

# DRAFT NATURA IMPACT REPORT

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IN SUPPORT OF THE  
**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

FOR THE  
**DRAFT WICKLOW TOWN-RATHNEW  
LOCAL AREA PLAN  
2025**

for: **Wicklow County Council**



by: **CAAS Ltd.**



**OCTOBER 2024**

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# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Draft Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 (the Draft Plan) in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

This report is part of the ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Draft Plan. It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, at adoption of the Plan. An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared following adoption that will include the final AA determination expected to be made at adoption.

## 1.2 Legislative Context

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

AA is required under articles 6(3) and 6(4) of 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 2000 (as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the integrity of a European site, in view of the conservation objectives. European sites are either SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable species and habitats.

## 1.3 The AA Process

The initial test in the AA process is to ascertain whether the Draft Plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites. If the Plan is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of European sites, then it will proceed to the first stage of the AA process. Subsequently, there are four main stages in the AA process as follow:

### **Stage One: Screening**

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

### **Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment**

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

### **Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**

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

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

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

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-

making process and avoiding such impacts. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If potential impacts on European sites remain, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan/project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect(s).

### **1.3.1 Is the Draft Plan Necessary to the Management of European Sites?**

The overarching objective of the Draft Plan is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to provide a framework for the future development of the settlement of Wicklow Town-Rathnew. Therefore, the Draft Plan is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites and must proceed to Stage 1 AA - Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

## **1.4 Methodology**

### **1.4.1 Ecological desktop study**

This Screening for AA and NIR are based on best scientific knowledge and ecological expertise, and is supported by desktop research on national databases including the National Biodiversity Data Centre<sup>1</sup>, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)<sup>2</sup> and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)<sup>3</sup> mapping websites (including data collected for the most recent Article 12 and 17 conservation status reporting cycle, 2019).

The ecological desktop study completed for this Screening for AA and NIR of the Draft Plan, comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European sites within 15 km of the Draft Plan boundary;
- Examination of European sites hydrologically linked (via direct surface water connection or shared groundwater body) or other ecological links beyond 15 km of the Draft Plan boundary;
- Examination of the NPWS Qualifying Interests (for SACs), Special Conservation Interests (for SPAs) and Conservation Objectives for the above identified sites with potential pathways to the Draft Plan area;
- Examination of available additional information on protected and or designated species as relevant/necessary.

### **1.4.2 Source-pathway-receptor model**

The assessment for potential effects of the Draft Plan on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model, where, in order for a potential for effect to be identified, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. Examples of a source, a pathway and a receptor are:

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off from subject development;
- Pathway(s) – e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and,
- Receptor(s) – e.g., qualifying habitats and species of European sites.

As per the above examples; a source is any identifiable element of the Draft Plan that may interact with ecological processes of European sites. A pathway is any connection between the source and the receptor. A receptor is a Qualifying Interest or Special Conservation Interests of the European site being examined, or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by, or provide support to, the Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests of a European site.

When all three elements of the model are in place, they are examined further in the context of several factors such as, the nature of the source; the nature of the pathway, the QIs/SCIs involved, their threats and sensitivities and their Conservation Objectives, and best scientific evidence where required, in order to determine whether there is a likelihood for significant effects. As such, the presence of all three elements does not automatically constitute a likely significant effect, but is context dependent. However, the absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that there is no cause for potential effect(s) and thus no likelihood for significant effects.

<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/>

<sup>2</sup> Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> and <https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba>

<sup>3</sup> Available at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

Where a likelihood for significant effects is determined, mitigation measures are required in order to prevent adverse effects to the QIs/SCIs involved in light of their Conservation Objectives, and therefore the European site(s) concerned would be subject to further assessment and proceed to Stage 2 AA, where a NIR is then required.

This evaluation has been made in view of the Conservation Objectives of the habitats or species, for which the relevant European sites have been designated.

#### **1.4.3 Public participation**

This NIR has been prepared to accompany the Draft Plan on public display and inform the competent authority on conducting Stage 2 AA. The Draft Plan and AA NIR are placed on public display and submissions will be invited.

Submissions received may result in material alterations being proposed to the Draft Plan. These alterations will be subject to Screening for AA and subsequent stages of AA as relevant.

#### **1.4.4 Relevant guidance**

This report 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 in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Notice, Journal of the European Union, 2021; and
- Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021.

## Section 2 Description of the Draft Plan

### 2.1 Introduction and Content

The Draft Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 has been prepared pursuant to Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The purpose of the Draft Plan is to put in place a land use framework that will guide the future sustainable development of the Wicklow Town-Rathnew area. The Draft Plan, in conjunction with the County Development Plan, will inform and manage the future development of the area.

It is important to note that when reading the Draft Plan, the policy objectives of the County Development Plan are relevant and, in this regard, both documents should be read in tandem with each other. As detailed at the beginning of the Draft Plan:

“This Local Area Plan is consistent with the objectives of the Wicklow County Development Plan. The County Development Plan sets out the overall strategies, objectives and standards for the county. The strategies, objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan apply directly in this settlement and shall be complied with throughout the implementation of this Local Area Plan.”

### 2.2 Draft Plan Format

The Draft Plan comprises a written statement and a series of maps that provide a graphic representation of the content of the written text. Where there is any discrepancy between the text and maps, the text shall take precedence. The Draft Plan is accompanied by a number of appendices, including this AA NIR. All of these documents have informed the crafting of the Draft Plan.

The Draft Plan sets out an Overall Vision and Strategy followed by objectives under the following headings:

- Residential development
- Economic development
- Key regeneration areas
- Centres and Retail
- Community development
- Tourism
- Infrastructure
- Heritage, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure
- Zoning and Land Use

### 2.3 Draft Plan Vision

A key aim of a Local Area Plan is to set out the vision and development strategy for the future development of the area and from this vision, all policies and objectives can be developed and implemented with the overall aim of achieving this vision. The vision and development strategy must be consistent with the 'Core Strategy' of the County Development Plan and reflect the characteristics, strengths and weaknesses of the area.

With healthy placemaking, climate change and economic opportunity to the fore of the Draft Plan, the vision for the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan is: “For Wicklow Town-Rathnew to be a prosperous and growing community in the Garden County of Wicklow, offering a unique and high quality of life by providing for a sustainable and local work/life balance within a healthy environment for all who live, work and visit the settlement. To strengthen and consolidate Wicklow Town as the County Town. To protect the identity of Rathnew village. To recognise and protect, the unique character, built heritage, seaside location, maritime history and natural environment of the area.”

## Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

### 3.1 Introduction

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

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the “Conservation Objectives” (COs), “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 First Order Site-Specific 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<sup>4</sup> or species<sup>5</sup> 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 pathway consideration zone to be considered. A review of all sites within this zone, in the context of the nature and scope of the Draft Plan, has allowed a determination to be made that with the exception of hydrological links, the characteristics of the Draft Plan will not impose effects beyond the 15 km zone.

Details of European sites that occur within the 15 km Pathway Consideration Zone of the Draft Plan area are listed in Table 3.1 and mapped on Figure 3.1. European sites, that occur within the same groundwater body<sup>6</sup> as the Draft Plan area<sup>7</sup> (these can occur beyond the 15 km Pathway Consideration Zone) are mapped on Figure 3.2.

Information on QIs site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) has also been considered by both the AA screening assessment (the findings of which are provided under this section) and Stage 2 AA (provided under Section 4). The COs of the European sites that have been considered by the assessment, were sourced from the following NPWS documents:

1. NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for The Murrough Wetlands SAC [IE0002249] Version 1.
2. NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Head SPA [IE0004127] Version 1.
3. NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for The Murrough SPA [IE0004186] Version 1.
4. NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Reef SAC [IE0002274] Version 1.
5. NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Magherabeg Dunes SAC [IE0001766] Version 1.
6. NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Deputy’s Pass Nature Reserve SAC [IE0000717] Version 1.
7. NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Buckronev-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC [IE0000729] Version 1.
8. NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC [IE0000733] Version 1.
9. NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SAC [IE0002122] Version 1.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> Special Areas of Conservation with groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests

<sup>7</sup> Source: EPA datasets on waterways in Ireland (<https://qis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>). Accessed: May 2024



10. NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Carriggower Bog SAC [IE0000716] Version 1.
11. NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [IE0004040] Version 1.
12. NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Glen of the Downs SAC [IE0000719] Version 1.
13. NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Knocksink Wood SAC [IE0000725] Version 1.

The Conservation Objectives listed above focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each European site. Therefore, the screening process concentrated on assessing any likely significant effects of the Draft Plan on any European site with respect to the QIs/SCIs of each European site in view of their Conservation Objectives.

### 3.3 Screening and Potential Significant Effects

All policies and objectives contained within the Draft Plan are considered in this report with respect to the ecological sensitivities of each of the European sites identified in view of the sites' Conservation Objectives, using the source-pathway-receptor model (described in subsection 1.4.2).

#### 3.3.1 Screening of Sites and Types of Potential Effects

Table 3.1 examines whether there is potential for likely significant effects on European sites, considering information provided above, including Appendix I.

European sites are screened based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

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

As outlined in the European Commission Environment DG document "*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*" 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)
- Excavation Requirements
- Transportation Requirements
- Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning

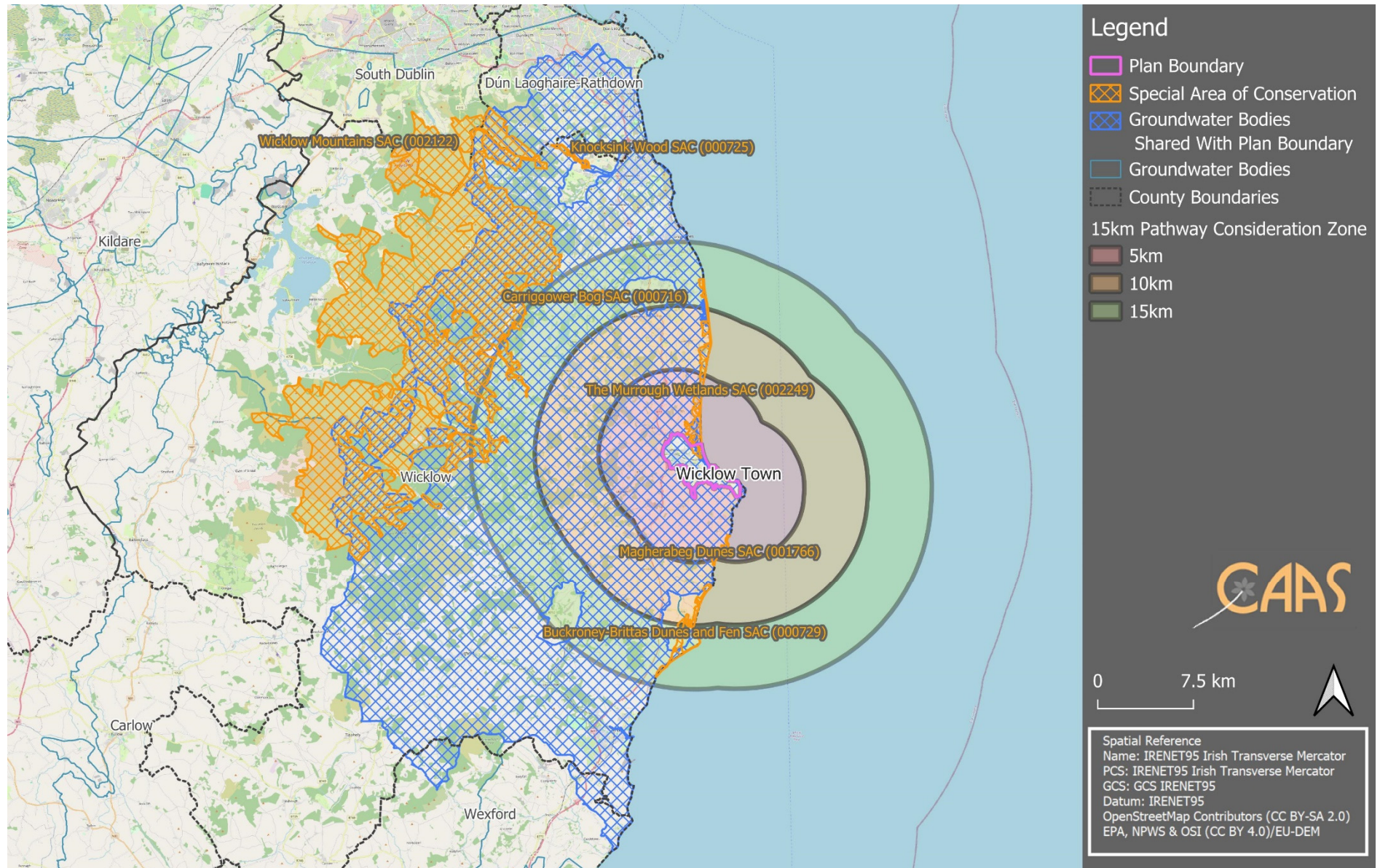
#### 3.3.2 Elements of the Draft Plan with Potential to Give Rise to Significant Effects

All policies and objectives within the Draft Plan are considered in this assessment with respect to the likelihood for significant effects on the QIs and SCIs of each of the European sites identified by the assessment. This is carried out by considering the sensitivities and threats and pressures of each of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects and potential pathways for such effects. Subsequently, where sources and pathways for effects are identified potential significant effects will be assessed in relation to the SSCOs, and thereafter any likelihood for significant effects, or absence thereof, is identified.

The Draft Plan provides a framework for the sustainable development of the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Plan area. Draft Plan elements that present sources with pathways for potential significant effects to European sites are:

- The Plan's provisions, including those relating to climate change, town centre revitalisation, placemaking, housing, economic development, transport and movement and community services development, which introduce sources for potential effects through construction phase such as habitat loss, light pollution, disturbance effects and hydrological interactions through surface hydrological connectivity and/or shared groundwater sources (Figure 3.2);
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss/fragmentation, light pollution, disturbance effects and interactions with water quality (surface and/or groundwater); and
- Increases in visitor numbers to ecologically sensitive areas during the operational phase of developments which have potential to introduce sources for significant effects, such as recreational and tourism developments.





**Figure 3.2 European sites<sup>9</sup> with shared groundwater bodies<sup>10</sup> with the Draft Plan area**

<sup>9</sup> Special Areas of Conservation and/or Special Protection Areas with groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests

<sup>10</sup> Source: EPA datasets – accessed at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

**Table 3.1 Screening of European sites within 15 km of the Draft Plan boundary**

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>11</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
002249	The Murrrough Wetlands SAC	0.00	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Alkaline fens [7230], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions.</p> <p>This European site exists within the Draft Plan boundary and therefore there are sources for effects via direct land use management activities to this SAC. There is also direct hydrological connectivity with the wider Draft Plan area via the Vartry River and its tributaries.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, that this European site is partly within the Draft Plan boundary, and that sources for potential significant effects via direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and hydrogeological interactions have been identified in the Draft Plan; sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Draft Plan have been identified. As a result, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Report is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	0.00	Black-legged kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance effects.</p> <p>This European site exists within the Draft Plan boundary and therefore there are sources for effects via direct land use management activities to this SPA. Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) nest in cliff faces and forage out at sea<sup>12</sup>. This species does not utilise inland habitats as a nesting or foraging resource. However, there are sources for disturbance via direct visitor impacts to this SPA as it within the Draft Plan boundary.</p> <p>Considering the SCI of this SPA, the nature of the Draft Plan, that part of this European site is within the Draft Plan boundary, and that sources with pathways of potential significant effect via direct land use management activities and disturbance interactions have been identified. Thus, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Draft Plan have been identified. As a result, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Report is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
004186	The Murrrough SPA	0.00	Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Little Tern ( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ) [A195], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Red-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia stellata</i> ) [A001], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, direct land use management activities and disturbance effects.</p> <p>This European site exists within the Draft Plan boundary and therefore there are sources for effects via direct land use management activities to this SPA. There is also direct hydrological connectivity with the wider Draft Plan area via the Vartry River and its tributaries. Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given that part of this European site is within the Draft Plan boundary, and that sources for potential significant effects via direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions, and disturbance effects have been identified in the Draft Plan; sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Draft Plan have been identified. As a result, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Report is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
002274	Wicklow Reef SAC	0.92	Reefs [1170]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and hydrological interactions.</p> <p>This site exists 0.92 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There are no sources for effect via direct land use management as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. However, there is direct hydrological connectivity</p>	Yes	Yes

<sup>11</sup> Tern used to encompass both Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests

<sup>12</sup> Jana Kotzerka, Stefan Garthe, Scott A. Hatch. GPS tracking devices reveal foraging strategies of Black-legged Kittiwakes. Journal für Ornithologie = Journal of Ornithology, 2009, 151 (2), pp.459- 467.

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>11</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
				<p>with the Draft Plan area via the surface waters that drain the Plan area and there are sources for hydrological effects in the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and that sources for potential significant effects via hydrological interactions have been identified in the Draft Plan; sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Draft Plan have been identified. As a result, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Report is required.</p>		
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	2.97	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions, groundwater interactions and disturbance effects. This site exists 2.97 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There are no sources for direct land use management effects as this European site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There is also no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Draft Plan, and ecological connectivity, there are no potential sources for direct land use management effects or surface hydrological effects. However, this European site has groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests, and shares the same groundwater body as the Draft Plan area (Figure 3.2), and considering these distances involved, the potential for significant effects via groundwater cannot be ruled out.</p> <p>Thus, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Draft Plan have been identified. As a result, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Report is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
000717	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	5.66	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities. This site exists 5.27 km outside of the Draft Plan area. Considering the QI of this SAC, and given the nature of the Draft Plan, there are no potential sources for direct land use management effects, as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
000729	Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC	6.85	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> ( <i>Salicion arenariae</i> ) [2170], Humid dune slacks [2190], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Alkaline fens [7230], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i> ) [2150], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions. This site exists 6.85 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site. However, this European site has groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests, and shares the same groundwater body as the Draft Plan area (Figure 3.2).</p> <p>Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics<sup>13</sup>, and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams<sup>14</sup>. It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water<sup>15</sup>. Considering the nature of the Draft Plan, the distances involved and the significant dilution factor of over 5km, there is no pathway with sources for likely significant effects via groundwater interactions as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Draft Plan, and the distances involved, there are no potential sources for direct land use management effects, as the site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. In addition, there are no direct surface hydrological pathways between the site and the Draft Plan boundary,</p>	No	No

<sup>13</sup> Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

<sup>14</sup> Silva, A.C.F. *et al.* 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

<sup>15</sup> Lasagna, M. *et al.* 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>11</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
				therefore, there are no sources of effect for hydrological interactions to the SAC. There are also no sources with pathways for likely significant effects via groundwater interactions for this SAC.  Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.		
000733	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	8.52	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities. This site exists 8.50 km outside of the Draft Plan area. Considering the QI of this SAC, and given the nature of the Draft Plan, and the distances involved, there are no potential sources for direct land use management effects, as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary.  Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.	No	No
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	11.40	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], European dry heaths [4030], Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8110], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230]	The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions. This site exists 11.25 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site. However, this European site has groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests, and shares the same groundwater body as the Draft Plan area (Figure 3.2).  Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics <sup>16</sup> , and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams <sup>17</sup> . It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water <sup>18</sup> . Considering the nature of the Draft Plan, the distances involved and the significant dilution factor of over 5km, there is no pathway with sources for likely significant effects via groundwater interactions as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan.  Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Draft Plan, and the distances involved, there are no potential sources for direct land use management effects, as the site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. In addition, there are no direct surface hydrological pathways between the site and the Draft Plan boundary, therefore, there are no sources of effect for hydrological interactions to the SAC. There are also no sources with pathways for likely significant effects via groundwater interactions for this SAC.  Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.	No	No
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	11.95	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions. This site exists 11.95 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site. However, this European site has groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests, and shares the same groundwater body as the Draft Plan area (Figure 3.2).  Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics <sup>19</sup> , and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams <sup>20</sup> . It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through	No	No

<sup>16</sup> Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

<sup>17</sup> Silva, A.C.F. *et al.* 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

<sup>18</sup> Lasagna, M. *et al.* 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.

<sup>19</sup> Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

<sup>20</sup> Silva, A.C.F. *et al.* 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>11</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
				<p>volume of water<sup>21</sup>. Considering the nature of the Draft Plan, the distances involved and the significant dilution factor of over 5km, there is no pathway with sources for likely significant effects via groundwater interactions as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, and given the nature of the Draft Plan, and the distances involved, there are no potential sources for direct land use management effects, as the site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. In addition, there are no direct surface hydrological pathways between the site and the Draft Plan boundary, therefore, there are no sources of effect for hydrological interactions to the SAC. There are also no sources with pathways for likely significant effects via groundwater interactions for this SAC.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>		
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	13.15	Peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103], Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ) [A098]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. The SPA is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance effects. This site exists 13.11 km outside of the Draft Plan area</p> <p>SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects<sup>22,23</sup>. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year<sup>24,25</sup>. Given the distance between the Draft Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for disturbance effects identified. SCI species are also highly vagile and therefore may utilise ex-situ ecological resources which may have interactions with the Draft Plan; however, at this scale landscape characteristics and the availability of alternate resources ensure the local scale interactions with ex-situ resources are not likely to have significant effects on the SPA.</p> <p>Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Draft Plan and the distance involved between the Draft Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources of effect for direct land use management or disturbance effects to the SPA.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	13.71	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities. This site exists 13.71 km outside of the Draft Plan area. Considering the QI of this SAC, and given the nature of the Draft Plan, and the distances involved, there are no potential sources for direct land use management effects, as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	21.77	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions. This site exists 21.77 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site. However, this European site has groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests, and shares the same groundwater body as the Draft Plan area (Figure 3.2).</p>	No	No

<sup>21</sup> Lasagna, M. *et al.* 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.

<sup>22</sup> Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.

<sup>23</sup> Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.

<sup>24</sup> Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 284(1858), p.20170846.

<sup>25</sup> Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. *Ibis*, 162(3), pp.845-862.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>11</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
				<p>Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics<sup>26</sup>, and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams<sup>27</sup>. It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water<sup>28</sup>. Considering the nature of the Draft Plan, the distances involved and the significant dilution factor of over 5km, there is no pathway with sources for likely significant effects via groundwater interactions as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Draft Plan, and the distances involved, there are no potential sources for direct land use management effects, as the site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. In addition, there are no direct surface hydrological pathways between the site and the Draft Plan boundary, therefore, there are no sources of effect for hydrological interactions to the SAC. There are also no sources with pathways for likely significant effects via groundwater interactions for this SAC.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>		

<sup>26</sup> Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

<sup>27</sup> Silva, A.C.F. *et al.* 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

<sup>28</sup> Lasagna, M. *et al.* 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.



### 3.4 Other Plans and Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the likelihood for potential significant effects on European sites. Appendix II outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the Draft Plan to cause in-combination effects on European sites, such as the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) and the Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. These plans and programmes were considered throughout the assessment.

All projects within the Draft Plan area and receiving environment will be considered in combination with any and all lower tiers projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan. Given the uncertainties that exist with regard to the scale and location of developments facilitated by the Draft Plan, 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 relationship with other plans and programmes is provided at Appendix II.

### 3.5 Conclusion

The potential effects that could arise from the Draft Plan have been examined in the context of several factors that could result in likely significant effects to any European site. On the basis of the findings presented above, it is demonstrated that the Draft Plan:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have likely significant effects on the following 5 (no.) European sites:

Site Code	Site Name
002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC
004127	Wicklow Head SPA
004186	The Murrough SPA
002274	Wicklow Reef SAC
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC

Therefore, under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, a Stage 2 AA is required for the Draft Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025. Section 4 of this report provides information in order to inform the competent authority on carrying out Stage 2 AA. An AA Screening Determination undertaken by the planning authority is provided at Figure 3.4.

### Figure 3.3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination



## COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL Mhantáin Wicklow County Council

### Pleanáil, Forbairt Eacnamaíochta agus Tuaithe Planning, Economic and Rural Development

#### Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination under

#### Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for the

#### Emerging Draft Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

Áras An Chontae / County Buildings  
Cill Mhantáin / Wicklow  
Guthán / Tel: (0404) 20148  
Faics / Fax: (0404) 69462  
Rphost / Email: [plandev@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:plandev@wicklowcoco.ie)  
Suíomh / Website: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

In order to comply with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, this determination is being made by Wicklow County Council relating to the potential for the emerging Draft Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 to have likely significant effects on any European Site.

In making the determination that Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required, the information on the likely significant effects, if unmitigated, on European Sites arising from the emerging Draft Plan has been taken into account (this information includes that provided in an earlier preliminary AA scope and baseline information document and will be placed on public display in the Natura Impact Report alongside the Draft Plan).

The screening process has concluded that an AA of the Draft Plan is required, as the Plan: is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites; and may, on the basis of objective information, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects, if unmitigated, have likely significant effects on 5 (no.) European Sites.

The Draft Plan provides a framework for the sustainable development of the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Plan area. Draft Plan elements that present sources with pathways for potential significant effects to European sites include:

- The Plan's provisions, including those relating to climate change, town centre revitalisation, placemaking, housing, economic development, transport and movement and community services development, which introduce sources for potential effects through construction phase such as habitat loss, light pollution, disturbance effects and hydrological interactions through surface hydrological connectivity and/or shared groundwater sources;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments - these sources could result in habitat loss/fragmentation, light pollution, disturbance effects and interactions with water quality (surface and/or groundwater); and
- Increases in visitor numbers to ecologically sensitive areas during the operational phase of developments which have potential to introduce sources for significant effects, such as recreational and tourism developments.

Therefore, Stage 2 AA (including the preparation of the Natura Impact Report) is required for the emerging Draft Plan.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that it could not be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the emerging Draft Plan, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects would have a likely significant effect on 5 (no.) European sites. Therefore, an AA is required.

Signatory: 

Leonora Earls  
Director of Services  
Planning, Economic and Rural Development.

Date: 1/10/24



Tá an doiciméad seo ar fáil i bhformáidí eile ar iarratas.  
This document is available in alternative formats on request.

Ba chóir gach comhfhreagras a sheoladh chuig an Stiúrthóir Seirbhís, Pleanáil, Forbairt Eacnamaíochta agus Tuaithe.  
All correspondence should be addressed to the Director of Services, Planning, Economic and Rural Development.



## Section 4 Informing Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

### 4.1 Introduction

This Natura Impact Report is compiled to inform the competent authority on Stage 2 of the AA process, and in assessing whether the Draft Plan, alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, may result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 5 (no.) European sites brought forward from screening (for more information refer to Section 3 above) – i.e., those sites considered in Table 3.1, for which a “Likelihood of Significant Effects” and/or “Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects” has been identified, with respect to site structure, function, Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests, and Conservation Objectives of each European site considered.

### 4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

Screening for AA (for more information refer to Section 3 above) identified 5 (no.) European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Draft Plan. Appendix I characterises the 5 (no.) European sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of this site’s Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests, and Conservation Objectives (as listed by the NPWS<sup>29</sup>).

### 4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Adverse Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts<sup>30</sup>:

**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.

**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*

<sup>29</sup> Available at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> .

<sup>30</sup> 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”.

*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'.

#### First Order Site-Specific Conservation Objective for SACs:

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

#### First Order Site-Specific 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 2021 European Commission AA guidance provides the following examples of potential changes that can occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

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

Relevant potential changes are considered in Table 4.1 with reference to the QIs of all of the European sites brought forward from Stage 1 of the AA process (see Section 3).

#### 4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

The Draft Plan provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2). Potential effects, if unmitigated, arising from developments and activities include direct 'land-take' within European sites and disturbance effects through light and noise pollution, dust, hydrological interactions, and airborne pollution.

The approach to land use zoning contained within the Draft Plan contributes towards the protection of European sites. Development objectives / zoning for lands designated as European sites is not provided for by the Draft Plan, thereby avoiding direct 'land-take' within European sites. Furthermore, where feasible, land directly adjacent to European sites is zoned so as to form a buffer zone, for example: at Bollarney North, the provision of an open space land use zoning objective will contribute towards the protection of potentially valuable areas as part of the ecological integrity of the adjoining European sites; and at Wicklow Head and environs, the provision of open space and natural areas land use zoning objectives will contribute towards maintaining the role of the area in providing ecological linkage to relevant European sites. This approach to zoning is explained at Section 12.5 of the Draft Plan:

1. No lands within the actual European Site have been zoned.
2. Where there is existing developed areas, the lands have been zoned for their existing use, which will essentially allow for the continuation of the existing use and its enhancement. In accordance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and the Planning & Development Act, any proposed development with potential to impact upon the integrity of a European Site shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment;
3. Where there is existing undeveloped lands, the lands have only be zoned for new development where it can be justified that such zoning and development arising therefrom is essential for the town to achieve its development vision and strategic objectives. In accordance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and the Planning & Development Act, any proposed development with potential to impact upon the integrity of a European Site shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment;
4. Where there is existing undeveloped lands, and the development of these lands is not essential for the achievement of the development vision and strategic objectives for the town, the land will be zoned 'OS2' – natural areas. The only developments that will be considered in such area are those which contribute to the objective of the natural areas zone (detailed in this plan) and that can be shown to not diminish the role and function of such areas, will not result in adverse impacts on the integrity of any EU protected site and will not diminish the biodiversity value of the lands or the ability of plants and animals to thrive and move through the area.

In addition, various measures have been integrated into the Draft Plan, in alignment with the policies and objectives of the existing Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied), with the

objective of ensuring that there are no adverse effects on the ecological integrity of any European site. In addition, the Draft Plan introduces measures that ensure that all projects arising from the implementation of the Draft Plan will undergo AA and EIA assessments where required. 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, and are provided in Section 5 below.

#### **4.3.1.2 Habitat Type or Species Fragmentation**

The Draft Plan provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Draft Plan Description in Section 2). Potential effects arising from developments and activities include the fragmentation of habitat and or species through, for example, light pollution, noise pollution or removal of stepping stone habitats.

The Draft Plan, in alignment with the policies and objectives of the existing Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied), includes measures to minimise potential fragmentation, via light and noise pollution, and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as, planting of native tree species and/or management of habitats such as riverine systems.

Further to the provisions referred to above, there are provisions related to non-designated sites and specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as hedgerows and waterways such as the Vartry River and the Rathnew, Burkeen, Dunbur and Marlton Streams. These provisions will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation does not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites. A full list of these mitigation measures is provided in Section 5.

#### **4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species**

The Draft Plan provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2).

Disturbance effects are caused by any activity that has potential to alter the movement patterns or distribution of species, for example direct disturbance through human activity/movement as a result of recreation/tourism or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions from both the Draft Local Area Plan itself, and the existing Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied). Further details on the mitigation measures integrated into the Draft Plan is provided at Section 5.

#### **4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density**

Species densities are reliant on species distributions, habitat condition, connectivity of ecological resources and availability of resources such as prey/food. The Draft Plan introduces potential sources for effects on affect these four determinant factors for species densities in the form of construction phase effects such as hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat loss, encroachment, or trampling. However, the Draft Plan contains provisions to enhance biodiversity, landscape and the environment within the Draft Plan area.

The Draft Plan includes provisions related to non-designated sites and specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as hedgerows, treelines, and waterways, such as the Vartry River and the Rathnew, Burkeen, Dunbur and Marlton Streams, that will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation does not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the species' densities and ecological integrity of European sites. Measures are also included in the existing Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) that will help protect and improve water quality interactions, which can influence species densities, including those relating to water services infrastructure, protective buffer zones and water quality standards.

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

Indicators of conservation value are identified as key ecological resources such as water quality, air quality, habitat quality, population health of ecosystem engineers or 'keystone species' etc. The protection of these resources is a key focus of the Draft Local Area Plan and the existing Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied).

This Draft Plan, including its alignment with the policies and objectives of the existing Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied), has many robust policies and objectives to ensure the protection of ground and surface water quality, riverine systems and habitat quality as provided the full list of mitigation measures in Table 5.1.

**Table 4.1 Characterisation of Site Sensitivities against Potential Adverse Effects and Mitigation**

Site Code	Site Name	Analysis of Site Sensitivities against Potential Adverse Effects and Mitigation Measures
002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, modification of water flow (tidal &amp; marine currents), grazing, fertilisation, silviculture, forestry, railway lines, erosion, sand and gravel extraction, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles and disposal of industrial waste.</p> <p>These pressures relate to built environment, amenity and leisure activities, forestry, coastal protection works, erosion, extractive industry, agriculture, pollution, hydrological changes and direct land use management.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Draft Plan that introduce sources for potential effect from forestry and the extractive industry to this European site as a result of implementation of the Draft Plan, therefore there are no sources for effects in these regards. The Draft Plan does present sources for potential adverse effects to this SAC from built environment, amenity and leisure activities, coastal protection works, erosion, agriculture, pollution, hydrological changes and direct land use management.</p> <p>Therefore, the following mitigation measures have been integrated into the Draft Plan to ensure no adverse effects occur to this European site as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Draft Plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as WTR52, WTR92 and WTR93.</li> <li>• The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Draft Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through policy objectives such as WTR92 and WTR93.</li> <li>• The development of the Draft Plan area's built environment with appropriate regard to ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Draft Plan via policy objectives such as WTR52.</li> <li>• The Draft Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however alignment with the policies and objectives of the County Development plan via objective WTR86 encourages sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural run-off into freshwater systems.</li> <li>• The provision for coastal protection works that have regard to the environmental and ecological sensitives of the Wicklow Bay area are provided for via policies such as WTR94.</li> <li>• The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Draft Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as WTR42 and WTR73.</li> </ul> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures/Policy Objectives incorporated into the Draft Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
004186	The Murrough SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, fertilisation and railway lines.</p> <p>These pressures relate to amenity and leisure activities, built environment and pollution.</p> <p>The Draft Plan does present sources for potential adverse effects to this SPA from amenity and leisure activities, built environment and pollution.</p> <p>Therefore, the following mitigation measures have been integrated into the Draft Plan to ensure no adverse effects occur to this European site as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Draft Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through policy objectives such as WTR92 and WTR93.</li> <li>• The development of the Draft Plan area's built environment with appropriate regard to ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Draft Plan via policy objectives such as WTR52</li> <li>• The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Draft Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as WTR42 and WTR73.</li> </ul> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures/Policy Objectives incorporated into the Draft Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles.</p> <p>These pressures relate to amenity and leisure activities and direct land use management.</p> <p>The Draft Plan does present sources for potential adverse effects to this SPA from amenity and leisure activities and direct land use management.</p> <p>Therefore, the following mitigation measures have been integrated into the Draft Plan to ensure no adverse effects occur to this European site as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Draft Plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as WTR52, WTR92 and WTR93.</li> <li>• The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Draft Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through policy objectives such as WTR92 and WTR93.</li> </ul> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures/Policy Objectives incorporated into the Draft Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

Site Code	Site Name	Analysis of Site Sensitivities against Potential Adverse Effects and Mitigation Measures
002274	Wicklow Reef SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are scuba diving, snorkelling, leisure fishing, potting, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, date mussel-fishing, benthic dredging, netting and benthic or demersal trawling.</p> <p>These pressures relate to land take, amenity and leisure activities, aquaculture, trawling and direct land use management.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Draft Plan that introduce sources for potential effect from trawling, land take or direct land use management to this European site as a result of implementation of the Draft Plan, therefore there are no sources for effects in these regards. The Draft Plan does present sources for potential adverse effects to this SAC from amenity and leisure activities and aquaculture.</p> <p>Therefore, the following mitigation measures have been integrated into the Draft Plan to ensure no adverse effects occur to this European site as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Draft Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through policy objectives such as WTR92 and WTR93.</li> <li>• The extractive/mining industry is to be managed sustainably with due regard to best environmental practice in management via alignment with the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan.</li> </ul> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures/Policy Objectives incorporated into the Draft Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are non-intensive grazing, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, vandalism, pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, species composition change (succession), diffuse pollution to surface waters via storm overflows or urban run-off, erosion, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles and missing or wrongly directed conservation measures.</p> <p>These pressures relate to amenity and leisure activities, direct land use management and pollution.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Draft Plan that introduce sources for potential effect from direct land use management to this European site as a result of implementation of the Draft Plan, therefore there are no sources for effects in these regards. The Draft Plan does present sources for potential adverse effects to this SAC from amenity and leisure activities and pollution.</p> <p>Therefore, the following mitigation measures have been integrated into the Draft Plan to ensure no adverse effects occur to this European site as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Draft Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through policy objectives such as WTR92 and WTR93.</li> <li>• The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards throughout the Draft Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as WTR42 and WTR73.</li> </ul> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures/Policy Objectives incorporated into the Draft Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>



## **Section 5 Mitigation Measures**

This section outlines measures that have been incorporated into the Draft Plan and associated existing Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied), in order to mitigate against potential significant effects on European sites as identified above.

These mitigation measures have been designed to ensure that there will be no effects on the ecological integrity of any European site resulting from the implementation of the Draft Plan. The mitigation measures that are most relevant to the protection of European sites resulting from the potential sources and pathways effects identified in Section 3.3 are identified in Table 5.1 below.

**Table 5.1 Mitigation measures to protect European sites and their sustaining resources**

Component <sup>31</sup>	Respective Draft Plan Development Objectives/Mitigation Measure(s)
Alignment with County Development Plan	<p><b>Section 1.1</b></p> <p>Preamble: This Local Area Plan is consistent with the objectives of the Wicklow County Development Plan. The County Development Plan sets out the overall strategies, objectives and standards for the county. The strategies, objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan apply directly in this settlement and shall be complied with throughout the implementation of this Local Area Plan.</p> <p>Paragraph 2: This plan, in conjunction with the County Development Plan, will inform and manage the future development of the area;</p> <p>Paragraph 3: Therefore, the provisions of the Wicklow County Development Plan now apply directly in the area covered by the previous Town Development Plan;</p> <p>Paragraph 4: The majority of policies, objectives and development standards that will apply in the Wicklow Town and Rathnew area are already determined in the Wicklow County Development Plan and all efforts shall be made to minimise repetition of County Development Plan objectives in this Local Area Plan, unless it is considered necessary to emphasise assets or restate objectives that have particular relevance and importance to the area;</p> <p>Paragraph 5: Any specific policies / objectives or development standards required for this area will be stated as precisely that, and in all cases will be consistent with the County Development Plan.</p> <p><b>WTR59</b> To consider the feasibility of the preparation of a Wicklow Waterfront Masterplan, to facilitate the continued development of the Port, Quays and Harbour, to be prepared by Wicklow County Council. Any approved Masterplan must adhere to the overall zonings, policies and objectives of the County Development Plan and this Local Area Plan.</p> <p><b>Chapter 9 Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The infrastructure strategies, objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan will apply directly in the plan area. In particular, the County Development Plan addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustainable Transportation</li> <li>- Water Supply &amp; Demand</li> <li>- Wastewater Infrastructure</li> <li>- Storm and Surface Water Infrastructure</li> <li>- Flood Risk Management</li> <li>- Waste and Environmental Emissions</li> <li>- Energy and Information Infrastructure</li> </ul> <p><b>Chapter 10 Heritage, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The purpose of this chapter is to set out the specific objectives with regard to the heritage of the settlement and should be read in conjunction with the County Development Plan - the heritage strategies, objectives, schedules and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan will apply directly in the settlement. In particular, the County Development Plan addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protected habitats</li> <li>- Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows</li> <li>- Water systems &amp; wetlands</li> <li>- Soils &amp; Geology</li> <li>- Landscape</li> <li>- Green Infrastructure</li> <li>- Recreational Use of Natural Resources</li> <li>- Public Rights of Way</li> <li>- Marine Spatial Planning</li> <li>- Coastal Zone Management</li> </ul> <p><b>WTR86</b> Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p>

<sup>31</sup> The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e., a measure providing for the protection of water could beneficially impact upon the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, for example. All of the measures included in this table would benefit the protection of European sites.

Component <sup>31</sup>	Respective Draft Plan Development Objectives/Mitigation Measure(s)
European sites	<p><b>Approach to zoning</b></p> <p>The approach to land use zoning contained within the Draft Plan contributes towards the protection of European sites. Development objectives / zoning for lands designated as European sites is not provided for by the Draft Plan, thereby avoiding direct 'land-take' within European sites. Furthermore, where feasible, land directly adjacent to European sites is zoned so as to form a buffer zone, for example: at Bollarney North, the provision of an open space land use zoning objective will contribute towards the protection of potentially valuable areas as part of the ecological integrity of the adjoining European sites; and at Wicklow Head and environs, the provision of open space and natural areas land use zoning objectives will contribute towards maintaining the role of the area in providing ecological linkage to relevant European sites. This approach to zoning is explained at Section 12.5 of the Draft Plan:</p> <p><b>Section 12.5 European sites</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No lands within the actual European Site have been zoned.</li> <li>2. Where there is existing developed areas, the lands have been zoned for their existing use, which will essentially allow for the continuation of the existing use and its enhancement. In accordance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and the Planning &amp; Development Act, any proposed development with potential to impact upon the integrity of a European Site shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment;</li> <li>3. Where there is existing undeveloped lands, the lands have only be zoned for new development where it can be justified that such zoning and development arising therefrom is essential for the town to achieve its development vision and strategic objectives. In accordance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and the Planning &amp; Development Act, any proposed development with potential to impact upon the integrity of a European Site shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment;</li> <li>4. Where there is existing undeveloped lands, and the development of these lands is not essential for the achievement of the development vision and strategic objectives for the town, the land will be zoned 'OS2' – natural areas. The only developments that will be considered in such area are those which contribute to the objective of the natural areas zone (detailed in this plan) and that can be shown to not diminish the role and function of such areas, will not result in adverse impacts on the integrity of any EU protected site and will not diminish the biodiversity value of the lands or the ability of plants and animals to thrive and move through the area.</li> </ol> <p><b>Future Compact Growth of the Settlement (page 9)</b></p> <p>Development to the east of the settlement, north of the Port Access Road, needs to be carefully controlled given the close proximity to the European Sites of the Murrough Wetlands SAC and the Murrough SPA. Having regard to the characteristics of these protected sites, it is important to ensure that the lands surrounding these sites are protected from new development and to limit the extension of existing development in this area.</p> <p><b>Section 2.8 Tourism Development</b></p> <p>To protect the conservation objectives of European sites, controlling development with the potential to cause adverse impacts on these, either directly, indirectly or cumulatively, is subject to an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>WTR52</b> To ensure that all proposals for development have cognisance of European sites in the area and that no development is allowed which would have a significant adverse effect on the conservation interests of these sites.</p> <p><b>WTR92</b> To facilitate the provision of green linkages along and between green / river corridors/ Open Space/ Active Open Space, to create inter connected routes and develop parks and linkages between existing and proposed green areas, to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.</p> <p><b>WTR93</b> To facilitate the enhancement of existing, and development of new recreational facilities along the coastal area, such as walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and other planning considerations.</p>
Natural Heritage and Biodiversity	<p><b>WTR9</b> To encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites for enterprise and employment creation throughout the settlement and to consider allowing 'relaxation' in normal development standards on such sites to promote their redevelopment, where it can be clearly demonstrated that a development of the highest quality, that does not create an adverse or unacceptable working environment or create unacceptable impacts on the built, natural or social environment, will be provided.</p> <p><b>Water Supply &amp; Demand; Protected habitats; Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows; Water systems &amp; wetlands; and, Landscape</b></p> <p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p> <p><b>WTR86</b> Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p>
Peatlands, wetlands, surface water courses and coastlines	<p><b>WTR42</b> To enhance the amenity value of the Rathnew Stream and to facilitate improved access, subject to the protection of its environmental and ecological value</p> <p><b>WTR73</b> To promote and encourage the sustainable recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes for eco-tourism activities. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Council will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and scenic character of the area.</p>

Component <sup>31</sup>	Respective Draft Plan Development Objectives/Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p><b>Water systems &amp; wetlands</b></p> <p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p> <p><b>WTR86</b> Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p>
<p>Water services, groundwater, water quality and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems</p>	<p><b>WTR95</b> Where relevant, applications for development must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not, individually or cumulatively, affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p><b>Water Supply &amp; Demand; Wastewater Infrastructure; and, Storm and Surface Water Infrastructure</b></p> <p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p>
<p>Tourism</p>	<p><b>Recreational Use of Natural Resources; and, Public Rights of Way</b></p> <p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p> <p><b>WTR92</b> To facilitate the provision of green linkages along and between green / river corridors/ Open Space/ Active Open Space, to create inter connected routes and develop parks and linkages between existing and proposed green areas, to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.</p> <p><b>WTR93</b> To facilitate the enhancement of existing, and development of new recreational facilities along the coastal area, such as walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and other planning considerations.</p>
<p>Green / Blue Infrastructure</p>	<p><b>Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p> <p><b>WTR86</b> Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p> <p><b>WTR86</b> Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p> <p><b>WTR92</b> To facilitate the provision of green linkages along and between green / river corridors/ Open Space/ Active Open Space, to create inter connected routes and develop parks and linkages between existing and proposed green areas, to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.</p>
<p>Built environment</p>	<p><b>RPO 4.56</b> Support enhancement and expansion of Wicklow port and Harbour, to expand commercial berthing and pleasure craft capacity subject to a feasibility study with particular focus on avoiding adverse impacts on the integrity of European sites.</p> <p><b>Future Compact Growth of the Settlement (page 9)</b></p> <p>Development to the east of the settlement, north of the Port Access Road, needs to be carefully controlled given the close proximity to the European Sites of the Murrrough Wetlands SAC and the Murrrough SPA. Having regard to the characteristics of these protected sites, it is important to ensure that the lands surrounding these sites are protected from new development and to limit the extension of existing development in this area.</p> <p><b>Strategy for Wicklow Town Waterfront (page 32)</b></p> <p>The strategy for Wicklow Town Waterfront is to [...] protect the natural heritage of this area ensuring that the conservation objectives of European sites are not adversely impacted upon, either directly, indirectly or cumulatively through any proposal.</p> <p><b>WTR52</b> To ensure that all proposals for development have cognisance of European sites in the area and that no development is allowed which would have a significant adverse effect on the conservation interests of these sites</p>

Component <sup>31</sup>	Respective Draft Plan Development Objectives/Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p><b>Marine Spatial Planning</b></p> <p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p>
Flood Risk Management	<p><b>Flood Risk Management</b></p> <p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p> <p><b>WTR82</b> To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes and Coastal Erosion Schemes.</p> <p><b>WTR83</b> Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the Planning Authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, including the latest future scenario flood mapping, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'Plan Making Justification Test' will not be satisfied.</p>
Coastal Erosion	<p><b>WTR81</b> To ensure the natural coastal defences are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p><b>Coastal Zone Management</b></p> <p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p> <p><b>WTR94</b> To facilitate the protection of the coastline from erosion through the maintenance of existing and development of new measures of protection from erosion, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>
Invasive species	<p><b>WTR86</b> Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p>
Agriculture	<p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p>
Water abstraction	<p><b>WTR95</b> Where relevant, applications for development must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not, individually or cumulatively, affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive.</p>
Fisheries / aquaculture	<p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p>
Light pollution	<p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p>
Air Pollution	<p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p>
Noise Pollution	<p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p>
Soils and Geology	<p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p>
Climate	<p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p>
Renewable Energy	<p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p>
Waste Management	<p>See "Alignment with County Development Plan" component above</p>

## Section 6 Conclusion

This Natura Impact Report demonstrates that, upon the inclusion of suitable mitigation measures, the Draft Plan will not result in any adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European site.

The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests and Conservation Objectives of the European sites identified have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures into the Draft Plan that will prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and mitigate against the identified potential significant effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Draft Plan will themselves be subject to AA/screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures into the Draft Plan, it has been demonstrated that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects to any designated European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>32</sup>. This demonstration has been made in view of the Conservation Objectives of the habitats and/or species, for which these sites have been designated.

This Natura Impact Report will, alongside any other inputs from the Plan-preparation/AA process, inform the competent authority when it undertakes the final Appropriate Assessment determination at adoption of the Plan.

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<sup>32</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:  
a) no alternative solution available,  
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and  
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

# Appendix I Background information on European sites

## List of European sites within 15 km of the Draft Plan boundary; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	A08, A04.02.03, B01, A04.03, J02.01, E01.03, J02.08, K02.01	Fertilisation, non-intensive horse grazing, forest planting on open ground, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, dispersed habitation, raising the groundwater table or artificial recharge of groundwater, species composition change (succession)
000717	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	A04, B02.01.01, G02.06, G05.04, G01.02, I01, B06, E03.01, B	Grazing, forest replanting (native trees), attraction park, vandalism, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, invasive non-native species, grazing in forests or woodland, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, silviculture, forestry
000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	G02.06, A04, G02.01, I01, D01.02, G05.07, G05.06, G05.04, J01.01, G01.02	Attraction park, grazing, golf course, invasive non-native species, roads, motorways, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, vandalism, burning down, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220]	B02.03, D01.02, I01, G05.04, E01.02, D01.01, B01.02, G02.08, D05, E03.01, G05.06, G05.07, A04, B01, G01.02, G03	Removal of forest undergrowth, roads, motorways, invasive non-native species, vandalism, discontinuous urbanisation, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), camping and caravans, improved access to site, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, grazing, forest planting on open ground, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, interpretative centres
000729	Buckroneys-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Alkaline fens [7230], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i> ) [2150], Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> ( <i>Salicion arenariae</i> ) [2170], Humid dune slacks [2190]	A03.02, G05.01, G02.01, J02, H02.07, E03.01, A04.02, I01, G02.08, A04.01.01, A08, F03.01, E01.02, G01.02, A10.01, G05.04, A05.02, J01, K02.01, D04.01, K01.01	Non-intensive mowing, trampling, overuse, golf course, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, non-intensive grazing, invasive non-native species, camping and caravans, intensive cattle grazing, fertilisation, hunting, discontinuous urbanisation, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, vandalism, stock feeding, fire and fire suppression, species composition change (succession), airport, erosion
000733	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	F05.04, F03.02, F03.01.01, B02.01.01, B04, G01.02, E01.03, I01, F04.02	Poaching, taking and removal of animals (terrestrial), damage caused by game (excess population density), forest replanting (native trees), use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry), walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, dispersed habitation, invasive non-native species, collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.)
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	A04.02, A04.03, G05.04, H01.01, K02.01, H01.04, K01.01, G01.02, G05.07	Non-intensive grazing, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, vandalism, pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, species composition change (succession), diffuse pollution to surface waters via storm overflows or urban run-off, erosion, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110], Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], European dry heaths [4030], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8110], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	G05.07, G01.02, F03.02.02, J01.01, B02.05, B06, G01.04, F03, F04.02, L05, A04, G05.09, C01.03, G05.04, G05.06, I01, E03.01, G05.01, G04.01, D01.01, G02.09, E01, K04.05, A05.02, G01.03.02, K01.01, G01	Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, taking from nest (e.g., falcons), burning down, non-intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched), grazing in forests or woodland, mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), collapse of terrain, landslide, grazing, fences, fencing, peat extraction, vandalism, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, invasive non-native species, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, trampling, overuse, military manoeuvres, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, wildlife watching, urbanised areas, human habitation, damage by herbivores (including game species), stock feeding, off-road motorized driving, erosion, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
002249	The Murrrough Wetlands SAC	Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Alkaline fens [7230]	J02.12.01, J02.05.01, A04, A08, B, D01.04, K01.01, C01.01, D01.01, G01.02, E03.02	Sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, modification of water flow (tidal & marine currents), grazing, fertilisation, sylviculture, forestry, railway lines, tgv, erosion, sand and gravel extraction, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, disposal of industrial waste
002274	Wicklow Reef SAC	Reefs [1170]	G01.07, F02.03, F02.01.01, J02.11.01, F05.02, F02.02.05, F02.01.02, F02.02.01	Scuba diving, snorkelling, leisure fishing, potting, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, date mussel-fishing, benthic dredging, netting, benthic or demersal trawling
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	Peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103], Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ) [A098]	G01.02, D01.01, B, C01.03, G03, A04	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, sylviculture, forestry, peat extraction, interpretative centres, grazing
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	Black-legged kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188]	G01.02	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
004186	The Murrrough SPA	Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Little Tern ( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ) [A195], Red-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia stellata</i> ) [A001], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674]	G01.02, A08, D01.04	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, fertilisation, railway lines, tgv



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

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[1170]	Reefs	The main pressures on reefs come from fishing methods that damage the seafloor.	G01, G03	Marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
[1210]	Annual vegetation of drift lines	Most of the pressures on drift lines are associated with activities such as recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics.	C01, F01, F06, F07, F08	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures)	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
[1220]	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	The main pressures on this habitat are associated with coastal defences (which can interfere with sediment dynamics), recreation and shingle removal.	C01, E01, F07, F08, F09, I02	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), deposition and treatment of waste/garbage from household/recreational facilities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
[1330]	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> )	The main pressures on Atlantic salt meadows are from agriculture, including ecologically unstable grazing regimes and land reclamation, and the invasive non-native species common cord-grass ( <i>Spartina anglica</i> ).	A09, A33, A36, F07, F08, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
[1355]	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	There are no pressures facing this species	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
[1410]	Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> )	Most of the pressures on Mediterranean salt meadows are associated with agriculture, including overgrazing, under-grazing and land reclamation.	A09, A10, A33, A36	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
[2110]	Embryonic shifting dunes ( <i>Embryonic shifting dunes</i> )	The majority of pressures on this habitat are associated with recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics.	C01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, L01, L02	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2120]	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes ( <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> )	Most of the pressures on marram dunes are caused by the interference on sediment dynamics due to recreation and coastal defences.	E01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, I02, L01	Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
				areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization)	
[2130]	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ( <i>grey dunes</i> )	Pressures on fixed dunes are associated with recreation and ecologically unsuitable grazing practices.	A02, A09, A10, F07, F08, I02, L02	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2150]	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i> )	The majority of pressures of this habitat are due to land abandonment, recreational activities and also bracken encroachment.	A06, F07, I04	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), sports, tourism and leisure activities, problematic native species	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2170]	Dunes with willow scrub ( <i>Salix repens ssp. argentea and Salicion arenariae</i> )	The pressures on dunes with willow are caused by ecologically unsuitable grazing, invasive non-native species and agricultural intensification	A02, A09, A10, E01, F07, F08, I02, L02	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2190]	Humid dune slacks	Pressures on the habitat come from a number of sources. Including agricultural fertilisers, sports and leisure activities (e.g. walking, off-road driving and golf courses) and drainage. Succession to scrub is also a problem, particularly where it is linked to desiccation of the slack.	A19, A31, F07, I02, L02	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, sports, tourism and leisure activities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change.
[3110]	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> )	This habitat is under significant pressure from eutrophication, and from drainage and other damage to peatland. Damage to peatland can result in hydrological changes in lakes, increased organic matter, water colour and turbidity, changes in sediment characteristics, acidification and enrichment.	A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, F12	Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water	Surface dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3160]	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	The pressures on this habitat are associated with pollution from agricultural and forestry activities and also from drainage.	A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, D08	Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, energy production and transmission activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
[4010]	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Overgrazing, burning, wind farm development and erosion are the main pressures associated with this habitat, along with nitrogen deposition from agricultural activities that generate air pollution.	A09, A11, A27, B01, D01, L01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.

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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[4030]	European dry heaths	A number of significant pressures were recorded for this habitat in the current reporting period, particularly overgrazing by sheep and burning for agriculture with afforestation and wind farms also being recognised as pressures.	A09, A11, B01, D01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
[4060]	Alpine and Boreal heaths	Overgrazing by livestock, tourism (hill walking) and agricultural activities that cause air pollution are considered significant pressures for this habitat.	A09, A27, F07, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, sports, tourism and leisure activities, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
[6130]	Calaminarian grasslands of the Murawy galmanowa ( <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> )	Pressures on this habitat are associated with abiotic natural processes (leaching of metals) and succession, as well as impacts from recreational activities (walking/hiking).	F07, L01, L02	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6230]	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	The main pressures on this habitat are due to bracken encroachment and succession.	I04, L02	Problematic native species, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[7130]	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	The main pressures on blanket bogs are overgrazing, burning, afforestation, peat extraction, and agricultural activities causing nitrogen deposition. Erosion, drainage and wind farm construction are also pressures relating to this habitat.	A09, A11, A27, B01, C05, D01, K02, L01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, drainage, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7140]	Transition mires and quaking bogs	The main pressures facing transition mires in Ireland are afforestation, water pollution, drainage and hydrological changes with grazing/agricultural management also being a pressure.	A06, A09, B01, C05, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7210]	Calcareous fens with species of mariscus sedge and bog cotton ( <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Caricion davallianae</i> )	Overgrazing, groundwater pollution, abandonment of grassland management and drainage are pressures associated with this habitat.	A06, A09, C05, J01, K01, K02, K04	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, peat extraction, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[7220]	Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> )	Pressures related to this habitat are associated with drainage, pollution to ground and surface waters, recreational activities, infrastructure, overgrazing and abandonment of grassland management.	A06, A10, E01, F07, H08, J01, K02, K04, L02	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above (dumping, accidental and deliberate disturbance of bat roosts (e.g., caving)), mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[7230]	Alkaline fens	The main pressures facing this habitat are land abandonment (and associated succession), overgrazing, drainage and pollution.	A06, A09, A26, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02, N02, N03	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
				of agricultural or forestry practices), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	
[8110]	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> )	The main pressures on siliceous scree come from overgrazing, under-grazing and succession.	A09, A10, L02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[8210]	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	The majority of pressures related to this habitat are associated with overgrazing and the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb ( <i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> ).	A09, A27, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[8220]	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Pressure on this habitat is associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb ( <i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> ).	I02	Other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[91A0]	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	The significant pressure facing this habitat are associated with invasive non-native species such as <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> , cherry laurel ( <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> ) and beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ) and overgrazing by deer.	A09, B09, I02, I04, M07	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, storm, cyclone	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
[91E0]	Alluvial forests with Alder and Ash ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> , <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> )	Many of the pressures facing this habitat include invasive species, particularly sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ), Indian balsam ( <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> ) and currant species ( <i>Ribes nigrum</i> and <i>R. rubrum</i> ) as well as some native species such as brambles ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) and common nettle, along with over felling.	B09, I02, I04, I05	Clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in management.

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

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A043	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	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
A050	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, I01, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, invasive non-native species, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications
A098	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	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
A179	Black-Headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A184	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications
A188	Black-Legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution
A674	Light-Bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	A02, A11, C03, D02, F01, G01, G05, H03, H07, I01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, agriculture activities not referred to above, renewable abiotic energy use, utility and service lines, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, other human intrusions and disturbances, marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, invasive non-native species, other ecosystem modifications
A103	Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	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
A050	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	B, A05.01, F03.01, A08, F02.03	Sylviculture, forestry, animal breeding, hunting, fertilisation, leisure fishing
A001	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	G01.02, D01.02, F01, A04, A08, G01.01, E01.01	Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, roads, motorways, marine and freshwater aquaculture, grazing, fertilisation, nautical sports, continuous urbanisation
A052	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	B, A05.01, F03.01, A08, F02.03	Sylviculture, forestry, animal breeding, hunting, fertilisation, leisure fishing
A999	Wetland and Waterbirds	Combined designation thus combined threats of disturbance, pollution, habitat loss, waste, amenity and leisure activities, built environment and coastal works, port activities and shipping.		

# Appendix II Relationship with Other Plans and Programmes

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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>European Level</b>			
<b>SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission.</li> <li>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects.</li> <li>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme.</li> <li>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive.</li> <li>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> <li>Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA.</li> <li>For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest.</li> <li>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present.</li> <li>Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats.</li> <li>Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation.</li> <li>The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.</li> <li>Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas).</li> <li>Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year</li> <li>set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk</li> <li>set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.</li> </ul>	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an integrated approach</li> <li>best available techniques,</li> <li>flexibility; and</li> <li>public participation</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and</li> <li>the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest</li> <li>Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU.</li> <li>It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets.</li> <li>All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets.</li> <li>The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288(COD))</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption.</li> <li>The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor.</li> <li>Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive;</li> <li>Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014;</li> <li>Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels;</li> <li>Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020.</li> <li>Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures</li> <li>EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs</li> <li>The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services</li> <li>Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy</li> <li>Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering</li> <li>National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits</li> <li>Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it</li> <li>Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;</li> <li>The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism;</li> <li>The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure;</li> <li>Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law;</li> <li>Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy</b>	<p>Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.</li> <li>Supporting EU-level GI projects.</li> <li>Improving access to finance for GI projects.</li> <li>Improving information and promoting innovation.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and</li> <li>recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them;</li> <li>each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage;</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity</b>	<p>An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.</p>	<p>The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity);</li> <li>the sustainable use of its components; and</li> <li>the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change</b>	<p>It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



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<b>UN Kyoto Protocol (2<sup>nd</sup> Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</b>	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II).</li> <li>EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020.</li> <li>Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels.</li> <li>Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%.</li> <li>Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps.</li> <li>Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU.</li> <li>Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020.</li> <li>Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS).</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive).</li> <li>Sets new air quality objectives for PM<sub>2.5</sub> (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives.</li> <li>Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values.</li> <li>Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM<sub>10</sub>) or up to five years (NO<sub>2</sub>, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole.</li> <li>Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria.</li> <li>Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures.</li> <li>Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public.</li> <li>Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases.</li> <li>Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</b>	<p>The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.</p>	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and</li> <li>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.</li> </ul> <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks</li> <li>Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above.</li> <li>Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies.</li> <li>Promote sustainable water usage.</li> <li>The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive</li> <li>Sampling Drinking Water Directive</li> <li>Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive</li> <li>Shellfish Directive</li> <li>Freshwater Fish Directive</li> <li>Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive</li> <li>Dangerous Substances Directive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Achieve "good status" for all waters.</li> <li>Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts.</li> <li>Involve the public and streamline legislation.</li> <li>Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas.</li> <li>Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas.</li> <li>Recover costs for water services.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, control and conserve groundwater.</li> <li>Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption.</li> <li>Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I.</li> <li>Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a).</li> <li>Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5.</li> <li>Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause.</li> <li>Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action.</li> <li>Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health.</li> <li>Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.</li> <li>The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment.</li> <li>Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<p>environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive.</li> <li>The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator.</li> <li>The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met.</li> <li>The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. 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.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.</li> <li>The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values;</li> <li>(II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes;</li> <li>(III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and</li> <li>(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.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.</li> <li>Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Landscape Convention 2000</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.</li> <li>Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</b>	It identifies three key objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital</li> <li>to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy</li> <li>to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better implementation of legislation.</li> <li>Better information by improving the knowledge base.</li> <li>More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy.</li> <li>Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies.</li> </ul> Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make the Union's cities more sustainable.</li> <li>To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</b>	The convention has three main aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats</li> <li>to promote cooperation between states</li> <li>to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species</li> </ul>	The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control.</li> <li>Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucus.</li> <li>Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies.</li> <li>Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.</li> <li>Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations.</li> <li>Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Bali Road Map (2007)</b>	The overall goals of the project are twofold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.</li> </ul>	The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mitigation</li> <li>adaptation</li> <li>technology</li> <li>financing</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation</li> <li>Transparency of actions</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Finance</li> <li>Adaptation</li> <li>Forests</li> <li>Capacity building</li> </ul>	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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020);</li> <li>Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets;</li> <li>Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt;</li> <li>Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and</li> <li>Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Common Agricultural Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and</li> <li>To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future;</li> <li>Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.</li> </ul>	The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration,</li> <li>Evaluation,</li> <li>Authorisation; and</li> <li>Restriction of chemicals.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation

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		REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.	and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Stockholm Convention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> <li>Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention</li> <li>Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ramsar Convention</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;</li> <li>Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the “Ramsar List”) and ensure their effective management;</li> <li>Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European 2020 Strategy for Growth</b>	Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe’s social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;</li> <li>Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;</li> <li>Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.</li> </ul>	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed;</li> <li>3% of the EU’s GDP should be invested in R&amp;D;</li> <li>the “20/20/20” climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right);</li> <li>the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree;</li> <li>20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Parliament resolutions, including: The European Green Deal (EGD) 2020</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</li> <li>In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Union Biodiversity Strategy for 2030</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to put Europe’s biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030.</li> </ul> Aims to build resilience to future threats such as the impacts of climate change, forest fires, food insecurity, disease outbreaks and protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea;</li> <li>Launching an EU nature restoration plan;</li> <li>Introducing measures to enable the necessary transformative stage; and</li> <li>Introducing measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package</b>	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020</b>	Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.	As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation;</li> <li>• Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs;</li> <li>• Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and</li> <li>• Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>OSPAR Convention</b>	The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.	OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy</li> <li>• Eutrophication Strategy</li> <li>• Hazardous Substances Strategy</li> <li>• Offshore Industry Strategy</li> <li>• Radioactive Substances Strategy</li> <li>• Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme</li> </ul> These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Reuse Regulation (2020/741)</b>	The purpose of this Regulation is to facilitate the uptake of water reuse whenever it is appropriate and cost-efficient, thereby creating an enabling framework for those Member States who wish or need to practise water reuse.	Regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse. This Regulation lays down minimum requirements for water quality and monitoring and provisions on risk management, for the safe use of reclaimed water in the context of integrated water management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>NEC Directive 2016/2284/EU</b>	Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants.	National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive (2016/2284/EU) entered into force on 31 December 2016. Replacing earlier legislation, ( Directive 2001/81/EC ), the new NEC Directive sets 2020 and 2030 emission reduction commitments for five main air pollutants.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979)</b>	The first international treaty to deal with air pollution on a broad regional basis. The Convention entered into force in 1983, laying down the general principles of international cooperation for air pollution abatement and setting up an institutional framework which has since brought together research and policy.	The Convention has substantially contributed to the development of international environmental law and has created the essential framework for controlling and reducing the damage to human health and the environment caused by transboundary air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (2009/128/EC)</b>  <b>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115</b>	The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD) establishes a framework for European Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by setting minimum rules to reduce the risks to human health and the environment that are associated with pesticide use.  The Directive aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and	The main actions relate to training of users, advisors and distributors of pesticides, inspection of pesticide application equipment, the prohibition of aerial spraying, limitation of pesticide use in sensitive areas, and information and awareness raising about pesticide risks. EU countries must also promote Integrated Pest Management, for which, general principles are laid down in Annex III to the Directive.  The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, including EU wide targets to reduce by 50% the use and	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

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	of alternative approaches or techniques, such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides. EU countries have drawn up National Action Plans to implement the range of actions set out in the Directive.	risk of chemical pesticides by 2030, in line with the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. The proposal, adopted on 22 June 2022, is part of a package of measures to reduce the environmental footprint of the EU's food system and help mitigate the economic losses that we are already suffering due to climate change and biodiversity loss.  The proposal transforms the existing Directive into a Regulation which will be directly binding and uniformly applicable to all Member States. It overhauls the existing rules on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (see Directive 2009/128/EC) to bring them in line with the ambitions set in the EU Green Deal, Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies. The proposals must be approved by Member States in the Council and the European Parliament, under the normal legislative procedure.	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Directive on arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and PAH in ambient air (2004/107/EC)</b>	Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	The objective of this Directive is to establish a target value for the concentration of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and benzo(a)pyrene in ambient air so as to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons on human health and the environment as a whole. It determines common methods and criteria for the assessment of concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air as well as of the deposition of such substances.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Medium Combustion Plants (MCP) Directive (2015/2193)</b>	Directive (EU) 2015/2193 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants.	This Directive lays down rules to control emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ), nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> ) and dust into the air from medium combustion plants, as well as to monitor emissions of carbon monoxide (CO). The aim is to reduce emissions to air and the potential risks to human health and the environment from such emissions. As regards the scope, Article 2 identifies the types of combustion plants to which these rules apply. Emission limits values are set out in Annex II.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National</b>			
<b>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved.</li> <li>• Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To reduce overall travel demand.</li> <li>○ To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.</li> <li>○ To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</li> <li>○ To reduce transport emissions.</li> <li>○ To improve accessibility to transport.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Others lower level aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment</li> <li>• ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking</li> <li>• improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies</li> <li>• strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland</b>	The high-level strategic framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network. This new framework is the Department of Transport's contribution to Project Ireland 2040, Government's long-term strategy for accommodating population growth in a sustainable manner and making Ireland a better country for all of its people. It has been developed to ensure that our transport sectoral strategy is underpinned by and supports the achievement of the spatial objectives and National Strategic Objectives set out in the National Planning Framework.	The framework establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</b>	SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.	<p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition);</li> <li>• Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and</li> <li>• Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network.</li> </ul> <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts;</li> <li>• Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and</li> <li>• To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland</li> <li>Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed</li> </ul>	Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020 Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fueled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.</li> </ul>	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFV forecasts</li> <li>Electricity targets</li> <li>Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>Hydrogen targets</li> <li>Biofuels targets</li> <li>LPG targets</li> </ul> Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	National Strategic Outcomes as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compact Growth</li> <li>Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>Enhanced Amenities and Heritage</li> <li>Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society</li> <li>Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources</li> <li>Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040</b>	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies.	The PLUTO seeks to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term;</li> <li>Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and,</li> <li>Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</b>	The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011</b>	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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).</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)</b>	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.	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



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Waste Management Act 1996, as amended</b>	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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)</b>	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> <li>Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.</li> <li>Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)</b>	To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)</b>	These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited</li> <li>Limits on the land application of fertilisers</li> <li>Storage requirements for livestock manure; and</li> <li>Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 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).</li> <li>The Plan provides a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs;</li> <li>Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals;</li> <li>Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and</li> <li>Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b>	€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</li> <li>It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

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<b>Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)</b>	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.	The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers.</li> <li>Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs.</li> </ul>	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing on and offshore wind,</li> <li>Building a sustainable bioenergy sector,</li> <li>Fostering R&amp;D in renewables such as wave &amp; tidal,</li> <li>Growing sustainable transport; and</li> <li>Building out robust and efficient networks.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)</b>	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	<p>2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:</p> <p>Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050.</li> <li>Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.</li> </ul>	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity;</li> <li>Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future;</li> <li>Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and</li> <li>Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended</b>	An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 objective,</li> <li>The policy of the Government on climate change,</li> <li>Climate justice,</li> <li>Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any</li> <li>international agreement referred to in section 2; and</li> <li>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Climate Action Plan 2024</b>	The Climate Action Plan 2024 builds upon the 2023 Plan by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.	The Climate Action Plans list the actions needed to deliver on Ireland's climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated periodically to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Clean Air Strategy 2023</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a National Strategy provides a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation.</li> <li>• The Strategy should also help tackle climate change.</li> <li>• The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture.</li> <li>• In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this is a theme of the Strategy.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022</b>	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."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>All Island Grid Study 2008</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network ("the grid") on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources.</li> <li>• The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system.</li> </ul>	<p>Key conclusions of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study.</li> <li>• All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to portfolio 1</li> <li>• All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports.</li> <li>• The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact.</li> <li>• Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered.</li> <li>• Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in 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;</li> <li>• Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and</li> <li>• Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and</li> <li>• Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Water Resources Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions</li> <li>• Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry</li> <li>• Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources</li> <li>• Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events</li> <li>• Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water</li> <li>• Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)</b>	Vision: "Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU."	<p>General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development</li> <li>• Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards –

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<b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;</li> <li>The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects;</li> <li>Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms;</li> <li>Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;</li> <li>Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and</li> <li>Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.</li> </ul>	<p>in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>“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.”</i></li> </ul>	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Ireland’s National Waste Policy 2020 – 2025</b>	<p>The Policy sets out new targets to tackle waste and move towards a circular economy.</p>	<p>The plan includes halving our food waste by 2030, the introduction of a deposit and return scheme for plastic bottles and cans, a ban on certain single use plastics from July 2021, and a levy on disposable cups. Other measures include applying green criteria and circular economy principles in all public procurement, a waste recovery levy to encourage recycling, and ensuring all packaging is reusable or recyclable by 2030.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027</b>	<p>The EPA’s National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NWHMP) covers a six-year period from 2021 to 2027. This is the fourth National Hazardous Waste Management Plan and is made under Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996. It sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the prevention and management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous revised plan, and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous revised plan was published. The purpose of this plan is to protect the environment and human health in Ireland through best-practice management of hazardous wastes.</p>	<p>The Plan’s objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and drive priority prevention actions by industry and the public to reduce the generation of hazardous waste;</li> <li>Support the identification of adequate and appropriate collection infrastructure for all hazardous wastes with a view to mitigating environmental and health impacts;</li> <li>Endorse the proximity principle such that hazardous wastes are treated as close to the point of production as possible – including within Ireland, taking into account the need for specialised installations for certain types of waste.</li> <li>Support effective regulation of the movement and management of hazardous wastes in line with national policy priorities;</li> <li>Promotion of safe reuse and recycling pathways in support of the circular economy.</li> </ol>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b>	<p>The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.</p>	<p>The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards –</p>

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<b>HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life</li> <li>• Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities</li> <li>• Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland</li> </ul>	in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.  Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland.</li> <li>• Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Security of Supply</li> <li>◦ Sustainability of Energy</li> <li>◦ Competitiveness of Energy Supply</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	The underpinning Strategic Goals are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand</li> <li>• Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland</li> <li>• Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation</li> <li>• Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks</li> <li>• Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production</li> <li>• Being prepared for energy supply disruptions</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2024 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</b>	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change.</li> <li>• Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions.</li> <li>• Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change.</li> <li>• Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>2030 Climate and Energy Framework</b>	Adopted October 2014, includes EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period from 2021 to 2030.	Key targets for 2030: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels).</li> <li>• At least 32% share for renewable energy. This was revised upwards in 2018.</li> <li>• At least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency. This was revised upwards in 2018.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)</b>	Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.	Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>National Energy &amp; Climate Plan (NECP) 2021 – 2030</b>	Ireland's National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 takes into account energy and climate policies developed up to 2019, the levels of demographic and economic growth identified in the National Planning Framework - Project 2040 and includes all of the climate and energy measures as set out in the National Development Plan 2018-2027.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The planned policies and measures that were identified up to the end of 2019, collectively deliver a 30% reduction by 2030 in non-Emission Trading Systems greenhouse gas emissions (from 2005 levels). Ireland is committed to achieving a 7% annual average reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 2021 and 2030. The NECP was drafted in line with the current EU effort-sharing approach, before the Government committed to this higher level of ambition, and therefore does not reflect this higher commitment. Ireland is currently developing those policies and measures and intends to integrate the revision of the NECP into the process which will be required for increasing the overall EU contribution under the Paris Agreement.</li> </ul>	combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wildlife Act of 1976</b>  <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b>  <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023</b>	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.  The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2023 introduced a new public sector duty on biodiversity. The legislation provides that every public body, as listed in the Act, is obliged to have regard to the objectives and targets in the National Biodiversity Action Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems</li> <li>Give statutory protection to NHAS</li> <li>Enhances wildlife species and their habitats</li> <li>Includes more species for protection</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's 4<sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030</b>	Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.  The 4th NBAP strives for a "whole of government, whole of society" approach to the governance and conservation of biodiversity. The aim is to ensure that every citizen, community, business, local authority, semi-state and state agency has an awareness of biodiversity and its importance, and of the implications of its loss, while also understanding how they can act to address the biodiversity emergency as part of a renewed national effort to "act for nature".	This National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 builds upon the achievements of the previous Plan. It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues:  Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Broadband Plan (2012)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.</li> </ul>	The Plan sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband.</li> <li>Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.</li> <li>The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.</li> <li>A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 722 of 2003)</b>  <b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 350 of 2014)</b>  <b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (S.I. 272 of 2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation.</li> <li>Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water.</li> <li>Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans.</li> <li>Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs.</li> <li>Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies.</li> <li>Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances.</li> <li>Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> <li>Sets groundwater quality standards.</li> <li>Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.</li> </ul>	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosecute for water pollution offences.</li> <li>Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.</li> <li>Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution.</li> <li>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;</li> <li>Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.</li> <li>Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.</li> </ul>	<p>plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Water Services Act 2007</b></p> <p><b>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</b></p> <p><b>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides the water services infrastructure.</li> <li>Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services.</li> <li>Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply.</li> <li>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.</li> </ul>	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced.</li> <li>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</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Uisce Éireann's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</li> </ul>	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet Customer Expectations.</li> <li>Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply.</li> <li>Provide Effective Management of Waste water.</li> <li>Protect and Enhance the Environment.</li> <li>Support Social and Economic Growth.</li> <li>Invest in the Future.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Rural Development Programme</b></p>	<p>The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas</p>	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation;</li> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>River Basin Management Plan</b></p>	<p>River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD.</li> <li>Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD.</li> <li>Involve the public through consultations.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b></p>	<p>The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.</p>	<p>CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020</b>	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 manner.	Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs.</li> <li>To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy.</li> <li>To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCA) 2016</b>	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC. On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030</b>	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFV forecasts</li> <li>Electricity targets</li> <li>Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>Hydrogen targets</li> <li>Biofuels targets</li> <li>LPG targets</li> <li>Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021</b>	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy Context</li> <li>Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination</li> <li>Enhancing the Visitor Experience</li> <li>Research in the Irish Tourism Sector</li> <li>Supporting Local Communities in Tourism</li> <li>Wider Government Policy</li> <li>International Context</li> <li>Co-ordination Structures</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year</li> <li>net of inflation excluding carrier receipts;</li> <li>250,000 people employed in tourism; and</li> <li>10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCA) 2016</b>	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC. On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.  Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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<b>Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020</b>	<p>The Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan provides a strategic framework for the integration of built, natural and cultural heritage into the future management of waterways.</p> <p>The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i>.</p>	<p>Four objectives of the Plan include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice.</li> <li>Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement.</li> <li>Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset.</li> <li>Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Waterways Ireland "Reimagining Our Waterways" 10-Year Plan 2023</b>	<p>10-Year Plan is a visionary roadmap for reimagining historical waterways, greenways and blueways.</p> <p>Waterways Ireland's Vision is to be recognised as having enabled the creation of inspirational inland navigations and waterways experiences, through conservation and sustainable development for the benefit of all.</p>	<p>At the core of our 10-year plan is set of six strategic priorities. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisation Development &amp; Governance</li> <li>Sustainable Funding Model</li> <li>Asset Portfolio Management</li> <li>Participation and Reputation</li> <li>Sustainable Development</li> <li>Climate Action, Environment and Heritage</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)</b>	<p>This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.</p>	<p>The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience;</li> <li>To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs;</li> <li>To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and</li> <li>To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025</b>	<p>The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment. The main objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly;</li> <li>Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them;</li> <li>Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers;</li> <li>Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and</li> <li>Collecting evidence to track change and measure success.</li> </ul>	<p>This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations. A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat. Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>S.I. No. 232/2018 - European Union (National Emission Ceilings) Regulations 2018</b>	<p>The Regulations require the Minister to ensure that emissions of the specified pollutants are limited in accordance with the ceilings set out in Schedule 2. Annex III part 2 includes a set of measures to reduce emissions from agriculture.</p>	<p>The Regulations provide that the Environment Protection Agency shall prepare an annual inventory report of emissions of 5 specified pollutants (sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)), and in certain years a report on projections of emissions.</p> <p>The Regulations also require the preparation of a national air pollution control programme Referring, among other things, to the 1979 UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution), and the establishment of a network to monitor the negative impacts of air pollution upon ecosystems based on a network of monitoring sites that is representative of Ireland's freshwater, natural and semi-natural habitats and forest ecosystem types. The Programme shall contain elements on the use of nitrogen fertilizer and soil protection. In fulfilling the requirements of subparagraph (b) the Minister shall ensure coordination with other monitoring programmes established pursuant to Union legislation including Directive 2008/50/EC, Directive 2000/60/EC and Council Directive 92/43/EEC and, if appropriate, the LRTAP Convention and, where appropriate, make use of data collected under those programmes.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Town Centre First: A Policy Approach for Irish Towns</b>	<p>The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the business, service, social, cultural</p>	<p>The policy will align other Government policies and target our investment programmes to deliver the best outcomes for town centres.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG 2012)</b>	The Guidelines have five key policy objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that retail development is plan-led;</li> <li>Promoting city/town centre vitality through a sequential approach to development;</li> <li>Securing competitiveness in the retail sector by actively enabling good quality development proposals to come forward in suitable locations;</li> <li>Facilitating a shift towards increased access to retailing by public transport, cycling and walking in accordance with the Smarter Travel strategy; and</li> <li>Delivering quality urban design outcomes.</li> </ul>	The aim of the Guidelines is to ensure that the planning system continues to play a key role in supporting competitiveness in the retail sector for the benefit of the consumer in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. In addition, the planning system must promote and support the vitality and viability of city and town centres thereby contributing to a high standard of urban design and encouraging a greater use of sustainable transport.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2024)</b>	The Guidelines set out policy and guidance in relation to the planning and development of urban and rural settlements, with a focus on sustainable residential development and the creation of compact settlements.	The Guidelines build on and update previous guidance to take account of current Government policy and economic, social and environmental considerations. There is a renewed focus in the Guidelines on the renewal of existing settlements and on the interaction between residential density, housing standards and quality urban design and placemaking to support sustainable and compact growth.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Architectural Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)</b>	Part 1 of these guidelines includes the criteria to be applied when selecting proposed protected structures for inclusion in the RPS. It also offers guidance to planning authorities on issuing a declaration on a protected structure and on determining planning applications in relation to a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA.	Part 2 contains supplementary detailed guidance to support planning authorities in their role to protect the architectural heritage when a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA is the subject of development proposals and when a declaration is sought in relation to a protected structure.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, 2024)</b>	The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.	The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011</b>	The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases and Licence Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal.</li> <li>In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (as amended) and National Marine Planning Framework</b>	The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 is one component of the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) which was published in summer 2021. Parallel to the National Planning Framework, the NMPF illustrates the vision for Ireland's maritime area.	The legislation seeks to ensure that the consent mechanism for offshore renewable energy projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>complies with EU environmental assessment obligations;</li> <li>complies with Aarhus Convention on public participation; and</li> <li>enables Ireland to deliver projects conducive to national climate targets for 2030.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997)</b>	The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.	The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Regional/ County/Local Level</b>			
<b>Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2019-2031</b>	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midland Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its 11 constituent local authorities: Dublin City Council; Dún Laoghaire County Council; South Dublin County Council; Longford County Council; Louth County Council; Wicklow County Council; Offaly County Council; Laois County Council; Meath County Council; Fingal County Council; and Westmeath County Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</b>	The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Greater Dublin Transport Strategy 2016-2035, focused on improving public and sustainable transport. While the bulk of the Plan relates solely to the Greater Dublin Area, certain areas such as public transport services and activities related to small public service vehicles are dealt with on a national basis.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus;</li> <li>Light Rail;</li> <li>Heavy Rai;</li> <li>Integration Measures and Sustainable;</li> <li>Transport Investment;</li> <li>Integrated Service Plan; and</li> <li>Integration and Accessibility.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Strategy sets out how transport will be developed across the Greater Dublin Area, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare.</li> <li>This Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022- 2042 (Transport Strategy) replaces the previous framework, titled the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016- 2035, which was approved by the then Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in 2016.</li> <li>The vision is: <i>"To provide a sustainable, accessible and effective transport system for the Greater Dublin Area which meets the region's climate change requirements, serves the needs of urban and rural communities, and supports the regional economy."</i></li> <li>Full SEA and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken on this Strategy.</li> </ul>	<b>Strategy Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Enhanced Natural and Built Environment - To create a better environment and meet our environmental obligations by transitioning to a clean, low emission transport system, reducing car dependency, and increasing walking, cycling and public transport use, and reducing car dependency.</li> <li>Connected Communities and Better Quality of Life - To enhance the health and quality of life of our society by improving connectivity between people and places, delivering safe and integrated transport options, and increasing opportunities for walking and cycling.</li> <li>A Strong Sustainable Economy - To support sustainable economic activity and growth by improving the opportunity for people to travel for work or business where and when they need to, and facilitating the efficient movement of goods.</li> <li>An Inclusive Transport System - To deliver a high quality, equitable and accessible transport system, which caters for the needs of all members of society.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</b>	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site</li> <li>To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest</li> <li>To describe the site and its management</li> <li>To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site</li> <li>To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Groundwater Protection Schemes</b>	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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Wicklow LECP 2024-2029</b>	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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Land Use Plans including those in force in County Wicklow (including the overarching Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied), and those in force in other adjoining planning authorities (including development plans for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, South Dublin, Kildare, Carlow, and Wexford; and local plans for settlements)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport and tourism objectives).</li> <li>Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies.</li> <li>Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required.</li> <li>Protect and enhances amenities and environment.</li> <li>Guide planning authority in assessing proposals.</li> <li>Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development.</li> <li>Aim to promote sustainable development.</li> <li>Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)</b>	The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistency of the County Development Plan with the draft and final Wicklow Town-Rathnew LAP.	The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistency of the County Development Plan with the draft and final Wicklow Town-Rathnew LAP.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Wicklow Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessments in adjoining counties</b>	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area.</li> <li>Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022</b>	To conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage of Wicklow and to foster a greater awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of this by all.	Strategic Objectives and Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness of, and enthusiasm for, Wicklow's heritage;</li> <li>Increase understanding of value of Wicklow's heritage</li> <li>Promote the conservation and management of Wicklow's heritage</li> <li>Facilitate partnership and active community participation in heritage plan actions</li> <li>Record the heritage of Wicklow and disseminate existing information</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024-2028</b>	Under the EU Environmental Noise Directive, which was transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 (as amended), Strategic Noise Maps and Noise Action Plans are required to be made or revised every five years. The Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024 - 2028 has been prepared jointly by the local authorities of the Dublin Agglomeration (Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council, Wicklow County Council and Kildare County Council).	The main purpose of Noise Action Plans 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 issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029</b>	The Plan is developed around 5 thematic areas for actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governance and Leadership</li> <li>Built Environment and Transport</li> <li>Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure</li> <li>Communities: Resilience and Transition</li> <li>Sustainability and Resource Management</li> </ol>	The Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 strategic goals are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt climate focused governance, provide leadership, and build partnerships for climate action.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Support decarbonisation of transport and modal shift from cars to active travel and public transport.</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their

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		<p>4. Deliver on climate adaptation, biodiversity resilience and enhanced capacity for our environment to adapt to changing conditions.</p> <p>5. Mobilise and empower climate action in local communities.</p> <p>6. Achieve a 'just transition' particularly for communities that may be economically disadvantaged by decarbonising projects or impacted by climate change.</p> <p>7. Mobilise climate action in enterprise and agriculture supporting the transition to an inclusive, net zero and circular economy.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Wicklow Town Public Realm Plan</b></p>	<p>Based on these findings, 4 principal aims for the public realm were identified as follows:</p> <p>A Enhance the environmental quality of Wicklow for the benefit of local residents, businesses and visitors</p> <p>B Strengthen the physical, social and economic identity of Wicklow Town by fully maximising existing assets</p> <p>C Provide a positive physical framework for future development, complimentary to the existing historic urban core</p> <p>D Strengthen the role of Wicklow Town as a tourism destination</p>	<p>14 specific objectives were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High quality streetscapes;</li> <li>• Town centre frontage programme;</li> <li>• Gateways</li> <li>• Dublin road</li> <li>• Marlton road linkage</li> <li>• Church lands</li> <li>• Harbour and bay area</li> <li>• The Murrough</li> <li>• Leitrim River and Broad Lough corridor</li> <li>• Seafront enhancement</li> <li>• Interpretation and orientation strategy</li> <li>• Lighting strategy</li> <li>• Open space and linkage strategy</li> <li>• Hill to sea greenways</li> <li>• Economic and tourism strategy</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2020-2025</b></p>	<p>The County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy provides a blueprint for realising the potential of Wicklow's outdoor recreation assets in a manner which prioritises environmental sustainability.</p>	<p>The Strategy identifies five outdoor recreations hubs / clusters – Glendalough, Rathdrum, Blessington/Baltinglass, Tinahely/Shillelagh and East Coast maritime. Objectives identified include: Expansion of the trails network, preparation of an outdoor recreation transport plan and increase awareness of environmental and cultural responsibilities</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the Ireland's Ancient East, Regional Tourism Development Strategies and Destination Experience Development Plans</b></p>	<p>Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land on or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence.</p> <p>The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</b></p>	<p>These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.</p>	<p>These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>