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: **January 2024**

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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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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) was prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Wicklow Local Area Climate Action Plan 2024-2028 [the 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 AA process that was undertaken alongside the preparation of the LACAP.

1.2 Post Draft Plan Consultation Revisions

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

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

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

1.3 Legislative Context

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

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

1.4 Approach

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and grey 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 County Development Plan and associated SEA Environmental Report and AA Natura Impact Report.

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

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

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

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

Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts. If adequate mitigation is proposed to ensure no significant adverse impacts on European sites, then the process may end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage Three.

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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

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

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

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

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor 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 LACAP provision that is known to interact with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the LACAP.

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

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009;
- "Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018;
- "Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission Environment DG, 2002; and
- "Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission, 2000; and
- Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management; OPR Practice Note PN01; Office of the Public Regulator, 2021.

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

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

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

2. DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL AREA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2.1 Overview

The Wicklow LACAP 2024-2029 has been prepared The Plan provides a five-year framework to:

- Actively translate national climate policy to local circumstances with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures.
- Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels.
- Identify and deliver a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) within the local authority area to act as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures in a specifically defined area. This will be done through the identification of projects and outcomes that will assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective[4].

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

The Plan is 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

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2.3 Purpose and Scope of the LACAP 2024-2029

2.3.1 Need for the Plan

The Wicklow Local Authority Climate Action Plan (2024-2029) considers 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.

2.3.2 Overview of the 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 the plan which address their 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 is 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.

2.3.2.1 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 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.

Details of European sites that occur within 15 km of the LACAP boundary are provided in Table 3-1. European sites and EPA Rivers Catchments are also mapped in Figure 3-1 below. Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix 1) and background information (such as that within Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) have been considered by both the AA screening assessment (provided under this section) and Stage 2 AA (provided under Section 4). Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following National Parks and Wildlife Service documents:

[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.

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

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

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

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

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

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

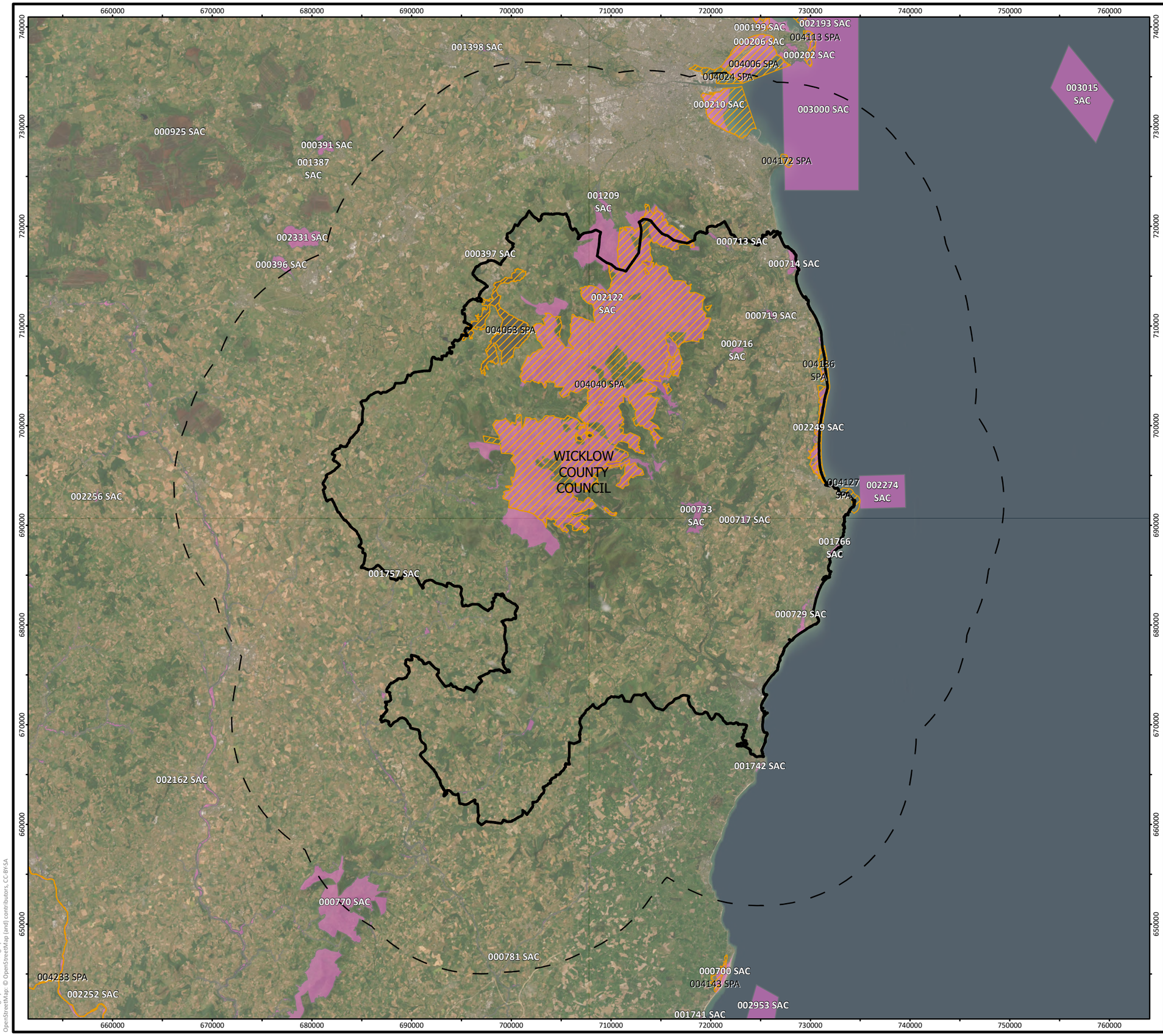
- *Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:*
  - *Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;*
  - *Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and*
  - *Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species.*
- *Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air.*
- *Adverse effects from tourism, amenity and recreation.*
- *Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.*
- *Adverse effects upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.*
- *Increase in the risk of flooding.*
- *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 LACAP with the highest potential to give rise to the effects indicated above are associated with construction phase elements of the implementation of the LACAP. The operational phase elements of the LACAP are consistent with the existing condition of the area. All policies and objectives are considered in this assessment with respect to the ecological integrity of each of the European sites identified. Considering the sensitivities/vulnerabilities of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects and potential pathways for such effects. Where sources and pathways for effects are identified potential effects will be assessed in relation to the SSCOs.

3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 examines whether there is potential for effects on European sites considering information provided above, including Appendix 1. Sites are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

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



Legend

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

Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas

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

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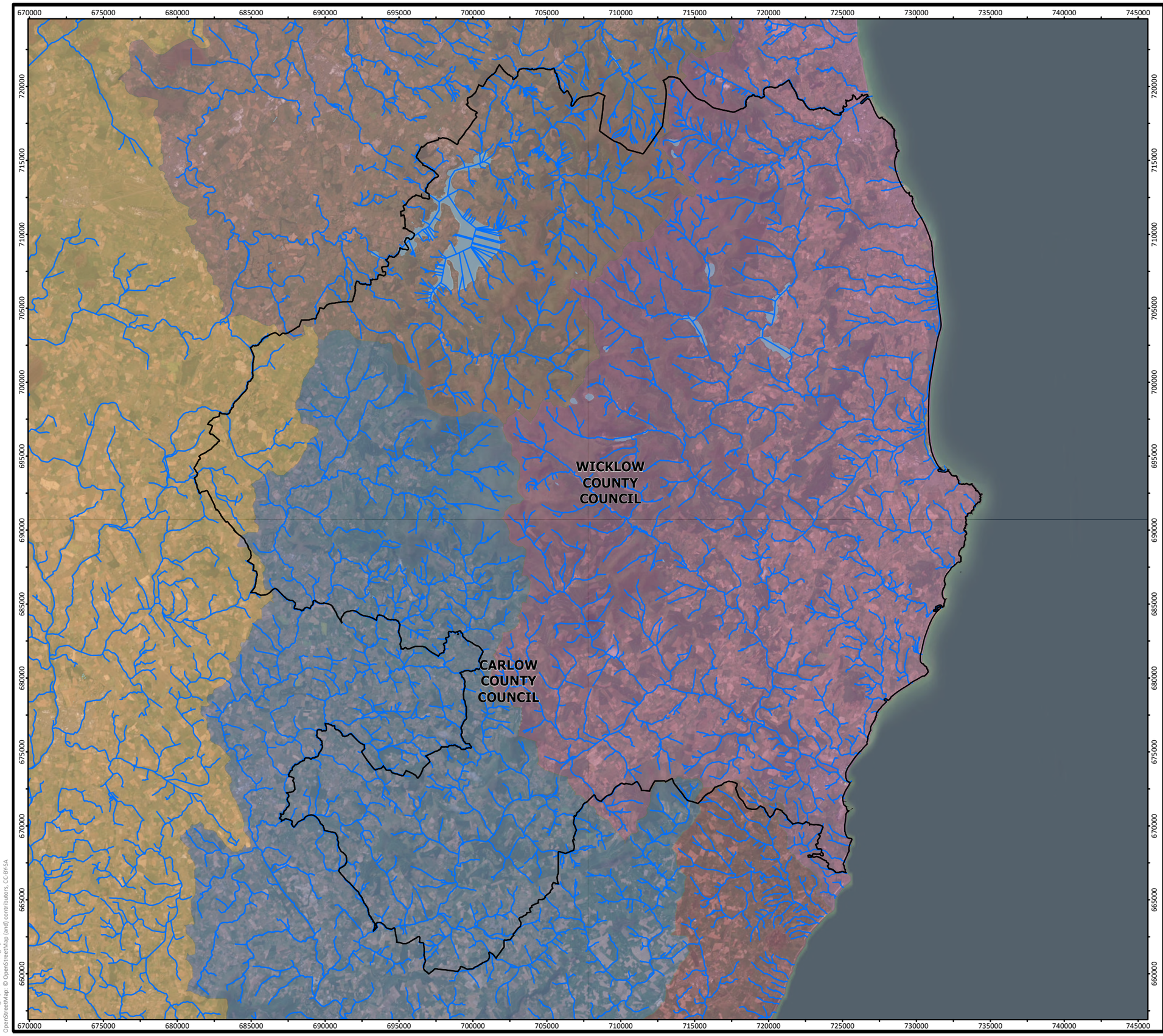

Legend

- 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
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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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its 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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	0	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc.	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
				Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interest as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its 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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its 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
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its 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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interest as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
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], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	0	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interest as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its 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],	The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc.	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
			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]	Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its 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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc.	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
				Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	0	Black-legged kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188]	The European Site is within the Wicklow County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation 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
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. 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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				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.		
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. 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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. 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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No
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	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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc.	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
			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]	Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. 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.		
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No
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	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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			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 the potential for significant effects to the Qualifying Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. 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
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. 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
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
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. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. 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 (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],	There is a separation distance of ca. 21.11 km between this European Site and the area of Wicklow County LACAP and a hydrological connection of 40.81 km (instream distance) is present. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. 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
			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]			

3.4 In-combination effects with Other Plans and Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely affect European sites. Appendix 2 outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the Plan to cause in-combination effects to European sites. These plans, programmes, strategies etc. were considered throughout the assessment.

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

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

In order to be realised, projects included in the LACAP (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

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

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

3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

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

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

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

4. STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the LACAP alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 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 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 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 LACAP; however, several mitigation measures have been integrated into the LACAP to ensure that its implementation will not result in the loss of any habitat necessary for the ecological integrity of any European site; namely list of actions to avoid habitat loss 5NEGI[9], 8NEGI[10], 11NEGI[11], 15NEGI[12], 22NEGI[13], 25NEGI[14], 27NEGI[15], 28NEGI[16], 14ADZ[17] and 18ADZ[18] etc.

[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.

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

- Promote climate action projects that support and maximise environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.
- Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.
- Ensure all development underpinned or supported by climate action is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No climate action related development project that is likely to have a significant negative effect on the receiving environment shall be supported.
- 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 LACAP provides for infrastructure developments which have associated effects. These effects could result in the fragmentation of habitat and or species through light pollution, habitat loss, removal of stepping stone habitats etc. This is particularly relevant for linear projects such as active travel schemes. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects in relation to fragmentation on the ecological integrity of any European site.

The LACAP recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. The LACAP provides actions to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as hedgerows; mitigation measures such as 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 LACAP and will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation will not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the LACAP.

4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

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

[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 LACAP accounts for noise pollution effects through its policies and objectives affording protection to European sites by ensuring any projects that arise from the implementation of the LACAP avoid or minimise noise in compliance with the Environmental Noise Directive and associated National Regulations through the 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 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 LACAP introduces potential sources for effects to affect these four determinant factors for species densities in the form of construction phase effects such as habitat destruction, visitor movements/access, hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat encroachment, trampling etc. However, the LACAP contains provisions to enhance biodiversity, landscape and the environment within Council boundary 8NEGI[10], 13NEGI[30], 15NEGI[12], 18NEGI[31], 20NEGI[32], 21NEGI[33], 22NEGI[13], 24NEGI[34] and 25NEGI[14] etc. Similarly, the LACAP the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. Further to these provisions there are actions related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as 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 LACAP identifies actions to protect and improve water quality interactions (see below for further details) which can influence species densities. There are also a number of provisions relating to protective buffer zones, further assessment requirements as well as commitments to increasing water quality standards etc. These measures are detailed across the LACAP.

[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 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 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.

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.

[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.

4.3.1.6 Climate change

The LACAP is specifically focused on climate action and most of the actions within the plan are aimed at reducing carbon emissions and move towards renewable energy sources; 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 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 i.e. 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. (E.g. 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. 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. 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. The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to agricultural practices, forestry, mining, hydrological interactions, waste management, other direct land use practices. 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. 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. 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. 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.

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.
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. 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. 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. The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to burning, agricultural practices, forestry, invasive species, vandalism, recreation and other direct land use practices. 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. 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. 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. 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.

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.
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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to agricultural practices, forestry, hydrological interactions, recreation and other direct land use practices. 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. The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to agricultural practices, erosion, species composition change, vandalism, mining, hydrological interactions, waste management, and recreation. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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
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. The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to waste management, direct interaction with species and populations through fishing, and recreation. 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. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agricultural practices, forestry and other direct land use practices. 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. 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. 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. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to recreation. 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
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. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agricultural practices, recreation, and other direct land use practices. 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.
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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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
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. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agricultural practices, transportation, waste management, hydrological interactions, recreation and other direct land use practices. 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. The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to burning, agricultural practices, forestry, hydrological interactions, and other direct land use practices. 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. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agricultural practices, recreation and other direct land use practices. 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. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to transportation, hydrological interaction, waste management, recreation and other direct land use practices. 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
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. 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. 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 LACAP in order to mitigate against potential effects to European sites as identified above. The LACAP was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European site from implementation of the LACAP. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European sites are identified in Table 5-1 and Table 5-2 below.[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.

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

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

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

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

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

[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.

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 • Four leisure centres • County Buildings • 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. 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 • Four leisure centres • County Buildings • 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. 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.
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 technologies 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. 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 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.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
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.
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.
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. 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. 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.	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:
		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.	
10 BET	Install EV Charge points within Local Authority Housing developments i.e. 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. 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. 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 i.e. 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.
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. 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.	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:
		This action also has the potential to generate some degree of positive environmental effect due to a reduction in vehicle use.	
12 BET	Increase the number of schools involved in Safer Routes to Schools.	This action supports the development of additional pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. 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. 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.
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. Green infrastructure can also support GHG sequestration leading to a slight positive effect on the climate environment. 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.
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. 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),	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:
		impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts. This action also has the potential to generate some degree of positive environmental effect due to a reduction in vehicle use.	
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. 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. 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.
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. 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. 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. 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 significant negative environmental effects.
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. This action could lead to the LA transitioning its 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.	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:
24 BET	Standardise the management of drainage systems within the council including: • the regular maintenance of regional and local roads drainage systems (Annual Programme). • 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.	This action has the potential to negatively affect water quality through inappropriate maintenance practices of drains.	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.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
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 inappropriate 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 - whilst having appropriate regard to environmental protection requirements associated with flood resilience development.
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. 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). Flood resilience action has the potential to have positive environmental effects also.	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:
		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. 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.	
6 NEGI	Deliver the following Flood Relief Schemes: • Arklow Flood Relief Scheme • Avoca Flood Relief Scheme • 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. 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. 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. The delivery of flood resilience action also has the potential to reduce flood risk and prevent flood events.	Deliver the following Flood Relief Schemes: • Arklow Flood Relief Scheme • Avoca Flood Relief Scheme • Baltinglass Flood Relief Scheme 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:
		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.	
7 NEGI	Engage with the OPW in order to review and progress a number of various climate adaption schemes including: • Blessington Flood Relief Scheme • Greystones & Environs Flood Relief Scheme • Wicklow & Ashford Flood Relief Scheme • Facilitate the hydraulic modelling of the Bray Flood Relief Scheme • Facilitate the OPW to conduct 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. 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). 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. 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: • Blessington Flood Relief Scheme • Greystones & Environs Flood Relief Scheme • Wicklow & Ashford Flood Relief Scheme • facilitate the hydraulic modelling of the Bray Flood Relief Scheme • facilitate the OPW to conduct a review of the PFRA with regard to flood risk arising from floods on surface water infrastructure such as Culverts. 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.
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. 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	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:
		flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust). The development of nature-based solutions has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality. 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.	
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. 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). 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. 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:
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. 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). This action will promote the integration and implementation of SUDS within the local authority functional area. 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.
12 NEGI	Prioritise the use of Nature Based SuDS on local authority schemes within the following areas: 1. Roads: Ensure drainage works are considered at the preliminary design stage of project development for all road and infrastructure projects. 2. Housing: Integrate NBSuDS techniques from the initial preliminary development design and include within the completion	This action has the potential to lead to significant drainage development taking place at and in the vicinity of water bodies. 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). 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.	Prioritise the use of Nature Based SuDS on local authority schemes within the following areas: 1. Roads: Ensure drainage works are considered at the preliminary design stage of project development for all road and infrastructure projects. 2. Housing: 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. 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:
	of projects. Additionally utilise water demand technologies into all housing capital projects.	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.	
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 action has the potential to negatively effect biodiversity if misguided or inappropriate regimes. 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. 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). 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.
18 NEGI	Review and Update the Wicklow Heritage Plan to record, conserve, and raise awareness of all aspects of	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. This action has the potential to support carrying out retrofitting/upgrade/maintenance works at historic structures,	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

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	built, natural and cultural heritage.	traditional buildings and monuments 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.	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 action has the potential to negatively effect biodiversity if misguided or inappropriate regimes. 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.
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 management could lead to negative environmental impacts on biodiversity. 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	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. 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	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

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	facades, grasslands, and wildlife friendly shrubs and trees in open space.	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.	environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.
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. 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. 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.
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

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
			and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.
12 CRT	Incorporate Climate Action into all plans under the following: • Rural Development Fund • Urban Regeneration and Development Fund • Town and Village Renewal Scheme • 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. 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 significant negative environmental effects, including biodiversity impacts.	Incorporate Climate Action into all plans under the following: • Rural Development Fund • Urban Regeneration and Development Fund • Town and Village Renewal Scheme • CLÁR Scheme Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European Sites and biodiversity related sensitivities, sensitive human receptors and the need appropriately protected and conserve cultural heritage features.
14 CRT	Promote tree planting by providing: • an annual tree planting grant for communities and schools • 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: • an annual native tree planting grant for communities and schools • native trees to communities during National Tree Week
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. 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, including 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	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:
		considering planning and environmental related matters and constraints early on during the assessment/design process.	
5 SRM	Promote uptake of energy performance measures in business and agricultural sectors through the promotion of: • SEAI programmes and Energy Audits, • Support Scheme for renewable heat, • Micro and small scale renewable generation, • Anaerobic digestion, • 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. 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: • SEAI programmes and Energy Audits, • Support Scheme for renewable heat, • Micro and small scale renewable generation, • Anaerobic digestion, • Energy efficient and heating control technology - whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported renewable energy development does not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
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. 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	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:
		material). Such potential effects can be mitigated by considering planning and environmental-related matters and constraints early on during the assessment/design process.	
9 SRM	Identify and implement Rural Development Fund initiatives that deliver on a transition towards a climate neutral rural economy to include: • Rural Transport, • Working hubs, • Town and Village regeneration • Nature Based solutions • Digital initiatives • Green Economy • 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. In the absence of mitigation, the carrying out of climate action related development may have unintended negative environmental effects. 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. 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: • Rural Transport, • Working hubs, • Town and Village regeneration • Nature Based solutions • Digital initiatives • Green Economy • Bio economy - 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.
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. 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.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
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. 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.
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. 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.
3 ADZ BE&T	Complete a Local Transport Plan taking the following into account • the 10 minute town concept • Active Travel • Permeability • Public Transport Requirements • Shared Services • Mobility Hub • 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. 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 • The 10 minute town concept • Active Travel • Permeability • Public Transport Requirements • Shared Services • Mobility Hub • Active travel bridges Ensure any required development is planned in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment,

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
			local air quality, biodiversity, European sites and cultural heritage.
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. 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.
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. 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. 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.
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. 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. This action could also lead to the delivery of multiple charging points and ancillary electrical infrastructure including grid connection	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:
		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.	
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. 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.
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. 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. 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.
16 ADZ NE&GI	Map and identify green infrastructure opportunities in the town to support the	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.	Map and identify green infrastructure opportunities in the town to support the development of NBSuDS improving climate resilience, while ensuring projects

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	development of NBSuDS improving climate resilience.	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).	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. 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.
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.
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. 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	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.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust). 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. 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.	

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 Wicklow Local Area Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 has been carried out. Implementation of the LACAP has the potential to result in effects to the integrity of any European sites, if unmitigated.

The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and mitigate effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the LACAP will themselves be subject to AA when further details of design and location are known.

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the 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
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
		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 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
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
			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 occurring. 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
		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
		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 petrifying 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
			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
		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 storm overflows 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 manoeuvres, 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 resources, 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, Scuba diving, 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

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
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) [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]	D01.02, G01.01, G01.02, J02.01.02, E03, E01, F02.03, E02, K02.03, F02.03.01	Roads, motorways, Nautical sports, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Discharges, Urbanised areas, human 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	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
		(Sterna albifrons) [A195], Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]		
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); hunting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
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 resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Water abstractions from surface waters, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions
A004	Little Grebe	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 resources, 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 resources, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution
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 resources, 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 resources, 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 resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
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 resources, 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 resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A144	Sanderling	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 resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A156	Black-Tailed Godwit	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 resources, 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 resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A160	Eurasian Curlew	Numenius arquata arquata	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
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 resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
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 resources, 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 resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A184	European Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A188	Black-Legged Kittiwake	Rissa tridactyla	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, 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 inter-related Plans or Programmes, EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive, and it is recommended to consult the Plan or Programme, Directive or Regulation to become familiar with the full details of each.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	• Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. • Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.	• Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. • Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. • Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. • Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. • Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. • Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. • Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	• Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. • Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is	• All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. • For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	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.	Annex III. • The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. • Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.	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. • Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. • Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. • Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.	• Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. • Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. • Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. • Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	• Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. • Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. • The species included in Annex I shall be the	• Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. • Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). • Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.	with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. • Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Bathing Water Directive (revised) 2006 [2006/7/EC]	The purpose of this Directive is to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing Directive 2000/60/EC	This Directive lays down provisions for: • the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; • the management of bathing water quality; and • the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution.	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: • a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year • set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk • set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions	The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing;	Implementation of the Climate Action 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
	order to achieve a high level of environmental protection.	• minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC	• 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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Renewable Energy Directive (EU/2018/2001)	• This Directive sets an overall European renewable energy target of 32% by 2030 and includes rules to ensure the uptake of renewables in the transport sector and in heating and cooling. • The directive sets common principles and rules for renewable energy support schemes, sustainability criteria for biomass and the right to produce and consume renewable energy and to establish renewable energy communities.	• The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. • The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. • EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	• It also establishes rules to remove barriers, stimulate investments and drive cost reductions in renewable energy technologies and empowers citizens and businesses to participate in the clean energy transformation.	• Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.	
Directive 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)	This Directive establishes a common framework for the promotion of energy from renewable sources. It sets a binding European Union target for the overall share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030: Member States shall collectively ensure that the share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030 is at least 32%. Support schemes for energy from renewable sources shall be adopted by Member States. Provisions on joint projects between Member States and between Member States and third countries are laid down too.	The Directive lays down rules on financial support for electricity from renewable sources, on self-consumption of such electricity, on the use of energy from renewable sources in the heating and cooling sector and in the transport sector, on regional cooperation between Member States, and between Member States and third countries, on guarantees of origin, on administrative procedures and on information and training. It also establishes sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels. The latter include fuels produced from waste, from agricultural biomass and from forest biomass. The Commission shall monitor the origin of biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels consumed in the European Union and the impact of their production, including the impact as a result of displacement, on land use in the Union and in the main third countries of supply.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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 refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Energy Efficiency Directive (EU) 2023/1791	The new directive introduces a series of measures to help accelerate energy efficiency, including embracing the "energy efficiency first" principle in the energy and non-energy policies.	• Establishing an EU legally binding target to reduce the EU's final energy consumption by 11.7% by 2030 (relative to the 2020 reference scenario). This includes for each Member State the requirement to set its indicative national contribution based on objective criteria reflecting national circumstances. If the national contributions do not add up to the EU target, an ambition gap mechanism is applied by the Commission. • Increasing annual energy savings from 0.8% (at present) to 1.3% (2024-2025), then 1.5% (2026-2027) and 1.9% from 2028 onwards. That's an average of 1.49% of new annual savings for the period from 2024-2030. • Obliging Member States to prioritise vulnerable customers and social housing within the scope of their energy savings measures. • Introducing an annual energy consumption reduction target of 1.9% for the public sector as a whole. • Extending the annual 3% buildings renovation obligation to all the levels of public administration. • Introducing a different approach, based on energy consumption, for business to have an energy management system or to carry out an energy audit. • Bringing in a new obligation to monitor the energy performance of data centres, with an EU-level database collecting and publishing data. • Promoting local heating & cooling plans in larger municipalities. • Progressively increasing the efficient energy consumption in heat or cold supply, also in district heating.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
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: • Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; • The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; • The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; • Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; • Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 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. • In doing so, Member States shall take into account land-sea interactions. • The resulting plan or plans shall be developed and produced in accordance with the institutional and governance levels determined by Member States. This Directive shall not interfere with Member States' competence to design and determine the format and content of that plan or those plans. • Maritime spatial planning shall aim to contribute to the objectives listed in Article 5 and fulfil the requirements laid down in Articles 6 and 8. • When establishing maritime spatial planning, Member States shall have due regard to the particularities of the marine regions, relevant existing and future activities and uses and their impacts on the environment, as well as to natural resources, and shall also take into account land-sea interactions. • Member States may include or build on existing national policies, regulations or mechanisms that	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the 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
		have been or are being established before the entry into force of this Directive, provided they are in conformity with the requirements of this Directive.	
UK Marine Policy Statement	• Achieving a sustainable marine economy • Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society • Living within environmental limits • Promoting good governance • 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: • Promote sustainable economic development; • Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; • Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and heritage assets; and • Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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: • Marine Management Organisation (MMO) • Strategic Marine Planning System • Streamlined Marine Licensing System • Marine Nature Conservation • Fisheries Management and Marine Enforcement • Migratory and Freshwater Fisheries • Coastal Access • Coastal and Estuarine Management	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
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. This Act may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	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: • Marine Planning • Nature Conservation • Marine Licensing	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European 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: • Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at • sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. • An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. • A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision making. • Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.	
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	• Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. • Supporting EU-level GI projects. • Improving access to finance for GI projects. • Improving information and promoting innovation.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	• links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and • recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.	• sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them; • each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage; • encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	The Convention has three main goals: • the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); • the sustainable use of its components; and • the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute

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			towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change	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 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 combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN 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. 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. At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.	• The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). • EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. • Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package	• Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. • Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. • Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. • Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.	Four pieces of complimentary legislation: • Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. • Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. • Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. • Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 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. • 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: • A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). • New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. • First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) **Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)**	• The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). • Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. • Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing	• Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. • Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. • Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental

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	compliance against limit values. • Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM_{10}) or up to five years (NO_2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. • The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	resulting from national and community measures. • Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. • Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. • Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.	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: • Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; • Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	• Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks • Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community	• Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment • Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. • Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. • Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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. • Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain “good status” of water bodies. • Promote sustainable water usage. • The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: • The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive • Sampling Drinking Water Directive • Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive • Shellfish Directive • Freshwater Fish Directive • Groundwater Directive	• Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. • Achieve "good status" for all waters. • Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. • Involve the public and streamline legislation. • Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. • Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. • Recover costs for water services.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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	• Dangerous Substances Directive		
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	• Protect, control and conserve groundwater. • Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. • Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.	• Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. • Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184)	• The recast Drinking Water Directive is the EU's main law on drinking water. It concerns the access to, and the quality of water intended for human consumption to protect human health. • The EU adopted the recast Drinking Water Directive in December 2020 and the Directive entered into force in January 2021. Member States have to transpose the Directive into national law and comply with its provisions by 12 January 2023. The recast Drinking Water Directive will further protect human health thanks to updated water quality standards, tackling pollutants of concern, such as endocrine disruptors and microplastics, and leading to even cleaner water from the tap for all.	Key features of the revised Directive are: • reinforced water quality standards, in line or, in some cases, even more stringent than the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations • tackling emerging pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors and PFAs, as well as microplastics • a preventive approach favouring actions to reduce pollution at source by introducing the risk-based approach • measures to ensure better access to water, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups • measures to promote tap water, including in public spaces and restaurants, to reduce (plastic) bottle consumption • harmonisation of the quality standards for materials and products in contact with water • measures to reduce water leakages and to increase transparency of the sector	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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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. • 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. • Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. • Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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. • Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. • Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		• The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. • The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. • The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. • The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the Guidelines. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing • knowledge and new needs.	
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: • Completion of an initial assessment of Irish marine waters; • Establishment of establish environmental targets and indicators; • Establishment of a monitoring programme; • Establishment of a programme of measures; and • Implementation of the programme of measures and monitoring programme. 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	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		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 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 heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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. • 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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage	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;	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with

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Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')		• (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; • (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and • (IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research.	others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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. • 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.	• Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. • Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. • Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. • Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. • Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Landscape Convention 2000	The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development	• Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. • Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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	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.		
The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)	It identifies three key objectives: • to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital • to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy • to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment- related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing	Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals): • Better implementation of legislation. • Better information by improving the knowledge base. • More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. • Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. • Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme: • To make the Union's cities more sustainable. • To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)	The convention has three main aims: • to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats • to promote cooperation between states • to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species	The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also: • Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. • Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucus. • Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. • Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		and acted upon. • Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co- operation with other organisations. • Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.	
Bali Road Map (2007)	The overall goals of the project are twofold: • To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and • To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.	The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks: • mitigation • adaptation • technology • financing	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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: • Mitigation • Transparency of actions • Technology • Finance • Adaptation • Forests • 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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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: • Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020);	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

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		• Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; • Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; • Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and • Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.	bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Common Agricultural Policy	• To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and • To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.	• Ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; • Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; • Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)(as amended)	Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.	The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely: • Registration, • Evaluation, • Authorisation; and • Restriction of chemicals. REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Stockholm Convention	The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		• 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 • Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention • Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner • To target additional POPs • Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance	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: • Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; • Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; • Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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	OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies: • Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy • Eutrophication Strategy • Hazardous Substances Strategy • Offshore Industry Strategy	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the

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	sustainable use of the seas.	• Radioactive Substances Strategy • Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.	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: • Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; • Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; • Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: 1. 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 2. 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; 3. the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); 4. the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 5. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The European Green Deal (EGD) 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. • It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. • In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. –

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		Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050	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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Commission's Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector as part of its Fisheries Policy Package	The main objectives of the measures defined in this communication are to promote the use of cleaner energy sources and reduce dependency on fossil fuels in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, in line with one of the ambitions of the European Green Deal to reach climate neutrality in the EU by 2050.	The communication defines various measures to support the sector in accelerating its energy transition, by improving fuel efficiency and switching to renewable, low-carbon power sources. A summary of the measures broadly proposed by the communication is presented below: • Creation of an Energy Transition Partnership for EU Fisheries and Aquaculture for the purpose of promoting collaboration and stakeholder engagement • Promotion of new innovative technologies and ways of operating • Improving energy efficiency Moving to renewable and zero or low-carbon energy sources (e.g., use of alternative fuels).	The communication noted the current dependency of the sector on fossil fuel based energy (e.g., marine diesel). It defines a vision for climate-neutral fisheries and aquaculture.

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National Level			
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan (2021 - 2030)	• The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. • The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.	The National Planning Framework published alongside the National Development Plan yields ten National Strategic Outcomes as follows: 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. Sustainable Mobility 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 6. High-Quality International Connectivity 7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage 8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [In Preparation]	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will: • Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; • Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, • Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.	In preparation.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	The core principle objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2022 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.	• Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. • There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. • Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects. • Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Environmental 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. • These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. • Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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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. • The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C- 418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009 (S.I 296 of 2009)	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	Actions: • Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). • Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. • Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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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. • Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. • Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values • Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
S.I. No. 113/2022 - European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022	The purpose of the Regulations is to provide a basic set of measures to ensure the protection of waters, including drinking water sources, against pollution caused by nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural sources, with the primary emphasis on the management of livestock manures and other fertilisers. The set of measures also provide some basic safeguards against possible harmful impacts on water quality arising from agricultural expansion. This basic set of measures has been strengthened over the last two reviews and this new programme provides a further strengthened set of measures to help reduce nitrogen and phosphorus losses from agriculture and	The Regulations include measures such as: • Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited • Limits on the land application of fertilisers • Storage requirements for livestock manure; and • Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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	contribute to improvements in water quality.		
National legislation transport the Industrial Emissions Directive: • Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, amended by the Protection of the Environment Act 2003; and • Environmental Protection Agency (Integrated Pollution Control) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment)(Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992)(Amendment) Regulations 2020 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. • European Union (Industrial	The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection. This legislation transposes the provision of the Directive	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Emissions) Regulations 2013 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing)Regulations 2013. Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013			
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: • To improve health protection for bathers • To establish a more pro-active approach to management of bathing waters, and • To promote increased public involvement and dissemination of information to the public.	• The Regulations establish a new classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications "poor", "sufficient", "good" and "excellent" and generally require that a classification of at least "sufficient" be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters. • Local authorities must take appropriate measures with a view to improving waters which are classified as "poor" and increasing the number of bathing waters classified as "good" or "excellent". • A permanent advice against bathing must be issued in a case where a bathing water is classified as "poor" for five consecutive years. • Local authorities are required annually to identify bathing waters, establish a monitoring calendar, carry out the specified monitoring, report the results to the EPA, carry out appropriate management measures where necessary and provide information to the public. • There must be public participation in the identification of waters and the general implementation of the Regulations.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		• The EPA is required by the Regulations to classify bathing waters, generally on the basis of the monitoring results for the four preceding bathing seasons, and to publish an annual report in relation to bathing water quality. • Monitoring by local authorities is to commence not later than 2011 with a view to ensuring that a classification is assigned to bathing waters not later than 2015. • Private controllers of access lands may be required to contribute towards the costs incurred by a local authority or the EPA.	
Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I 351 of 2011)	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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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 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: • The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		objective, • The policy of the Government on climate change, • Climate justice, • Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and • The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.	
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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024)	• National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). • The first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also included a	The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation: • To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development; • To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs; • Greater partnerships for the Goals;	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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	'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.	• To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and • Strong reporting mechanisms	
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. • The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. • The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. • In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount, this is a strong theme of the Strategy.	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.
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. • "Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."	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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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. • It also aims to increase the number and	• A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; • Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental

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	geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.	activity tourism • to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, • domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; • Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; • Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and • Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.	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 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. • The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.	The key objectives of the plan are to: • Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions • Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry • Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources • Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events • Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water • Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies • Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development 2030	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. • More vigilant and responsive monitoring if aquatic diseases and food safety risks. • Develop a comprehensive human capacity plan for Irish aquaculture to promote the sector as an attractive career option, develop leadership, management and business capacity in the sector and provide the necessary skills required over the strategy time period. • Provide coordinated messaging on the sustainable, low carbon nature of Irish aquaculture production, supported by independent certification and open dialogue.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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. • 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.	This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: • A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; • Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; • The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; • Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; • Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		• Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and • Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.	
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and **National Landscape Character Assessment**	• The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. • Landscape Strategy Vision: "Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."	The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: • Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; • Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; • Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; • Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National 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	The revised Plan makes 20 recommendations under the following topics: • Policy and Regulation • Prevention • Collection and Treatment	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	previous plan was published. 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: • To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; • To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a • view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; • To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; • To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.	• Implementation	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Aviation Policy 2015	Specifically, the principal goals of this National Aviation Policy are: • To enhance Ireland's connectivity by ensuring safe, secure and competitive access responsive to the needs of business, tourism and consumers; • To foster the growth of aviation enterprise in Ireland to support job creation and position Ireland as a recognised global leader in aviation; and • To maximise the contribution of the aviation sector to Ireland's economic growth and development.	The National Aviation Policy commits to: • Maintaining safety as the number one priority in Irish aviation and ensuring that safety regulation is robust, effective and efficient; • Creating conditions to encourage the development of new routes and services, particularly to new and emerging markets; • Ensuring a high level of competition among airlines operating in the Irish market; • Optimising the operation of the Irish airport network to ensure maximum connectivity to the rest of the world; • Ensuring that the regulatory framework for aviation reflects best international practice and that economic regulation facilitates continued investment in aviation infrastructure at Irish airports to support traffic growth; • Supporting the aircraft leasing and aviation finance sectors to maintain Ireland's leading global position in these spheres; and • Maintaining a safe and innovative general aviation sector to support Ireland's broader aviation industry	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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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: • Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life • Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities • Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing • Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National 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 environmental, social and economic issues: • Key marine activities such as fisheries, tourism, transport, offshore renewable energy generation, oil and gas exploration and production, aquaculture, and how they interact; • Climate change and related impacts; • Communities and health; • Cultural heritage; • Marine environment and biodiversity; • Transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: • Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year • net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; • 250,000 people employed in tourism; and • 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute

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			towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan	• This Strategy will be published in 2024. • The plan sets out a 10-year plan for the growth of the tourism sector in Northern Ireland., with an aim to increase the value of tourism to the economy by 50-75% compared to 2019. • Vision is to "Establish Northern Ireland as a year-round world class destination which is renowned for its authentic experiences, landscape, heritage and culture and which benefits communities, the economy and the environment, with sustainability at its core." This Plan may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	The strategic goals and core themes of the Strategy are: • Innovative • Inclusive • Sustainable • Attractive • Collaborative The document identifies the key challenges and drivers for 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.
Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) 2021	• NIFTI is the Department of Transport's framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network to support the delivery of the National Strategic Outcomes. • The NIFTI will guide transport investment in the years ahead to enable the National Planning Framework, support the Climate Action Plan, and promote social, environmental and economic outcomes throughout Ireland.	The four investment priorities stated in NIFTI are: • Mobility of people and goods in urban areas. • Protection and renewal. • Enhanced regional and rural connectivity. • Decarbonisation.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National 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. • Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance based actions. • Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. • Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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: • Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% • Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Wildlife Act of 1976 **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 • Give statutory protection to NHAs • Enhances wildlife species and their habitats • Includes more species for protection	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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. • To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. • To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. • To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Broadband Plan (2012)	Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.	The Plan sets out: • A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband. • Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. • The strategy and interventions that will underpin	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

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		the successful implementation of these targets. • A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.	regulatory framework for 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. • Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications. • Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels. • Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts.	• Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. • Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off. • Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains. • Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth. • Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders. • Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation • are complied with at all stages of flood risk management. The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of	• Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. • Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. • Identifies the competent authorities in	• Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. • Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

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2003) **European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)** **European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)(as amended)**	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 a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. • Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. • Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. • Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. • Outlines surface water quality standards. • Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.	bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory 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: • Prosecute for water pollution offences. • Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. • Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. • issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; • Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		• Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.	
Water Services Act 2007 **Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012** **Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013** **Water Services Act 2017**	• Provides the water services infrastructure. • Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. • Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply. • Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.	Key strategic objectives include: • Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. • Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services. • Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards • Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. • Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. • Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. • Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. • Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.	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.
Irish Water's (now known as Uisce Eireann) Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated	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	Six strategic objectives as follows: • Meet Customer Expectations. • Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. • Provide Effective Management of Wastewater. • Protect and Enhance the Environment.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the

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Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2020 - 2024)	short and medium term.	• Support Social and Economic Growth. • Invest in the Future.	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas 2017 - 2022	Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs	• Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. • Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Harvest 2020	Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.	Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) **Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)** **Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)**	• Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. • GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.	• Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. • Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. • Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. • Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. • Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National 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 environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	At a more detailed level, the programme also: • Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; • Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and • Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as • non-agricultural activities	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027	The new Forestry Programme 2023-2027 came into force in 2023, as soon as State Aid approval by the European Commission has been received. The new Programme sets out increased support for a number of schemes.	The proposed Forestry Programme 2023-2027 contains a series of eight different interventions: • Forest creation; • Agroforestry; • Infrastructure and technology investments; • Sustainable forest management; • Developing skills and empowering the forest sector for sustainable forest management; • Open forests - social, cultural and heritage forests; • Climate resilient reforestation; • Reconstruction.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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. • Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. • Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. • Involve the public through consultations.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National 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: • To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland • management. • To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. • To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. • To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsible. • To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. • To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. • To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs. 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.	
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows: • 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	Three high level goals of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: • To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. • To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental

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	manner.	• To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.	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 2018/2001: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: • AFV forecasts • Electricity targets • Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets • Hydrogen targets • Biofuels targets • LPG targets • Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: • 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. • 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. • 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. • The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high end value added product development.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) NI	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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Framework For Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	• This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. • By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: • Reduce overall travel demand • Maximise the efficiency of the transport network • Reduce reliance on fossil fuels • Reduce transport emissions • Improve accessibility to transport These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Coastal Change Management Strategy	The Government has adopted a policy to assess and manage coastal flood risk with regard to both existing risk and the potential impacts of climate change. This strategy will: • Provide a framework to determine the key decisions to be taken on how Ireland could best manage its coast, being aware of the future risks and the associated planning requirements.	Recommendations: • Enhancing governance and capacity building (a dual approach of both mitigation and adaptation measures) • Understanding the risk and identifying potential risk management options Developing management (a dual approach of both mitigation (tackling the cause) and adaptation measures) to coastal 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.

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	• Provide a framework to best inform both where and how decisions regarding appropriate development / projects along the coast should be taken in the future, in coordination with investment in flood risk management.		
Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019)	• Heritage in Ireland ranges from private homes, commercial and public buildings, national monuments, underwater and buried archaeology and the physical and cultural settings of all of these. • This plan considers not only those structures and sites that have been statutorily listed, but all man-made assets that have historical, aesthetic and cultural value, but does not consider natural heritage. Aims to: • Build adaptive capacity within the sector • Reduce the vulnerability of built and archaeological heritage to climate change • Identify and capitalise on the various potential opportunities for the sector	The five adaptation goals for built and archaeological heritage in Ireland are: 1. To improve understanding of each heritage resource and its vulnerability to climate change 2. To develop and mainstream sustainable policies and plans for climate-change adaptation of built and archaeological heritage 3. To conserve Ireland's heritage for future generations 4. To communicate and transfer knowledge To exploit the opportunities for built and archaeological heritage to demonstrate value and secure 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.
Heritage related legislation: • National Monuments Act 1930 as amended; • Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and	• Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the LACAPs. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the LACAPs. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999; and • The Heritage Act 2018.			
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. 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. The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its eight constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council, Leitrim County Council, Sligo County Council, Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, and Galway County Council.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Northern Ireland)	• Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland. • Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors. This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	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 (2022-2042)	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. This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	They set out a number of core principles deriving from the strategic vision, which are: • Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, national, regional and local needs. • The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country. • The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance. • Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form. • Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		• Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses.	
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. This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan	• Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow • Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically • The Plan refers to the EuroVelo International Cycle Route Network of the European Cyclists Federation is a network of 15 long distance cycle routes connecting and uniting the whole European continent. Two of these routes are in Ireland • including EV2 from Galway through Dublin to London, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow. This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	Aims to identify and determine: • The Urban Cycle Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level • The Inter-Urban Cycle Network linking the relevant sections of the Urban Network including the elements of the National Cycle Network within the Greater Dublin Area including linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and ports • The Green Route Network being cycle routes for development of tourist, recreational and leisure purposes.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
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. • This route forms part of an interconnected National Cycle Network of high quality, traffic free, inter urban routes, which will establish Ireland as a quality international tourism destination for a broad range of associated recreational activities and pursuits. This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Transport Plans and Strategies	• Local Transport Plans and Strategies relevant to a particular local authority functional area provide a more granular framework for the delivery of sustainable transport systems in accordance with higher-level plans.	• To promote sustainable transport. • To promote integrated and proper transport planning. • To promote safe travel. • To promote active travel infrastructural development. To encourage modal shift.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Quality Management Plans	• Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained. • Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope.	• Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards. • Outlines management programmes for water catchments. • Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
			protection and management.
Port Masterplans (such as Dublin Port Masterplan 2040 and 2017 Review)	• The Masterplan sets out a vision for the operations of the port and land utilisation. • The Masterplan is a non-statutory plan which has nonetheless been framed within the context of EU, national, regional and local development plan policies.	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site • To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives.	• Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. • These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater 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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP)	The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities"	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Planning Schemes	• Outlines planning objectives for land use development (including transport objectives). • Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. • Sets out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area.	• Identifies future infrastructure, development and zoning required. • Protects and enhances amenities and environment. • Guides planning authority in assessing proposals. • Aims to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. • Aims to promote sustainable development. • Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Green Infrastructure Plans/Strategies	• Promotes the maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure in an area. • Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats.	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Biodiversity Action Plans	Aims to protect, conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services across all spectrums.	• Outlines the status of biodiversity and identifies species of importance. • Outlines objectives and targets to be met to maintain and improve biodiversity.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		• Aims to increase awareness.	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 increased awareness. • Aim to conserve and protect heritage.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Landscape Character Assessments	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	• Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. • Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub- Basin Management Plans	• Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline. • Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status.	• Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland. • Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Local Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans	• Produced by Local Authorities. • Outlines areas local flood risk. • Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level.	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes	Aims to improve water quality and ensure the protection or improvement of designated shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth and contribute to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man.	• Identifies key and secondary pressures on water quality in designated shellfish areas. • Outlines specific measures to address identified key and secondary pressures on water quality. • Addresses the specific pressures acting on water quality in each area.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional Waste Management Plans	These plans (for the Connacht-Ulster, Southern, and Eastern-Midlands regions) give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Noise Action Plans	The Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and	The main purpose of the Noise Action Plan is to: • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems • Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	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.	issues and their effects • Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.

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APPENDIX 3

AA Screening of Plan Revisions

FEHILY TIMONEY

CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

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

Prepared for:

Wicklow County Council

Date: **December 2023**

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

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

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Client: Wicklow County Council

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

Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this AA Screening Report for Revisions to the Local Authority Climate Action 2024 - 2029 to Wicklow County Council.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

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

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

1.2 Plan-making Process to Date

A draft version of the LACAP was prepared. This document was accompanied by a Draft Natura Impact Report (NIR) which considered, evaluated and presented the environmental effects of the Draft LACAP on European sites and presented mitigation measures to avoid or minimise identified effects. This AA process was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive[1] and transposing national legislation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was also undertaken on the Draft LACAP in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive[2] and transposing national legislation. A Draft SEA Environmental Report which considered the effects of the Draft LACAP on the environment was therefore prepared also. The Draft NIR suitably informed this report.

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

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

1.3 Purpose of this Assessment

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

[1] Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
[2] Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

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

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

1. The Wicklow County Council LACAP 2024 - 2029.
2. The Draft NIR for the Wicklow County Council LACAP 2024 - 2029.
3. The Draft SEA Environmental Report for the Wicklow County Council LACAP 2024 - 2029.
4. Wicklow County Council LACAP Submissions Observations Report.
5. The SEA Screening Report for revisions to Wicklow County Council LACAP 2024 - 2029.

2. APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING METHODOLOGY

2.1 Legislative Requirements

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Habitats Directive as above and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable among them. These two designations are collectively known and referred to as European sites.

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

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

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

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

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

2.2 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (European Commission, 2002).

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

The AA screening is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and 'grey' literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives. The EPA Envision Map-viewer (www.epa.ie) and available reports were also reviewed:

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

2.3 Assessment Process and Approach

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

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

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

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

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

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a plan or a project on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) model. In order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

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

In the context of this report, a receptor is an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the Qualifying Interests (QI) or Special Conservation Interests (SCI) of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the Plan Action revisions that is known to interact with ecological processes. A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor[3].

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

The likelihood of significant effects, including in-combination effects, on European Sites is then interrogated having regard to the nature and characteristics of Plan Action revisions, environmental pathways, and the sensitivity of relevant European sites.

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

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

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

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

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

3. REVISIONS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

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

Table 3-1: Summary of Plan Action Revisions

Action	Summary of Revision
13 BET	The word 'or' has been included in Action BET 13, as below: 'Strengthen towns and villages through enhancement of green infrastructure measures and/or sustainable transport linkages, having due regards for environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology.'
4 CRT	The sentence 'And communications through social media and the council website.' has been added to the action: 'Quarterly communications to PPN on climate action to be disseminated through their newsletter. And communications through social media and the council website.'
12 SRM	Reference to the 'Farming for Nature' scheme added to this action, as below: 'Liaise with Signpost, ACRES, TAMS and Farming for Nature Schemes to support climate action in the agricultural sector. Help to promote farms to become demonstration farms 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.'
11 CRT	The text of this action has been updated to state: 'Support community groups in their efforts to develop communal gardens and allotments.' The action numbering has also been updated.
30 NEGI	The following additional Action has been included in the Plan: 'Support engagement of stakeholders on initiatives that assist in the control and management of deer.'
1 GL	This action will be updated to the following: 'Place Climate Action as a standing item on the agenda for Senior Management Team meetings with an annual Climate Action Summary Report produced.'
2 GL	This action will be updated to the following: 'Maintain a Climate and Biodiversity Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) to ensure development of policy. All other SPCs to ensure climate resilience are incorporated into policy development. Place Climate Action Policy as a Standing Item on Corporate Policy Group meetings.'
12 GL	This action will be updated to the following: 'Accreditation to the International Standard for Energy Management ISO 50001 by 2024 to deliver: • annual plan • register of opportunities • 3-year cycle • energy review Including monitoring and reporting to SEAI.'

Action	Summary of Revision
5 BET	This action will be updated to the following: 'Implement and promote the National Retrofitting Housing Programme for Wicklow housing stock, achieving a BER of B2 or cost optimal level equivalent. A minimum of 700 housing units to be refurbished. Provide a minimum of 750 newly constructed housing units to a Building Energy Rating (BER) of A2 or in compliance with relevant guidelines within the lifetime of the Climate Action Plan 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, during any retrofitting works.'
20 BET	This action will be updated to the following: 'Fleet Management: Implement a transport energy management system including a fuel management system into the council fleet. Procure only zero emission veh., unless the vehicle is exempt under EC Regs SI381 of 2021, whilst ensuring appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for zero emission vehicles. Investigate options to convert the existing council 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.'
3 NEGI	This action will be updated to the following: 'Ensure all relevant legislation and regulation on climate change and flood management is integrated into council policies and guidelines, including the promoting of natural flood measures. Undertake Strategic Flood Risk Assessment of all Local Area Plans and Development Plans. Implement the OPW Flood Risk Management Guidelines and best practices to ensure that all 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 environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.'
1 CRT	This action will be updated to the following: 'Administer the funding to local community groups for climate action through the Community Climate Action Fund ensuring a diversity of themes covered. Include sustainability and climate change scoring on relevant grant assessments to ensure that community groups/stakeholders consider climate action in all their grant funded activities.'
18 SRM	This action will be updated to the following: 'Review existing work practices and offices in order to promote climate change measures. Review the existing IT systems in order to reduce paper usage.'

Action	Summary of Revision
5 ADZ & BE&T	This action will be updated to the following: 'Implement the Retrofitting Housing Programme for existing housing stock achieving a BER of B2 or cost optimal level equivalent. Provide newly constructed housing units to an A2 BER rating or in compliance with relevant guidelines within the lifetime of the Climate Action Plan. Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity. Create awareness of works undertaken and their benefits to encourage retrofitting in private housing stock.'

4. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

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

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

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

4.2 Assessment Criteria

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

- **Direct and Indirect Impacts -** An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a proposed development.
- **Magnitude** - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.
- **Extent** - The area over which the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.
- **Duration** - The time for which the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.
    - Temporary: Up to 1 Year;
    - Short Term: The effects would take 1-7 years to be mitigated;
    - Medium Term: The effects would take 7-15 years to be mitigated;
    - Long Term: The effects would take 15-60 years to be mitigated; and
    - Permanent: The effects would take 60+ years to be mitigated.
- **Likelihood** - The probability of the effect occurring taking into account all available information.
    - Certain/Near Certain: >95% chance of occurring as predicted;
    - Probable: 50-95% chance as occurring as predicted;
    - Unlikely: 5-50% chance as occurring as predicted; and
    - Extremely Unlikely: <5% chance as occurring as predicted.

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines for ecological impact assessment (2016) define: an ecologically significant impact as an impact (negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographic area; and the integrity of a site as the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

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

SSCOs have been prepared for a number of European Sites. These detailed SSCOs aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes which define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

> *Favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when: 'population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.'*
> *Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when: 'its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable'.*

Generic Conservation Objectives for SACs have been provided as follows:

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

One generic Conservation Objective has been provided for SPAs as follows:

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

EC guidance[4] outlines the types of effects that may affect European sites. These include effects from the following activities:

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

[4] Assessment of plans and Projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Environment DG, 2001.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Action	Summary of Revision	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Revision
13 BET	The word 'or' has been included in Action BET 13, as below. 'Strengthen towns and villages through enhancement of green infrastructure measures and/or sustainable transport linkages, having due regards for environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology.'	This amendment is intended to add flexibility to the type of built environment and transport measures that can be progressed in towns and villages. The amendment does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
4 CRT	The sentence 'And communications through social media and the council website.' has been added to the action: 'Quarterly communications to PPN on climate action to be disseminated through their newsletter. And communications through social media and the council website.'	This amendment gives better effect to the action. It has the potential to enhance climate action communication and community engagement during Plan implementation. The amendment does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
12 SRM	Reference to the 'Farming for Nature' scheme added to this action, as below: 'Liaise with Signpost, ACRES, TAMS and Farming for Nature Schemes to support climate action in the agricultural sector. Help to promote farms to become demonstration farms 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.'	This amendment increases the scope of the action and has the potential to enhance positive effects associated with this action on biodiversity and water quality. This has inherent benefits to the receiving environment; however, it is in keeping with the environmental effects identified in the existing NIR. There are no additional sources for effects; therefore, no further considerations are required in that regard.
11 CRT	The text of this action has been updated to state: 'Support community groups in their efforts to develop communal gardens and allotments.' The action numbering has also been updated.	This amendment provides clarification on the focus of the action. Therefore there are no additional sources for effects which were not already considered by the existing NIR. No further considerations are required in that regard.
30 NEGI	The following additional Action has been included in the Plan: 'Support engagement of stakeholders on initiatives that assist in the control and management of deer.'	This action is an engagement action which will not have a material environmental effect in and off itself. It will to some degree support and compliment the control and management of deer, being carried out under separate deer management strategies and plans.

Action	Summary of Revision	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Revision
1 GL	This action will be updated to the following: 'Place Climate Action as a standing item on the agenda for Senior Management Team meetings with an annual Climate Action Summary Report produced.'	This amendment clarifies the focus of the action. The amendment does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
2 GL	This action will be updated to the following: 'Maintain a Climate and Biodiversity Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) to ensure development of policy. All other SPCs to ensure climate resilience are incorporated into policy development. Place Climate Action Policy as a Standing Item on Corporate Policy Group meetings.'	This amendment promotes better climate action governance generally and will give better effect to the Plan generally. The amendment does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
12 GL	This action will be updated to the following: 'Accreditation to the International Standard for Energy Management ISO 50001 by 2024 to deliver: • annual plan • register of opportunities • 3-year cycle • energy review Including monitoring and reporting to SEAI.'	This amendment clarifies that energy perforamnce will be reported to the SEAI. The amendment does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
5 BET	This action will be updated to the following: 'Implement and promote the National Retrofitting Housing Programme for Wicklow housing stock, achieving a BER of B2 or cost optimal level equivalent. A minimum of 700 housing units to be refurbished. Provide a minimum of 750 newly constructed housing units to a Building Energy Rating (BER) of A2 or in compliance with relevant guidelines within the lifetime of the Climate Action Plan	This amendment combines two actions into one. The amendment does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.

Action	Summary of Revision	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Revision
	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, during any retrofitting works.'	
20 BET	This action will be updated to the following: 'Fleet Management: Implement a transport energy management system including a fuel management system into the council fleet. Procure only zero emission veh., unless the vehicle is exempt under EC Regs SI381 of 2021, whilst ensuring appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for zero emission vehicles. Investigate options to convert the existing council 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.'	This amendment combines three actions into one. The amendment does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
3 NEGI	This action will be updated to the following: 'Ensure all relevant legislation and regulation on climate change and flood management is integrated into council policies and guidelines, including the promoting of natural flood measures. Undertake Strategic Flood Risk Assessment of all Local Area Plans and Development Plans. Implement the OPW Flood Risk Management Guidelines and best practices to ensure that all 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 environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.'	Several flood risk related climate actions have bee combined into one action overall. the focus and intent of the aciton and environmental implications remainr the same. The amendment does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.

Action	Summary of Revision	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Revision
1 CRT	This action will be updated to the following: 'Administer the funding to local community groups for climate action through the Community Climate Action Fund ensuring a diversity of themes covered. Include sustainability and climate change scoring on relevant grant assessments to ensure that community groups/stakeholders consider climate action in all their grant funded activities.'	This amendment combines two actions into one. The amendment does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
18 SRM	This action will be updated to the following: 'Review existing work practices and offices in order to promote climate change measures. Review the existing IT systems in order to reduce paper usage.'	This amendment combines two actions into one. The amendment does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
5 ADZ & BE&T	This action will be updated to the following: 'Implement the Retrofitting Housing Programme for existing housing stock achieving a BER of B2 or cost optimal level equivalent. Provide newly constructed housing units to an A2 BER rating or in compliance with relevant guidelines within the lifetime of the Climate Action Plan. Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity. Create awareness of works undertaken and their benefits to encourage retrofitting in private housing stock.'	This amendment combines two actions into one. The amendment does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.

4.1 Summary of the Evaluation

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

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

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

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

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

Further assessment is therefore not required.

4.2 Other Plans and Programs

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon European Sites. There are no additional sources for effects identified within the Proposed amendments; therefore, there are no in-combination effects.

5. CONCLUSION

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

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

It is concluded that the Plan Action revisions will not give rise to any adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Consequently, a Stage 2 AA is not required for the Plan Action revisions.

6. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1

Author Details

Author Details

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

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

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