Management Organisation (MMO)<br>Strategic Marine Planning System<br>Streamlined Marine Licensing System<br>Marine Nature Conservation<br>Fisheries Management and Marine Enforcement<br>Migratory and Freshwater Fisheries<br>Coastal Access<br>Coastal and Estuarine Management | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Marine (Northern Ireland) Act 2013 | 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. | 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:<br>Marine Planning<br>Nature Conservation<br>Marine Licensing | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 | Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy.<br>Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible. | Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services.<br>The six targets cover:<br>Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity | 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. – |

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| | | Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure<br>Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry<br>Sustainable management of fish stocks<br>Reducing invasive alien species<br>Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss | the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Biodiversity Strategy for<br>2030 - Bringing nature back<br>into our lives (European<br>Commission, 2020) | 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. | The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:<br>Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at<br>sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value.<br>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.<br>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.<br>Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies<br>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 |
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| | | towards the successful adoption of an 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. | Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.<br>Supporting EU-level GI projects.<br>Improving access to finance for GI projects.<br>Improving information and promoting innovation. | 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. |
| UNESCO (1972) The Convention<br>for the Protection of the World<br>Cultural and Natural Heritage | links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and<br>recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. | sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them;<br>each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage;<br>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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in |

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| | | | 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. | The Convention has three main goals:<br>the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity);<br>the sustainable use of its components; and<br>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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and 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) Framework Convention on Climate Change | It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. | The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially<br>in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own. | 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 |

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| | | | combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards<br>– in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement) | The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.<br><br>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.<br><br>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<br>well below 2°C. | The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II).<br>EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP.<br>Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every<br>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. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package | Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020.<br>Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels.<br>Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%.<br>Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. | Four pieces of complimentary legislation:<br>Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps.<br>Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU.<br>Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020.<br>Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy | 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.<br>Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as- usual scenario. | To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:<br>A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS).<br>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.<br>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. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC)<br>(EU Air Framework Directive) | The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). | Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole.<br>Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users |

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| Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC) | Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives.<br>Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values.<br>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.<br>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. | Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures.<br>Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public.<br>Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases.<br>Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. | and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) | The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source. | The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:<br>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;<br>Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and<br>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | 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. | |
| Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) | Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks<br>Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community | Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment<br>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.<br>Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above.<br>Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) | 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.<br>Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain “good status” of water bodies.<br>Promote sustainable water usage. | Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive.<br>Achieve "good status" for all waters.<br>Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts.<br>Involve the public and streamline legislation. | 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 |

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| | The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives:<br>The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive<br>Sampling Drinking Water Directive<br>Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive<br>Shellfish Directive<br>Freshwater Fish Directive<br>Groundwater Directive<br>Dangerous Substances Directive | Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas.<br>Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas.<br>Recover costs for water services. | framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) | Protect, control and conserve groundwater.<br>Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.<br>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. | Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive.<br>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. | 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. |
| Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC) | Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption.<br>Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. | Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I.<br>Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a). | 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. – |

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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5.<br>Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause.<br>Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action.<br>Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health.<br>Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial. | the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) | This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.<br>The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. | Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment.<br>Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges.<br>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. | 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. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
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| Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU | Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage. | 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.<br>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.<br>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.<br>The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive.<br>The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met.<br>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. | |
| Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC), as amended | The aim of the European Union's ambitious Marine Strategy Framework Directive is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. | The Directive provides various requirements, including:<br>Completion of an initial assessment of Irish marine waters;<br>Establishment of establish environmental targets and indicators;<br>Establishment of a monitoring programme;<br>Establishment of a programme of measures; and<br>Implementation of the programme of measures and monitoring programme.<br><br>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 methods for monitoring and assessment, and repealing Decision 2010/477/EU". Annex III "Indicative lists of | 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. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | characteristics, pressures and impacts" of the Directive was amended in 2017. | |
| European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992) | 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. | The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological<br>heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States. | 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. |
| Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995) | 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. | The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.<br>The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions. | 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. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
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| ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles') | 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. | (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values;<br>(II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes;<br>(III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and<br>(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. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005) | 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. | 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.<br>Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.<br>Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. | 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 |

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| **European Level** | | | |
| | 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. | 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.<br>Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. | 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 activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes. | Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.<br>Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020) | It identifies three key objectives:<br>to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural<br>capital<br>to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy | Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):<br>Better implementation of legislation.<br>Better information by improving the knowledge base.<br>More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy.<br>Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. | 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 |

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| **European Level** | | | |
| | to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment- related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing | Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:<br>To make the Union's cities more sustainable.<br>To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. | framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats) | The convention has three main aims:<br>to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats<br>to promote cooperation between states<br>to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species | The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:<br>Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control.<br>Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucus.<br>Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies.<br>Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.<br>Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations.<br>Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. | 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. |
| Bali Road Map (2007) | The overall goals of the project are twofold:<br>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 | The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:<br>mitigation<br>adaptation<br>technology<br>financing | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities. | | – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Cancun Agreements (2010) | 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:<br>Mitigation<br>Transparency of actions<br>Technology<br>Finance<br>Adaptation<br>Forests<br>Capacity building | Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Doha Climate Gateway (2012) | Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015. | The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference:<br>Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020);<br>Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets;<br>Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| | | Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and<br>Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries. | – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for<br>environmental protection and management. |
| EU Common Agricultural Policy | To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and<br>To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. | ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future;<br>Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources;<br>Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006) | Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances. | The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:<br>Registration,<br>Evaluation,<br>Authorisation; and<br>Restriction of chemicals.<br>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| **European Level** | | | |
| Stockholm Convention | The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. | 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<br>Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention<br>Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention<br>Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner<br>To target additional POPs<br>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 | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Ramsar Convention | The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world". | Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:<br>Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;<br>Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;<br>Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | | – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| OSPAR Convention | The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas. | OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies:<br>Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy<br>Eutrophication Strategy<br>Hazardous Substances Strategy<br>Offshore Industry Strategy<br>Radioactive Substances Strategy<br>Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme<br>These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European 2020 Strategy for Growth | Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:<br>Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;<br>Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;<br>Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. | In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:<br>75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed;<br>3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D;<br>the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right);<br>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. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| **European Level** | | | |
| The European Green Deal (EGD)<br>2019 | 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. | 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.<br>It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.<br>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 | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU (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. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | | – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| **National Level** | | | |
| Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan (2021 - 2030) | 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<br>- from villages to cities, and everything around and in between.<br>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. | The National Planning Framework published alongside the National Development Plan yields ten National Strategic Outcomes as follows:<br>Compact Growth<br>Enhanced Regional Accessibility<br>Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities<br>Sustainable Mobility<br>A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills<br>High-Quality International Connectivity<br>Enhanced Amenity and Heritage<br>Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society<br>Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources<br>Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Planning, Land Use and Transport | The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, | In preparation. | Implementation of the 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 |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| Outlook 2040 [In Preparation] | affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:<br>Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term;<br>Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and,<br>Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates<br>the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. | | environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) | The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2022 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development. | 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.<br>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.<br>Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects.<br>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 | 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. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | 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. | |
| European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011 | 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. | The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.<br>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.<br>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). | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended) | 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. | 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.<br>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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and 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 | The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| | 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. | of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery. | 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:<br>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).<br>Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.<br>Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2016 (S.I. No. 366 of 2016) | 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. | 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.<br>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. | 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 |

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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | 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<br>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 | framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014) | These Regulations, which give effect to Irelands 3rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources | The Regulations include measures such as:<br>Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited<br>Limits on the land application of fertilisers<br>Storage requirements for livestock manure; and<br>Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality. | 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. |
| Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (S.I. 79 of 2008) | These Regulations provide for transposition of the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (Directive 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006) which aims:<br>To improve health protection for bathers<br>To establish a more pro-active approach to management of bathing waters, and<br>To promote increased public involvement and dissemination of information to the public. | 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.<br>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”. | 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 |

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| | | A permanent advice against bathing must be issued in a case where a bathing water is classified as "poor" for five consecutive years.<br>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.<br>There must be public participation in the identification of waters and the general implementation of the Regulations.<br>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.<br>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.<br>Private controllers of access lands may be required to contribute towards the costs incurred by a local authority or the EPA. | framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2011<br>(S.I 351 of 2011) | This Regulation defines further the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment. | Further defines the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment. | 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 |

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| | | | framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 | 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. | When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the<br>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:<br>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<br>entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective,<br>The policy of the Government on climate change,<br>Climate justice,<br>Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any<br>international agreement referred to in section 2; and<br>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas<br>emissions, prepared by the Agency. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Climate Action Plan 2023 | 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. | 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 | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Ireland's Second National | National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for | The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation: | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all |

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| Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024) | Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<br>The first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the<br>169 targets. It also included a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets. | To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development;<br>To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs;<br>Greater partnerships for the Goals;<br>To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and<br>Strong reporting mechanisms | environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021) | €27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland. | This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.<br>It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained. | 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. |
| Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the | The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC. | The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in |

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| European Commission) | | | combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020) | The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost efficient manner for consumers.<br>Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy s activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs sector plays in job creation and economic | This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable<br>energy challenge to 2020:<br>Increasing on and offshore wind,<br>Building a sustainable bioenergy sector,<br>Fostering R&D in renewables such as wave & tidal,<br>Growing sustainable transport; and<br>Building out robust and efficient networks. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017 | The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives. | The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues:<br>Climate Action Policy Framework<br>Decarbonising Electricity Generation<br>Decarbonising the Built Environment<br>Decarbonising Transport<br>An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory |

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| | | | framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014) | The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050.<br>Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. | National climate policy in Ireland:<br>Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity;<br>Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future;<br>Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and<br>Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. | 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. |
| Clean Air Strategy for Ireland (2023) | 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. | Through this document Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation.<br>The Strategy should also help tackle climate change.<br>The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture.<br>In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount, this is a strong theme of the Strategy. | 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. |

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| EirGrid 's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017 - 2022 | EirGrid 's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland.<br>"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<br>way." | 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. | 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. |
| All Island Grid Study 2008 | The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network ("the grid") on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources.<br>The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system. | Key conclusions of the study:<br>The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study.<br>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO2 emissions compared to portfolio 1<br>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports.<br>The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact.<br>Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management |

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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security. | |
| Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018) | 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.<br>It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the<br>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. | 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;<br>Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism<br>to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors,<br>domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity;<br>Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and<br>Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and<br>Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Water Resources Plan (2021) | The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next<br>25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. | The key objectives of the plan are to:<br>Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions<br>Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry | 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. – |

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| **European Level** | | | |
| | 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. | Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources<br>Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events<br>Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water<br>Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies<br>Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater | the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Draft National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development 2030 [Awaiting publication] | "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." | 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.<br>More vigilant and responsive monitoring if aquatic diseases and food safety risks.<br>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.<br>Provide coordinated messaging on the sustainable, low carbon nature of Irish aquaculture production, supported by independent certification and open dialogue. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector | Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. | This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:<br>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; | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | 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. | Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;<br>The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects;<br>Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms;<br>Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;<br>Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and<br>Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector. | 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. |
| Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997) | The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community. | The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and | The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish | The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation) | 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.<br>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." | Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development;<br>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;<br>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;<br>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<br>possible. | 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 Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2021 - 2027 | This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published.<br>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:<br>To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally;<br>To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste;<br>To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export;<br>To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management. | The revised Plan makes 20 recommendations under the following topics:<br>Policy and Regulation<br>Prevention<br>Collection and Treatment<br>Implementation | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| National Ports Policy 2013 | The core objective of National Ports Policy is to facilitate a competitive and effective market for maritime transport services. | 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. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Aviation Policy 2015 | Specifically, the principal goals of this National Aviation Policy are:<br>To enhance Ireland's connectivity by ensuring safe, secure and competitive access responsive to the needs of business, tourism and consumers;<br>To foster the growth of aviation enterprise in Ireland to support job creation and position Ireland as a recognised global leader in aviation; and<br>To maximise the contribution of the aviation sector to<br>Ireland's economic growth and development. | The National Aviation Policy commits to:<br>Maintaining safety as the number one priority in Irish aviation and ensuring that safety regulation is robust, effective and efficient;<br>Creating conditions to encourage the development of new routes and services, particularly to new and emerging markets;<br>Ensuring a high level of competition among airlines operating in the Irish market;<br>Optimising the operation of the Irish airport network to ensure maximum connectivity to the rest of the world;<br>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; | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| | | Supporting the aircraft leasing and aviation finance sectors to maintain Ireland's leading global position in these spheres; and<br>Maintaining a safe and innovative general aviation sector to support Ireland's broader aviation industry | |
| Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines | 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. | 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. | 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. |
| HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025 | 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." | These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:<br>Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life<br>Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities<br>Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing<br>Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| National Marine Planning Framework 2021 | 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. | The National Marine Planning Framework is a succinct strategic document that will deal with, inter alia, the following<br>environmental, social and economic issues:<br>Key marine activities such as fisheries, tourism, transport, offshore renewable energy generation, oil and gas exploration and production, aquaculture, and how they interact;<br>Climate change and related impacts;<br>Communities and health;<br>Cultural heritage;<br>Marine environment and biodiversity;<br>Transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Tourism Action Plan 2019 - 2021 | Includes a total of 27 actions to be addressed in the period between now and 2018 aimed at securing continued growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. | 23 actions address a range of key issues, including the marketing of Ireland as a visitor destination overseas, visitor access to and within Ireland, the effective presentation of Irish culture, sport, and events to visitors, the role of Local Authorities in supporting tourism, visitor accommodation capacity, and skills development in the tourism sector. The actions are directed at specific tourism stakeholders in the public and private sectors, all of whom are expected to proactively work towards completion of each action within the specified timeframe. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – | The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across | The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| Growing Tourism to 2025 | 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. | Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year<br>net of inflation excluding carrier receipts;<br>250,000 people employed in tourism; and<br>10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. | plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Tourism 2020: Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 | Northern Irelands Tourism Strategy until 2020<br>Vision is to "Create the new Northern Ireland experience and get it on everyone's destination wish list"<br>Details an Action Plan to achieving targets for People, Products and Places, Promotion and Partnership | Sets targets for:<br>Increasing visitor numbers<br>Increasing tourism earnings<br>Accelerating visitor spend<br>Targeting specific markets and segments<br>Supporting indigenous high quality businesses<br>Being visitor inspired<br>Plan provides for development of at least 22 key sites on Causeway Coastal Route | 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 | 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 | 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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| Development for Ireland 2012 | development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges. | | 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. |
| Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009) | Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved.<br>Sets out five key goals:<br>To reduce overall travel demand.<br>To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.<br>To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.<br>To reduce transport emissions.<br>To improve accessibility to transport. | Others lower level aims include:<br>reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment<br>ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking<br>improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies<br>strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) 2021 | 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.<br>The NIFTI will guide transport investment in the years ahead to enable the National Planning | The four investment priorities stated in NIFTI are:<br>Mobility of people and goods in urban areas.<br>Protection and renewal.<br>Enhanced regional and rural connectivity.<br>Decarbonisation. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | Framework, support the Climate Action Plan, and promote social, environmental and economic outcomes throughout Ireland. | | and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020<br>(2007) | White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland.<br>Outlines strategic Goals for:<br>Security of Supply<br>Sustainability of Energy<br>Competitiveness of Energy Supply | The underpinning Strategic Goals are:<br>Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand<br>Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland<br>Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation<br>Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks<br>Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production<br>Being prepared for energy supply disruptions | 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. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans (including transport) | 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 | Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change.<br>Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance based actions.<br>Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change.<br>Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance | 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. |
| Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030) | 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. | 2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:<br>Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95%<br>Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010) | Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and | Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| | heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. | | 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 Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020) | This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland. | The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate. | 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. |
| Wildlife Act of 1976<br><br>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 | The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna. | Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems<br>Give statutory protection to NHAs<br>Enhances wildlife species and their habitats<br>Includes more species for protection | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| | | | and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan | 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. | To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors.<br>To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity.<br>To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services.<br>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside.<br>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment.<br>To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species.<br>To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Broadband Plan (2012) | Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland. | The Plan sets out:<br>A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband.<br>Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. | 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. – |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| | | The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.<br>A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. | the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for<br>environmental protection and management. |
| The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) | Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process.<br>Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications.<br>Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels.<br>Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts. | Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding.<br>Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off.<br>Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains.<br>Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth.<br>Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders.<br>Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation<br>are complied with at all stages of flood risk management.<br><br>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<br>flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines. | 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. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)<br><br>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)<br><br>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009) | Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation.<br>Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water.<br>Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions. | Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans.<br>Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs.<br>Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies.<br>Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body.<br>Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances.<br>Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater.<br>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies.<br>Outlines surface water quality standards.<br>Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010) | Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation. | Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality.<br>Sets groundwater quality standards.<br>Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater. | 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 |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| | | | framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 to 1990 | The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division. | The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:<br>Prosecute for water pollution offences.<br>Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.<br>Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution.<br>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;<br>Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.<br>Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Water Services Act 2007<br><br>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012<br><br>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013 | Provides the water services infrastructure.<br>Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services.<br>Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply.<br>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore | Key strategic objectives include:<br><br>Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.<br>Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced. | 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 |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland. | 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<br>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.<br>Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures.<br>Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems.<br>Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services.<br>Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER. | framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Irish Water's (now known as Uisce Eireann) Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2020 - 2024) | This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term. | Six strategic objectives as follows:<br>Meet Customer Expectations.<br>Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply.<br>Provide Effective Management of Wastewater.<br>Protect and Enhance the Environment.<br>Support Social and Economic Growth.<br>Invest in the Future. | 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. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| 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 | 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.<br>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<br>national network of NHAs. | 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<br>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<br>foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in<br>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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental<br>legislation and align with and<br>cumulatively contribute towards – in<br>combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and<br>management. |
| Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan | Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to | not applicable | Implementation of the 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 |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment | | environmental legislation and 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. |
| Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)<br><br>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)<br><br>Green, Low-Carbon, Agri- environment Scheme (GLAS) | Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection.<br>GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring. | Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.<br>Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats.<br>Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment.<br>Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans.<br>Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Rural Development Programme | 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 | At a more detailed level, the programme also:<br><br>Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation;<br>Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land | 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. – |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas | management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and<br>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 | the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Forestry Programme (2014-2020) | Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020. | Measures include the following:<br>Afforestation and Creation of Woodland<br>Neighbour Wood Scheme<br>Forest Roads<br>Reconstitution Scheme<br>Woodland Improvement Scheme<br>Native Woodland Conservation Scheme<br>Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions<br>Producer Groups<br>Innovative Forest Technology<br>Forest Genetic Reproductive Material<br>Forest Management Plans | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| River Basin Management Plan | River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters. | 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.<br>Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD.<br>Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. | 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. – |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | Involve the public through consultations. | the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025) | 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. | Objectives of the Strategy:<br>To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management.<br>To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils.<br>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.<br>To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsible.<br>To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use.<br>To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required.<br>To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs.<br>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. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Flood Risk Management Plans | The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme | CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have | Implementation of the 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 |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management 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. | 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.<br>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. | environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020 | The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:<br><br>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. | Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:<br>To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs.<br>To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy.<br>To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016 | Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources. | 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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and 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 |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | | 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:<br>AFV forecasts<br>Electricity targets<br>Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets<br>Hydrogen targets<br>Biofuels targets<br>LPG targets<br>Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Food Wise 2025 (DAFM) | Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further. | Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including:<br>85% increase in exports to €19 billion.<br>70% increase in value added to €13 billion.<br>60% increase in primary production to €10 billion.<br>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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and 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 |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010 | Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland<br>Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed | Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020<br>Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative | 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. |
| Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) NI | 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. | The overall objective of the planning system is to further sustainable development and improve well-being for the people of the North. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Policy Framework | 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 | This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:<br>Reduce overall travel demand<br>Maximise the efficiency of the transport network | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| For Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030 | 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable.<br>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. | Reduce reliance on fossil fuels<br>Reduce transport emissions<br>Improve accessibility to transport<br><br>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework. | contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| **Regional/ County/Local Level** | | | |
| Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies | 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. | 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.<br>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, Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council.<br>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 | 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. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council; and Galway County Council. | |
| Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Northern Ireland) | Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland.<br>Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors. | Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective. | 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. |
| Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2016-2035) | 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.<br>The Vision Statement: "The GDA by 2022 is an economically vibrant, active and sustainable international Gateway Region, with strong connectivity across the GDA Region, nationally and worldwide; a region which fosters communities living in attractive, accessible places well supported by community infrastructure and enjoying high quality leisure facilities; and promotes and protects across the | They set out a number of core principles deriving from the strategic vision, which are:<br>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.<br>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.<br>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 World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance. | 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. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| | GDA green corridors, active agricultural lands and protected natural areas."<br>Full SEA and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken on this Strategy | Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form.<br>Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form<br>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<br>devoted to agriculture and similar uses. | |
| Transport Strategy for the Cork Metropolitan Area 2040 | 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 | 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. | 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. |
| Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan | Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow<br>Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically<br>The Plan refers to the EuroVelo International Cycle Route Network of the European Cyclists | Aims to identify and determine:<br>The Urban Cycle Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level<br>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 | 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. – |

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| | Federation is a network of 15 long distance cycle routes connecting and uniting the whole European continent. Two of these routes are in Ireland<br>including EV2 from Galway through Dublin to London, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow. | linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and ports<br>The Green Route Network being cycle routes for development of tourist, recreational and leisure purposes. | the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and<br>management. |
| Dublin to Galway Greenway Plan | 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.<br>This route forms part of an interconnected National Cycle Network of high quality, traffic free, inter urban<br>routes, which will establish Ireland as a quality international tourism destination for a broad range of associated recreational activities and pursuits. | 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. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Northern Ireland) | Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland.<br>Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors. | Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective. | 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 |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | | framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Water Quality Management Plans | Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained.<br>Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope. | Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards.<br>Outlines management programmes for water catchments.<br>Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater. | 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<br>environmental protection and management. |
| Port Masterplans (such as Dublin Port Masterplan 2012-2040 and 2017 Review) | The Masterplan sets out a vision for the operations of the port and land utilisation.<br>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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and 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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| NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs | Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:<br>To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site<br>To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest<br>To describe the site and its management<br>To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site<br>To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives | 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.<br>These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Groundwater Protection Schemes | A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. | A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP) | 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 | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively |

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| | | community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. | 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 | Outlines planning objectives for land use development (including transport objectives).<br>Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies.<br>Sets out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. | Identifies future infrastructure, development and zoning required.<br>Protects and enhances amenities and environment.<br>Guides planning authority in assessing proposals.<br>Aims to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development.<br>Aims to promote sustainable development.<br>Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. | 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. |
| Green Infrastructure Plans/Strategies | Promotes the maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure in an area.<br>Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats. | not applicable | 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 |

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| | | | framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Biodiversity Action Plans | Aims to protect, conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services across all spectrums. | Outlines the status of biodiversity and identifies species of importance.<br>Outlines objectives and targets to be met to maintain and improve biodiversity.<br>Aims to increase awareness. | 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. |
| Heritage Plans | Aims to highlight the importance of heritage at a strategic level. | Manage and promote heritage as well as increase awareness.<br>Aim to conserve and protect heritage. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| County Landscape Character Assessments | Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape. | Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area.<br>Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape. | 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. |
| Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub- Basin Management Plans | Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline.<br>Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status. | Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland.<br>Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Local Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans | Produced by Local Authorities.<br>Outlines areas local flood risk.<br>Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level. | not applicable | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in |

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| | | | 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. | Identifies key and secondary pressures on water quality in designated shellfish areas.<br>Outlines specific measures to address identified key and secondary pressures on water quality.<br>Addresses the specific pressures acting on water quality in each area. | Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| 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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and 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 |

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| **European Level** | | | |
| | | | framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Draft Climate Change Action Plans 2019 - 2024 | Dublin's four local authorities have joined together to develop Climate Change Action Plans as a collaborative response to the impact that climate change is having, and will continue to have, on the Dublin Region and its citizens. While each plan is unique to its functional area, they are unified in their approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and their commitment to lead by example in tackling this global issue. | The Climate Change Action Plan features a range of actions across five key areas - Energy and Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature-Based Solutions and Resource Management - that collectively address the four targets of this plan:<br>A 33% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2020<br>A 40% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030<br>To make Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change - related events<br>To actively engage and inform citizens on climate change | 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. |
| 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:<br>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems<br>Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects<br>Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good | 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. |

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