

PROPOSED VARIATION TO WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022 - 2028

Draft Natura Impact Report

Prepared for:

Wicklow County Council



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council

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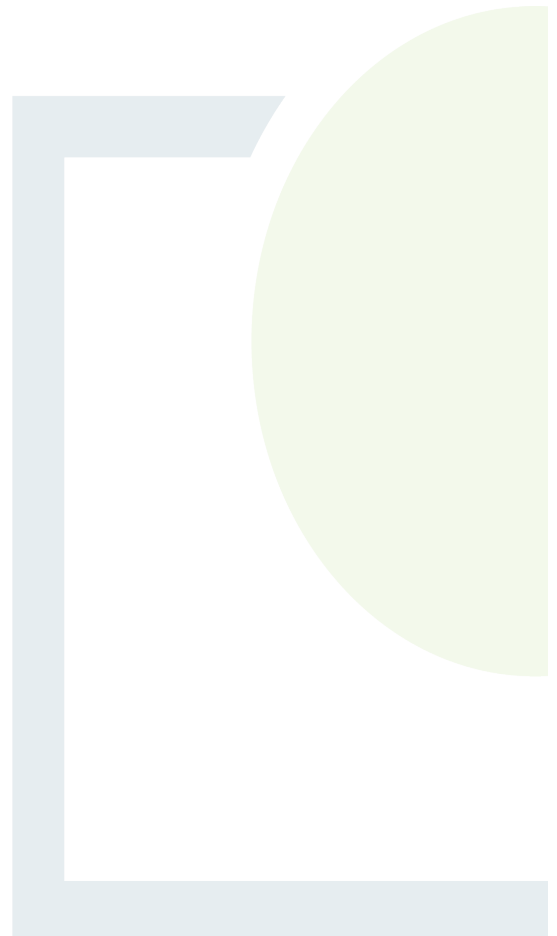
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Unit 3/4, Northwood House, Northwood Crescent,
Northwood, Dublin, D09 X899, Ireland

T: +353 21 496 4133 | E: info@ftco.ie

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www.fehilytimoney.ie



Draft Natura Impact Report

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Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Draft Natura Impact Report to Wicklow County Council for Proposed Variation No. 7 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 - 2028.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Background.....	1
1.2	Legislative Context	1
1.3	Guidance.....	2
1.4	Assessment Process and Approach	2
2.	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED VARIATION	5
2.1	Background.....	5
2.2	Purpose of the Proposed Variation	5
3.	REPORT TO INFORM APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING	7
3.1	Introduction to Screening.....	7
3.2	Potential Interactions of the Proposed Variation on the receiving environment.....	7
3.3	European Sites within the Zone of Influence	8
3.4	In-Combination Effects With Other Plans And Programmes	13
3.5	Assessment of Likely Significant Effects	14
3.6	AA Screening Conclusion	43
4.	DRAFT NATURA IMPACT REPORT	44
4.1	Introduction.....	44
4.2	Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected	44
4.3	Characterisation Potential Effects.....	44
4.3.1	Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area	48
4.3.2	Habitat or species Fragmentation.....	49
4.3.3	Disturbance to Key Species	49
4.3.4	Reduction in Species Density	49
4.3.5	Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value	50
4.3.6	Climate Change	50
5.	MITIGATION MEASURES	52
6.	CONCLUSION	64

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact
- Appendix 2 – Defining Zone of Influence
- Appendix 3 – Relationship with other plans and programmes
- Appendix 4 – Background information to European sites

LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 3-1: European Sites In and Surrounding the Proposed Variation area	11
Figure 3-2: Hydrological Connectivity between the Proposed Variation area and European sites Immediately Surrounding the Proposed Variation area	12

LIST OF TABLES

	<u>Page</u>
Table 2-1: Housing Growth Requirements for Wicklow (DHLGH).....	5
Table 3-1: Screening of European sites which have ecological pathways for potential effects	15
Table 4-1: Characterisation of Potential Adverse Effects arising from the subject land area	44
Table 5-1: Avoidance Measures Adopted	53
Table 5-2: Relevant Mitigation defined in the Current Wicklow CDP	54
Table 5-3: Mitigation Integrated into the Proposed Variation	58



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Wicklow County Council (WCC) has prepared Proposed Variation No. 7 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 (herein referred to as the 'WCDP'). The purpose of the Proposed Variation is to take account of NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements - Guidelines for Planning Authorities, issued under Section 28 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) (July 2025). The Guidelines provide for an increased annual housing growth requirement for WCC, and an 'additional provision' mechanism to support the zoning of additional lands in areas where it can be justified. The Proposed Variation will consider zoning of lands for additional residential development in settlements in the County.

This Draft Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Proposed Variation 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").

The Proposed Variation includes amendments to land use zonings for the County. For the purpose of this assessment, the sites of these land use zoning proposals are herein referred to as the 'Relevant Lands'.

1.2 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The Directive requires that where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, while not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site, it will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' (AA) to identify any implications for the European site in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

"6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."

These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The competent authority must carry out a Screening for AA to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the Proposed Variation, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. If it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, an AA of its implications for the European Site(s) in view of the Site's conservation objectives must be carried out.



The provisions of Article 6(3) do not apply where a proposed plan or project is 'connected with or necessary to the management of the site'. In this case, the Proposed Variation is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site(s).

1.3 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010);
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission 2013;
- Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.
- Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2019). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019.
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (European Commission, 2002). This document was updated by Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C (2021) 6913 final;
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator (2021).

1.4 Assessment Process and Approach

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

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



In the context of this report, a source is any identifiable element (Relevant Lands) of the Proposed Variation that is known to interact with the receiving environment. A receptor is the Qualifying Interests (QI)¹ for an SAC or Special Conservation Interests (SCI)² for an SPA or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the QI/SCI. In practice, the term Qualifying Interests also applies to SCIs (and is used in this document for simplicity). A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor.

The assessment commences with a description of the Proposed Variation, and the associated sources for impacts to the receiving environment. The type of impacts that are likely due to the Proposed Variation (Source) are identified having regard to the spatial and temporal scale of the Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation and WCDP, resource requirements and likely emissions. These sources are then used to define the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the Proposed Variation.

The European Commission Notice (2021) on the 'Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, states that in identifying European sites (Natural 2000 sites), which may be affected by a plan or project, the following should be identified:

- Any European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- Any European sites within the likely Zoi of the plan or project. European sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the plan project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g., water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;
- European sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.

The Zoi of the Proposed Variation is the Relevant Lands and the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have potential likely significant effects on the QIs of a European site. The OPR (2021) practice note states that the Zoi must be established on a case-by-case basis using the SPR framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km). Section 3 sets out the detailed rationale for the identification of relevant European sites within the Zoi based on the sources of impacts arising from the Proposed Variation. Subsequently, an assessment is undertaken with respect to potential connectivity (Pathways) to European Sites and their qualifying interests/special conservation interests are identified.

The potential for in-combination impacts with other plans and projects is also assessed having regard to the identified impacts of the Proposed Variation along the ecological pathways identified to European sites.

The potential for likely significant effects on the European Sites within the Zoi is examined having regard to the sensitivity of each European site with pathways for impacts associated with the Proposed Variation on its own and in-combination with other plans and projects.

Having regard to the European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2021) the:

¹ SACs are areas designated under the Habitats Directive to conserve habitats listed in Annex I of the Directive and plant and animal species listed in Annex II. Collectively these are referred to as the 'Qualifying Interests' or 'QIs' of the SAC.

² SPAs are sites classified under the Birds Directive to protect rare or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I to the Directive as well as regularly occurring migratory species and wetlands. Wetland habitats that support internationally important populations of migratory birds may be coastal or inland. Collectively, these species and habitats are referred to as the 'Special Conservation Interests' of the SPA.



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

Where significant effects are determined to be likely, or where there is uncertainty regarding the potential for likely significant effects, an NIR will need to be prepared for the Proposed Variation.

The scope and content of the assessment in this instance was informed by the following:

- The SEA Scoping process undertaken by WCC for the Proposed Variation.
- The EPA's AA Geo Tool (this can be found here - <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool/>).
- The National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives.
- The current Wicklow County Development Plan and associated NIR and SEA Environmental Report.



2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED VARIATION

2.1 Background

The National Planning Framework - First Revision ('Revised NPF') was approved in April 2025. Section 2.7 of the Revised NPF 'Translating the NPF to City and County Levels' states that 'revised (housing) targets will support a plan-led approach to NPF implementation at regional and local level, allowing NPF growth objectives to be incorporated into city and county development plans as they are reviewed. In this regard, matters related to the targeted population and housing numbers and the estimated capacity of each settlement for growth is determined at the plan-making stage, in accordance with the hierarchy of plans prescribed under the Planning and Development Act.' The Revised NPF identifies the need to need to plan for approximately 50,000 additional households per annum to 2040.

The NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements Guidelines for Planning Authorities ('the Guidelines') constitute Ministerial Guidelines issued under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). These Guidelines, implemented in July 2025, require that planning authorities should use all available means to ensure that the objectives of these Guidelines are incorporated within development plans as quickly as possible through the Proposed Variation of the current adopted development plan. The Guidelines set out the housing demand scenario to 2040 for each Local Authority by translating the NPF requirements into estimated average annual figures by drawing on the range of scenarios based on ESRI research and modelling on population growth and structural housing demand, and assumptions relating to unmet demand.

The Guidelines set out housing growth requirement figures for each local authority in the form of an annualised estimated housing figure for two time periods (2025 to 2034 and 2034 to 2040). These figures, included in Appendix 1 of the Guidelines, are representative of the long-term growth requirements to 2040 and have been presented in an annualised form to account for the different stages that various local authorities may be at in their six-year cycle of their land use plans. Figures for County Wicklow are presented in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: Housing Growth Requirements for Wicklow (DHLGH)

Local Authority	Existing Annual 2020 Housing Requirement (Housing Supply Target)	Adopted Development Plan - Annual Housing Requirement (Housing Supply Target)	New Annual New Housing Growth Requirement to 2034 (2025 to 2034)	New Annual New Housing Growth Requirement 2035 to 2040 (2035 to 2040)
Wicklow County Council	745	1,411	2,068	931

2.2 Purpose of the Proposed Variation

The overall aim of the Proposed Variation is to zone additional lands in County Wicklow for residential use and supporting land uses, to align the WCDP with the Revised NPF and the Guidelines, and to accelerate housing delivery.

The Housing Growth Requirements have the aim of updating development plans to reflect the requirements of the Revised National Planning Framework (NPF) and achieving a significant acceleration in housing delivery.



The Guidelines provide for an increased annual housing growth requirement for WCC, and an 'additional provision' mechanism to support the zoning of additional lands in areas where it can be justified.

In response to these new Guidelines, WCC undertook a non-statutory 'Call for Sites' consultation inviting landowners, homebuilders and other interested parties (including members of the public) to make a submission, identifying possible sites that they suggest could be considered for zoning for new housing development and could meet the objectives of the Guidelines in terms of contributing to the acceleration of housing delivery over the next 15 years.

WCC have now defined zoning proposals across the following settlements, listed in order of the County Development Plan settlement hierarchy, in the County under the Proposed Variation to accelerate housing development.

- Level 1: Bray
- Level 2: Wicklow-Rathnew
- Level 3: Greystones-Delgany
- Level 3: Blessington
- Level 4: Baltinglass
- Level 4: Enniskerry
- Level 4: Kilcoole
- Level 4: Newtownmountkennedy
- Level 4: Rathdrum
- Level 5: Ashford
- Level 5: Aughrim
- Level 5: Carnew
- Level 5: Dunlavin
- Level 5: Tinahely
- Level 6: Donard
- Level 6: Roundwood

WCC have also proposed new and amended Specific Local Objectives (SLOs) to guide and control development at lands that are subject to zoning objective changes.



3. REPORT TO INFORM APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING

3.1 Introduction to Screening

This section of the report examines if the Proposed Variation is likely to have a significant effect upon European Sites, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. It is used to inform the competent authority's AA Screening Determination. The following is considered during this assessment:

- Whether the Proposed Variation introduces any sources of environmental or ecological impact.
- Whether the Proposed Variation can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site.
- Whether the Proposed Variation will have a likely significant effect on a European Site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential likely significant effects.

Plans or projects (or a Proposed Variation in this instance) are screened out for AA based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- Where it can be shown that there are no sources of environmental impact associated with a plan or project.
- Where there are no pathways such as hydrological links between a plan or project area, and relevant European sites
- Where a European site is located at a distance from the plan or project area such that likely significant effects are not foreseen;
- Where known threats or vulnerabilities at a European site cannot be linked to potential likely significant effects that may arise from a plan or project.

3.2 Potential Interactions of the Proposed Variation on the receiving environment

An assessment of potential sources of environmental impact associated with proposed rezonings and associated policy objectives defined in the Proposed Variation - that may lead to likely significant effects on European sites - has been carried out. This assessment has been undertaken having regard to the following source of impact criteria defined in the European Commission (2021) guidance document and the OPR (2021) practice note.

- Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration;
- Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses;
- Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project;
- Plan related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc) leading to disturbance / displacement of species;
- Plan related activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density;
- Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions; and
- Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species



This assessment is presented in Appendix 1. The zoning proposals within the Proposed Variation with the potential to generate environmental impacts to result in likely significant effects on European Sites have been identified. An overview of the potential impacts associated with the implementation of the Proposed Variation is presented in the bullet points below:

- *Environmental impacts due both construction and operation of residential development and associated infrastructure and land use.*
- *Impacts that may be transmitted to protected species (e.g., otter, wintering birds etc.).*
- *Impacts upon ecological connectivity.*
- *Impacts locally important non-designated habitats (e.g., important hedgerow, wetlands etc.).*
- *Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects.*
- *Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting) and displacement of protected species.*
- *Potential adverse interactions with environmental vectors such as water and air.*
- *Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.*
- *Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology (which may in turn generate adverse effects on conservation objectives of European sites (e.g. Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems at Ballyman Glen SAC).*
- *Increased risk of flooding.*
- *Failure to provide adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity is needed to ensure appropriate protection of water quality and aquatic ecology).*
- *Emissions to air including dust and other emissions.*

These impacts are further examined in defining the Zol of the Proposed Variation to identify likely significant effects through an SPR assessment.

All proposals defined in the Proposed Variation are considered in this assessment with respect to the integrity of all relevant European sites identified - considering the sensitivities/vulnerabilities of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects and potential pathways for such effects. Where sources and pathways for effects are identified potential effects will be assessed in relation to the Site Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs).

3.3 European Sites within the Zone of Influence

The OPR (2021) AA Screening practice note states that the Zol must be established on a case-by-case basis using the SPR model. The SPR model has been used to identify the Zol to ensure that relevant European sites are identified. The SPR model minimises the risk of overlooking distant or obscure effect pathways, while also avoiding an over reliance on buffer zones (e.g. 15 km), within which all European sites should be considered. This approach follows the DoEHLG (2009 rev 2010) guidance on AA which states that:

'For projects, the distance could be much less than 15 km, and in some cases less than 100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects.'



In order for a likely significant effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no likelihood for the significant effect to occur. Proposed Variation impacts are essentially the 'source' in the SPR model.

These impacts may be very localised and confined to defined area with no potential connectivity to a European site and therefore no potential for likely significant effects. Alternatively, where an ecological or functional pathway exists they may give rise to a potential likely significant effect to a Qualifying Interest of a European site.

The potential sources of impact associated with the Proposed Variation's zoning changes and associated policy objectives have been considered when defining the ZoI of the Proposed Variation (as identified in Appendix 1).

The dominant ecological pathways that have been considered are presented below:

- Direct physical interactions or changes to the local environment;
- air dispersal (noise, dust, odour emissions etc.);
- hydrological interactions; and,
- dispersal patterns of mobile species.

Having regard to the above, and considering the Precautionary Principle, the ZoI of the Proposed Variation has been defined as:

- All European sites located either solely or partially in the WCDP area;
- all European sites within 15 km of the WCDP area;
- all European Sites hydrologically or ecologically connected to the WCDP;
- all SPA's within 25 km of the WCDP listing Greylag Goose or Barnacle Goose as an SCI.

Further detail on criteria used to define the ZoI of the Proposed Variation can be found in Appendix 2.

European sites in and surrounding the WCDP area are mapped in Figure 3-1. A map showing hydrological connectivity between the WCDP area and European sites immediately surrounding the WCDP area is provided in Figure 3-2.

Background information (such as that within Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) has been considered during the assessment, as necessary.

Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following National Parks and Wildlife Service documents:

- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for North Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000206] Version 1.
- NPWS (2026) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000210] Version 2.
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Pollardstown Fen SAC [IE0000396] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Red Bog, Kildare SAC [IE0000397] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Ballyman Glen SAC [IE0000713] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Bray Head SAC [IE0000714] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Carriggower Bog SAC [IE0000716] Version 1.



- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC [IE0000717] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Glen of the Downs SAC [IE0000719] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Knocksink Wood SAC [IE0000725] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Buckronev-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC [IE0000729] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC [IE0000733] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Blackstairs Mountains SAC [IE0000770] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Slaney River Valley SAC [IE0000781] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Glenasmole Valley SAC [IE0001209] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [IE0001398] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC [IE0001742] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Holdenstown Bog SAC [IE0001757] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Magherabeg Dunes SAC [IE0001766] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SAC [IE0002122] Version 1.
- NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives for River Barrow and River Nore SAC [IE0002162] Version 2.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for The Murrough Wetlands SAC [IE0002249] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Reef SAC [IE0002274] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [IE0003000] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for North Bull Island SPA [IE0004006] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [IE0004024] Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Generic Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [IE0004040] Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Generic Conservation Objectives for Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA [IE0004063] Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Generic Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Head SPA [IE0004127] Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Generic Conservation Objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [IE0004172] Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Generic Conservation Objectives for The Murrough SPA [IE0004186] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA [IE0004076] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Baldoyle Bay SPA [IE0004016] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Malahide Estuary SPA [IE0004025] Version 1.
- NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives for North-West Irish Sea SPA [IE0004236] Version 1.

The assessment considers available conservation objectives. Since conservation objectives focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each site, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential likely significant effects of the Proposed Variation against the QIs/SCIs of each site (having regard to identified potential sources of impact associated with Proposed Variation of the WCDP zoning/objectives). The conservation objectives for each site were consulted throughout the assessment process.



Legend

-  Local Authority Boundary
 Zoning Proposals
 15km
 25km
 Special Protection Areas
 Special Area of Conservation

TITLE: European Sites in and Surrounding the Study Area

PROJECT: Wicklow County Development
Plan SEA 2022-2028

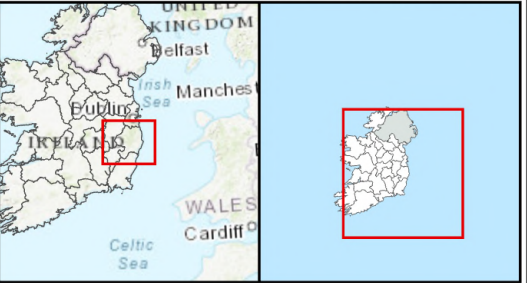
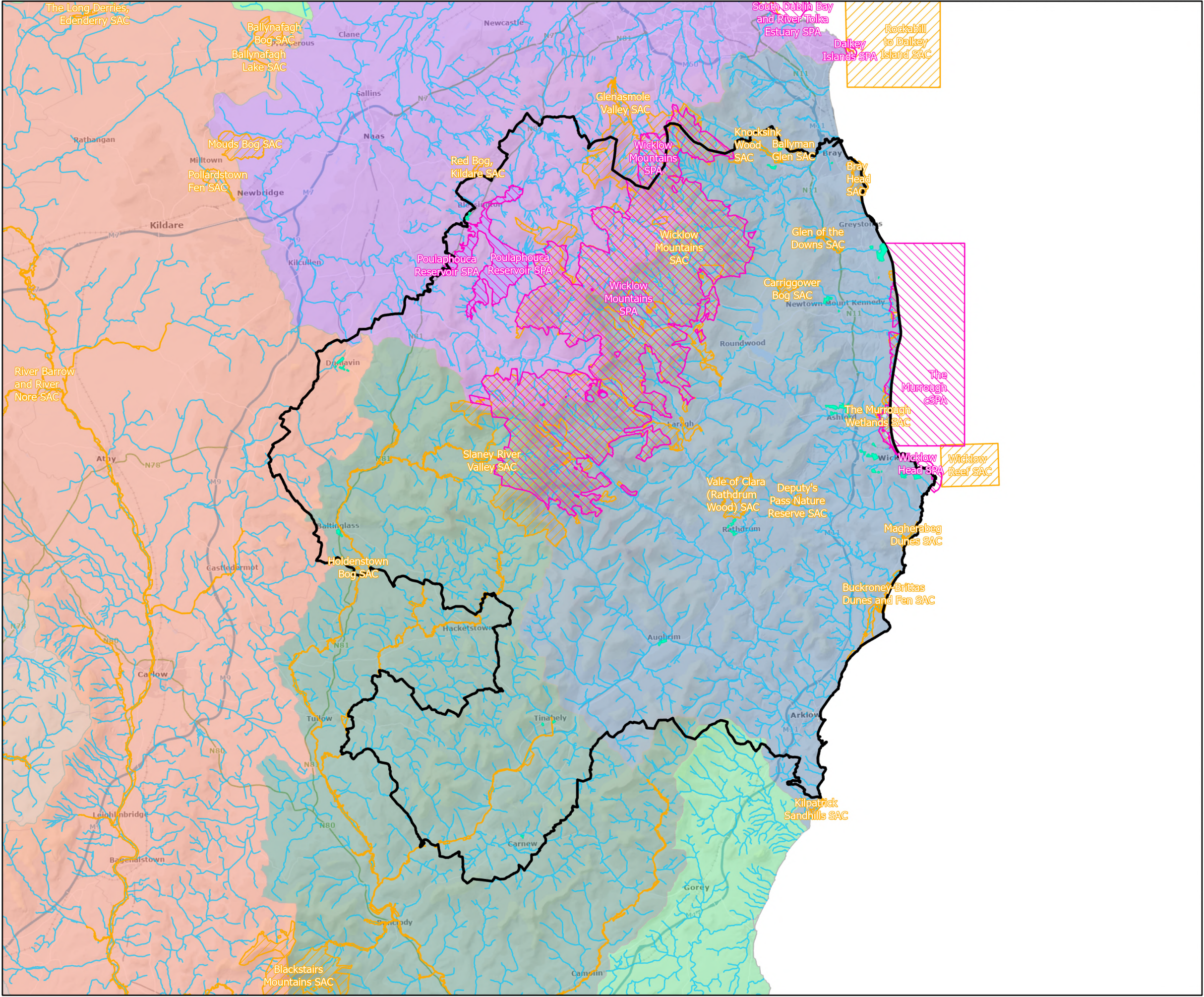
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Legend

- Local Authority Boundary
- Zoning Proposals
- Special Protection Areas
- Special Area of Conservation

Catchment Name

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

TITLE: Hydrological Connectivity between the Study Area and European Sites	
PROJECT: Wicklow County Development Plan SEA 2022-2028	
FIGURE NO: 3.2	
CLIENT: Wicklow County Council	
SCALE: 1:300,000	REVISION: 0
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3.4 In-Combination Effects With Other Plans And Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to result in likely significant effects on European sites. All plans, programmes and legislation that has the potential to interact with the Proposed Variation and cause such likely significant in-combination effects to European sites have been identified and are presented in Appendix 3. The environmental effects of these plans, programmes and legislation were considered throughout the assessment.

The WCDP and Proposed Variation sit within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, recreation, environmental protection and environmental management, which have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant. The Proposed Variation must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) (as revised) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the next 20 years. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier County Development Plans. The RSE for the Eastern and Midland Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the WCDP and Proposed Variation. As required by the Planning and Development Acts, as amended, the Proposed Variation is consistent with the objectives of the WCDP, the RSE and the NPF.

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

All projects supported by the Proposed Variation will be considered in combination with any and all lower tier projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Proposed Variation. Given the uncertainties that exist with regard to the scale and location of developments facilitated by the Proposed Variation, it is recognised that the identification of likely significant in-combination effects is limited and that the assessment of likely significant in-combination effects will need to be undertaken at project-level.



3.5 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

Table 3-1 examines whether there is potential for Likely Significant Effects on identified European sites considering the information provided above and the background information on the relevant European sites.



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

Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	0.17 m	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] Alkaline fens [7230]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and 0.17 km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, surface water interactions and ground water interactions. This European Site is located within the Zol for impacts to Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem (GWDTE). There is potential for a hydrological (groundwater) connection between Relevant Lands and the SAC to exist. There is the potential for SPR connectivity between this European Site and Proposed Variation sites for likely significant effects.	Y	Y	Y
000714	Bray Head SAC	0.57	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies 0.57 km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities. With a separation distance of 0.57 km, this SAC is located outside the Zol of the Proposed Variation. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its listed terrestrial QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	2.19	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies 2.19 km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, surface water interactions and ground water interactions. This European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to GWDTE. There is no hydrological connection between the Relevant Lands and this SAC. This SAC is located outside the Zol of the Proposed Variation. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its sole Qualifying Interest Transition mires and quaking bogs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N
000717	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	4.2	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies 4.2 km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities. With a separation distance of 4.2 km, this SAC is located outside the Zol of the Proposed Variation. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its sole listed terrestrial QI Old sessile oak woods as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	2.16	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies 2.16 km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities. With a separation distance of 2.16 km, this SAC is located outside the Zol of the Proposed Variation. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its sole listed terrestrial QI Old sessile oak woods as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	0.23	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies 0.23 km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, surface water interactions and ground water interactions. This European Site is located within the Zol for impacts to GWDTE. There is potential for a hydrological (groundwater) connection between Relevant Lands and the SAC to exist. There is the potential for SPR connectivity between this European Site and Proposed Variation sites for likely significant effects.	Y	Y	Y
000729	Buckroney-Brittias Dunes and Fen SAC	7.38	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies 7.38 km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, surface water interactions and ground water interactions.	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			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] Alkaline fens [7230]	With a separation distance of 7.38 km and no hydrological (surface water) connections between this European site and Relevant Land, this SAC lies outside the Zol for impacts on surface waters. Additionally, this European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to GWDTE. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its listed QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.			
000733	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	0.08	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies 0.08 km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation (Site Reference: 31). The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities. With a separation distance of 0.08 km, this SAC is located outside the Zol of the Proposed Variation. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its sole listed terrestrial QI Old sessile oak woods as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	0.003	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies 0.003 km to the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation (Site Reference: 33). The SAC is sensitive to disturbance effects, direct land use management activities and hydrological interactions.	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029] Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095] Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096] River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099] Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103] Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106] Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]	There is potential for a hydrological (surface water) connection between Relevant Lands and the SAC to exist. At a separation distance of 0.003 km, this European Site lies within the Zol for potential impacts to surface waters. Additionally, there is potential for disturbance for Qualifying Interest Otter. There is the potential for SPR connectivity between this European Site and Proposed Variation sites for likely significant effects.			
001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	17.52	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120]	The European Site is partly located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies 17.52 km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and surface water.	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130] Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150]	With a separation distance of 17.52 km and no hydrological (surface water) connections between this European site and Relevant Land, this SAC lies outside the Zol for impacts on surface waters. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its listed QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.			
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	2.67	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies 2.67 km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, surface water interactions and ground water interactions. This European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to GWDTE. There is no hydrological connection between the Relevant Lands and this SAC. This SAC is located outside the Zol of the Proposed Variation. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its sole Qualifying Interest Transition mires and quaking bogs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	3.37	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies 3.37 km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, surface water interactions and ground water interactions.	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]	With a separation distance of 3.37 km and no hydrological (surface water) connections between this European site and Relevant Land, this SAC lies outside the Zol for impacts on surface waters. Additionally, this European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to GWDTE. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its listed QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.			
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	2.11	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies 2.11 km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to disturbance effects, direct land use management activities and surface water interactions. With a separation distance of 2.11 km and no hydrological (surface water) connections between this European site and Relevant Lands, this SAC lies outside the Zol for impacts on surface waters. Additionally, Relevant Lands are located outside of the 150 m disturbance zone for QI otter associated with the SAC (NRA, 2006 ³). There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its listed QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N

³ National Roads Authority. (2006). Guidelines for the Treatment of Otters prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes.



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			<i>Calaminarian</i> grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230] Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]				
002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC	0.7	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] Alkaline fens [7230]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies 0.7 km to the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, surface water interactions and ground water interactions. Several hydrological (surface water) connections exist between Relevant Lands and the SAC via the Dunbur Lower Stream (EPA Code: 10D14, Order: 1st), the Dunbur Head Stream (EPA Code: 10D15, Order: 1st), Rossana Lower Stream (EPA Code: 10R19, Order: 1st), Vartry River (EPA Code: 10V01, Order: 3rd), Newtownboswell Stream (EPA Code: 10N07, Order: 1st) and the Ballymacahara Stream	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
				(EPA Code: 10B98, Order: 2 nd) with instream distances between 2.74 - 7.14 km respectively. There is potential for impacts on surface water influenced Qualify Interests of the SAC. There is the potential for SPR connectivity between this European Site and Proposed Variation sites for likely significant effects.			
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	2.5	Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies 2.5km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. As per Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), 2016 ⁴ , the core foraging ranges for the SCIs Peregrine and Merlin are 2 km and 5 km respectively. Relevant Lands are located within the core foraging range of Merlin. The Proposed Variation supports the carrying out of development on greenfield sites which may reduce ex-situ foraging habitat for SCI Merlin. Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has the potential to result in likely significant effects on mobile species Merlin, an SCI of this European site.	Y	Y	Y

⁴ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	0.1	Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies 0.1 km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. Greylag Goose has a core foraging range of 15 - 20 km (SNH, 2016⁵) and Lesser Black-backed Gull has a foraging range is 236 km (Nature Scot, 2023⁶). As such, these species foraging ranges theoretically overlap with Relevant Lands. It is possible that such species may use greenfield areas of Relevant Lands of greenfield sites within the Zol of the Proposed Variation (e.g., for foraging). The Proposed Variation supports the carrying out of development on greenfield sites, that may result in habitat loss, habitat deterioration or disturbance to Greylag Goose and Lesser Black-backed Gull. Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has the potential to result in likely significant effects on mobile species related to this European site.	Y	Y	Y

⁵ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.

⁶ Nature Scot (2023) Guidance Note 3: Guidance to support Offshore Wind applications: Marine Birds - Identifying theoretical connectivity with breeding site Special Protection Areas using breeding season foraging ranges. Version 1: January 2023. Nature Scot, Scotland's Nature Agency



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	0.49	Black-legged kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies approximately 0.49 km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. This coastal/marine SPA is sensitive to disturbance effects and direct land use management activities. Black-legged kittiwake is the sole listed SCI associated with the SPA and has a core foraging range of 300.6 km (Nature Scot, 2023⁷). While the Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation are theoretically located within foraging range of Kittiwake, this is a predominantly coastal/marine species and Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation do not provide foraging or roosting habitat for this species. A hydrological connection exists via the Dunbur Lower Stream (EPA Code: 10D14, Order: 1st) and the SPA with an instream distance of approximately 1.09 km which may result in habitat deterioration of the SPA. Furthermore, the Proposed Variation supports the carrying out of development on greenfield sites within 500 m of the SPA (Cutts et al., 2013⁸), that may result in disturbance for Black-legged kittiwake.	Y	Y	Y

⁷ Nature Scot (2023) Guidance Note 3: Guidance to support Offshore Wind applications: Marine Birds - Identifying theoretical connectivity with breeding site Special Protection Areas using breeding season foraging ranges. Version 1: January 2023. Nature Scot, Scotland's Nature Agency

⁸ Cutts N, Hemingway K and Spencer J (2013). The Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit Informing Estuarine Planning and Construction Projects. Produced by the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies (IECS). Version 3.2.



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
				Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has the potential to result in likely significant effects on Kittiwake associated with this European site.			
004186	The Murrrough SPA	0.02	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The European Site is located within the Wicklow CDP area and lies approximately 0.02 km from the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation (Site Reference: 38). This coastal/marine SPA is sensitive to disturbance effects, direct land use management activities and surface water interactions. Several hydrological (surface water) connections exist between Relevant Lands and the SPA via the Dunbur Lower Stream (EPA Code: 10D14, Order: 1st), the Dunbur Head Stream (EPA Code: 10D15, Order: 1st), Rossana Lower Stream (EPA Code: 10R19, Order: 1st), Vartry River (EPA Code: 10V01, Order: 3rd), Newtownboswell Stream (EPA Code: 10N07, Order: 1st), Ashtown 10 Stream (EPA Code: 10A22, Order: 1st), Three Trouts Stream (EPA Code: 10T03, Order: 2nd) and the Ballymacahara Stream (EPA Code: 10B98, Order: 2nd) with instream distances between 0.34 - 6.26 km respectively. There is potential for impacts on surface water influenced Wetland habitat of the SPA. Due to the proximity of this European Site to Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation (0.02 km), the Proposed Variation supports the carrying out of development on greenfield sites within 500 m of the SPA (Cutts et al.,	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
				2013⁹), that may result in disturbance for all SCI listed species associated with the SPA. Light-bellied Brent Goose has a foraging range assumed as 15 - 25 km (having regard to foraging ranges of other geese, as prescribed in SNH, 2016¹⁰) and Greylag Goose has a core foraging range of 15 - 20 km (SNH, 2016¹¹). Additionally, Black-headed Gull and Herring Gull have foraging ranges of 18.5 and 85.6 km respectively (Nature Scot, 2023¹²). As such, these species foraging ranges theoretically overlap with Relevant Lands. It is possible that such species may use greenfield areas of Relevant Lands of greenfield sites within the Zol of the Proposed Variation (e.g., for foraging). Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has the potential to result in likely significant effects on mobile species related to this European site.			

⁹ Cutts N, Hemingway K and Spencer J (2013). The Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit Informing Estuarine Planning and Construction Projects. Produced by the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies (IECS). Version 3.2.

¹⁰ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.

¹¹ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.

¹² Nature Scot (2023) Guidance Note 3: Guidance to support Offshore Wind applications: Marine Birds - Identifying theoretical connectivity with breeding site Special Protection Areas using breeding season foraging ranges. Version 1: January 2023. Nature Scot, Scotland's Nature Agency



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
000397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	3.28	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	The European Site is located approximately 0.28 km outside of the Wicklow CDP area and lies 3.28 km to nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, surface and ground water interactions. This European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to GWDTE. There is no hydrological connection between the Relevant Lands and this SAC. This SAC is located outside the Zol of the Proposed Variation. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its sole Qualifying Interest Transition mires and quaking bogs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N
002274	Wicklow Reef SAC	1.61	Reefs [1170]	The European Site is located approximately 0.47 km outside of the Wicklow CDP area and lies 1.61 km to nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to surface water interactions. With a separation distance of 1.61 km and no hydrological (surface water) connections between this European site and Relevant Lands, this SAC lies outside the Zol for impacts on surface waters. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its sole listed QI Reefs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	11.36	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]	The European Site is located approximately 1.77 km outside of the Wicklow CDP area and lies 11.36 km to nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, surface and ground water interactions. With a separation distance of 11.36 km and no hydrological (surface water) connections between this European site and Relevant Land, this SAC lies outside the Zol for impacts on surface waters. Additionally, this European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to GWDTE. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its listed QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	6.11	Reefs [1170] Harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) [1351]	The European Site is located approximately 4.16 km outside of the Wicklow CDP area and lies 6.11 km to nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to disturbance effects, direct land use management activities and surface water interactions. With a separation distance of 6.11 km and no hydrological (surface water) connections between this European site and Relevant Lands, this SAC lies outside the Zol for impacts on surface waters and disturbance effects. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its listed QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	8.46	Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]	The European Site is located approximately 6.52 km the Wicklow CDP area and lies approximately 8.46 km from nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. This coastal/marine SPA is sensitive to disturbance effects and direct land use management activities. There is no hydrological connection between the Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation and this SPA. Whilst Relevant Lands are theoretically located within the foraging ranges of avian SCIs Arctic tern, Roseate tern, and Common tern, these are marine species and the Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation do not contain suitable foraging or roosting habitat for tern species. Therefore, SPR connectivity for likely significant effects can be ruled out.	N	N	N
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	9.75	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	The European Site is located approximately 8.54 km outside of the Wicklow CDP area and lies 9.75 km to nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and surface water interactions. With a separation distance of 9.75 km and no hydrological (surface water) connections between this European site and Relevant Land, this SAC lies outside the Zol for impacts on surface waters. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its listed QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	9.75	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The European Site is located approximately 8.54 km outside of the Wicklow CDP area and lies 9.75 km to nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. This SPA is designated for estuarine/coastal habitats which are influenced by the sea. The bird species present within this European Site are coastal bird species. With the exception of the Light-bellied Brent Goose, Black-headed Gull, and Tern species, the bird species of the SPA have short foraging ranges; e.g. Dunlin and Plover species have core ranges of 500 m and 3 km, respectively (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2016¹³). Note that while the Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation are theoretically located within foraging ranges of tern species, tern species are a coastal/marine species, and the Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation do not provide foraging or roosting habitat for tern species. Light-bellied Brent Goose has a foraging range assumed as 15 - 25 km (having regard to foraging ranges of other geese, as prescribed in SNH, 2016¹⁴) and Black-headed Gull has a foraging range is 18.5 km (Woodward <i>et al.</i>, 2019¹⁵).	Y	Y	Y

¹³ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.

¹⁴ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.

¹⁵ Woodward *et al.* (2019). Desk-based revision of seabird foraging ranges used for HRA screening. BTO Research Report 724. Woodward, I., Thaxter, C.B., Owen, E., Cook, A.S.C.P. 2019.



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
				As such, these species foraging ranges theoretically overlap with Relevant Lands. It is possible that such species may use greenfield areas of Relevant Lands of greenfield sites within the Zol of the Proposed Variation (e.g., for foraging). The Proposed Variation supports the carrying out of development on greenfield sites, that may result in habitat loss, habitat deterioration or disturbance to Light-bellied Brent Goose and Black-headed Gull. Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has the potential to result in likely significant effects on mobile species related to this European site.			
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	16.98	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030]	The European Site is located approximately 10.73 km outside the Wicklow CDP area and 16.98 km from nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. This SAC is designated for terrestrial habitats which are sensitive to direct land use management activities and surface water interactions. With a separation distance of 16.98 km, this European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to terrestrial habitat QIs. There are also no hydrological (surface water) connections between this European site and Relevant Lands.	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
				There is no SPR connectivity between this European Site and Proposed Variation for Likely significant effects on European dry heaths and Northern Atlantic wet heaths.			
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	7.33	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016] Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029] White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092] Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095] Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096] River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099] Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103] Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106] Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170]	The European Site is located approximately 4.68 km outside the Wicklow CDP area and lies 7.33 km to nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to disturbance effects, direct land use management activities and hydrological interactions. A hydrological (surface water) connection exists between Relevant Lands (Site Reference: 5) and the SAC via the Temp_14E71 Stream (EPA Code: 14E71, Order: 1st) with an instream distance of 30.07 km. Although this European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to terrestrial habitat/species, and groundwater influenced Qualifying Interests, there is potential for impacts on downstream mobile aquatic QIs. There is the potential for SPR connectivity between this European Site and Proposed Variation sites for likely significant effects on mobile aquatic species.	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] European dry heaths [4030] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]				
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	15.25	Geyer's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1013] Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014] Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016] Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]	The European Site is located approximately 13.75 km outside of the Wicklow CDP area and lies 15.25 km to nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, surface and ground water interactions. With a separation distance of 15.25 km and no hydrological (surface water) connections between this European site and Relevant Land, this SAC lies outside the Zol for impacts	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Alkaline fens [7230]	on surface waters. Additionally, this European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to GWDTE. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its listed QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.			
004006	North Bull Island SPA	15.23	Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]	The European Site is located approximately 13.98 km outside of the Wicklow CDP area and lies 15.23 km to nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The bird species present within this European Site are coastal bird species. There is no hydrological connectivity between the SPA and Relevant Lands. With the exception of the Light-bellied Brent Goose and Black-headed Gull, the bird species of the SPA have short foraging ranges; e.g. Dunlin and Plover species have core ranges of 500 m and 3 km, respectively (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2016 ¹⁶). Light-bellied Brent Goose has a foraging range assumed to be 15 - 25 km (having regard to foraging ranges of other geese, as prescribed in SNH, 2016 ¹⁷) and Black-headed Gull has a foraging range is 18.5 km (Woodward <i>et al.</i> , 2019 ¹⁸)	Y	Y	Y

¹⁶ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.

¹⁷ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.

¹⁸ Woodward *et al.* (2019). Desk-based revision of seabird foraging ranges used for HRA screening. BTO Research Report 724. Woodward, I., Thaxter, C.B., Owen, E., Cook, A.S.C.P. 2019.



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	and as such, these species foraging ranges could theoretically overlap with the Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. It is possible such species may use greenfield Relevant Lands or greenfield sites located within the Zol of the Proposed Variation (e.g., for foraging). The Proposed Variation supports the development of greenfield sites, that may result in habitat loss, habitat deterioration or ex-situ foraging habitat to Light-bellied Brent Goose and Black-headed Gull. Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has some potential to result in likely significant effects on mobile species related to this European site.			
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	15.25	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014] Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395]	The European Site is located approximately 13.99 km outside of the Wicklow CDP area and lies 15.25 km to nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and surface water interactions. With a separation distance of 15.25 km and no hydrological (surface water) connections between this European site and Relevant Land, this SAC lies outside the Zol for impacts on surface waters.	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190]	There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its listed QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.			
001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	22.4	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]	The European Site is located approximately 14.32 km outside of the Wicklow CDP area and lies 22.4 km to nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, surface and ground water interactions. With a separation distance of 22.4 km and no hydrological (surface water) connections between this European site and Relevant Land, this SAC lies outside the Zol for impacts on surface waters. Additionally, this European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to GWDTE. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its listed QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA	25.06	Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028]	The European Site is located approximately 21.1 km outside of the Wicklow CDP area and lies 25.06 km to nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. This SPA is designated for estuarine/coastal habitats which are influenced by the sea.	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]	The bird species present within this European Site are coastal bird species. With the exception of the Light-bellied Brent Goose, Black-headed Gull, and Lesser Black-backed Gull, the bird species of the SPA have short foraging ranges; e.g. Dunlin and Plover species have core ranges of 500 m and 3 km, respectively (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2016¹⁹). Light-bellied Brent Goose has a foraging range assumed as 15 - 25 km (having regard to foraging ranges of other geese, as prescribed in SNH, 2016²⁰) and Black-headed Gull has a foraging range is 18.5 km (Woodward <i>et al.</i>, 2019²¹). With a separation distance of 25.06 km, Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation lie outside of the core foraging ranges of these species. Lesser Black-backed Gull has a foraging range is 236 km (Nature Scot, 2023²²). As such, this species foraging range theoretically overlaps with Relevant Lands. It is possible that this species may use greenfield areas of Relevant Lands of greenfield sites within the Zol of the Proposed Variation (e.g., for foraging).			

¹⁹ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.

²⁰ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.

²¹ Woodward *et al.* (2019). Desk-based revision of seabird foraging ranges used for HRA screening. BTO Research Report 724. Woodward, I., Thaxter, C.B., Owen, E., Cook, A.S.C.P. 2019.

²² Nature Scot (2023) Guidance Note 3: Guidance to support Offshore Wind applications: Marine Birds - Identifying theoretical connectivity with breeding site Special Protection Areas using breeding season foraging ranges. Version 1: January 2023. Nature Scot, Scotland's Nature Agency



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The Proposed Variation supports the carrying out of development on greenfield sites, that may result in habitat loss or habitat deterioration for Lesser Black-backed Gull. Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has the potential to result in likely significant effects on Lesser Black-backed Gull related to this European site.			
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	20.75	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]	The European Site is located approximately 19.56 km outside of the Wicklow CDP area and lies 20.75 km to the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. There is no hydrological connection between Relevant Lands and this SPA.	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The bird species present within this European Site are coastal bird species. With the exception of the Light-bellied Brent Goose, the bird species of the SPA have short foraging ranges; e.g. Plover species has a core range of 3 km (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2016²³). Light-bellied Brent Goose has a foraging range assumed to be 15 - 25 km (having regard to foraging ranges of other geese, as prescribed in SNH, 2016²⁴). It is possible such species may use greenfield site of Relevant Lands and greenfield sites present within the Zol of the Proposed Variation (e.g., for foraging). The Proposed Variation supports the development of greenfield sites, that may result in habitat loss or habitat deterioration of ex-situ foraging habitat or disturbance to Light-bellied Brent. Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has some potential to result in likely significant effects on SCI Light-bellied Brent Goose related to this European site.			

²³ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.

²⁴ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
004236	North-West Irish Sea SPA	15.23	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003] Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>) [A187] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204] Little Gull (<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>) [A862] Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) [A885]	The European Site is located approximately 13.98 km outside of the Wicklow CDP area and lies 15.23 km to the nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. There is no direct hydrological connection between Relevant Lands and this SPA. This SPA is designated for marine/coastal birds, most of which have large foraging ranges which theoretically overlap with Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. Of the avian SCIs, only the gull species are likely to forage inland on greenfield sites. The Proposed Variation supports the development of greenfield sites, that may result in habitat loss or habitat deterioration of ex-situ foraging habitat, or disturbance of gull species. Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has some potential to result in likely significant effects on mobile species related to this European site.	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance from Nearest Relevant Lands (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
004025	Malahide Estuary SPA	26.01	Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The European Site is located approximately 24.77 km outside of the Wicklow CDP area and lies 26.01 km to nearest Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation. There is no direct hydrological connection between Relevant Lands and this SPA. The bird species present within this European Site are coastal bird species. With the exception of the Light-bellied Brent Goose, the bird species of the SPA have short foraging ranges; e.g. Plover species has a core range of 3 km (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2016²⁵). Light-bellied Brent Goose has a foraging range assumed to be 15 - 25 km (having regard to foraging ranges of other geese, as prescribed in SNH, 2016²⁶). With a separation distance of 26.01 km, Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation lie outside of the core foraging ranges of Light-bellied Brent Goose. Therefore, SPR connectivity for likely significant effects can be ruled out.	N	N	N

²⁵ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.

²⁶ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.



3.6 AA Screening Conclusion

On the basis of the findings of the AA Screening exercises, it is concluded that the Proposed Variation:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site.
- Individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, has the potential to have likely, significant effects on 14 European sites, in view of site conservation objectives and best scientific knowledge.

Therefore, an NIR must be prepared for the Proposed Variation.



4. DRAFT NATURA IMPACT REPORT

4.1 Introduction

The Draft NIR assesses whether the Proposed Variation alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites brought forward from screening (those considered in Section 3 for which there is potential for 'Likely Significant Effects,' with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives).

4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Proposed Variation. Appendix 4 characterises each of the qualifying features of all European sites brought forward from screening in context of each of the sites' vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website.

4.3 Characterisation Potential Effects

A characterisation of potential effects on the relevant European sites is presented in Table 4-1.

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

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	The known threats and pressures of this SAC include agriculture, waste management, invasive species, hydrological interactions, forestry, land use change, flooding, infrastructure, and land use management. The Proposed Variation supports the carrying out of development that has the potential to introduce sources of impact that could be transmitted to this European Site, such as changes to surface water quality, increased disturbance effects and habitat deterioration etc. Mitigation measures are therefore required to prevent adverse effects on the integrity of this European site. These measures are detailed in Section 5 below.
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	The known threats and pressures of this SAC include infrastructure, land use management, land use change, waste management, agriculture, forestry, mining/ resource extraction, recreation, direct interaction with species and populations, invasive species, and hydrological interactions. The Proposed Variation supports the carrying out of development that has the potential to introduce sources of impact that could be transmitted to this European Site, such as increased disturbance effects, changes to surface water quality and habitat deterioration etc. Mitigation measures are therefore required to prevent adverse effects on the integrity of this European site. These measures are detailed in Section 5 below.
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to cultivation, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, forest and



Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		plantation management & use, invasive non-native species, fishing harbours, dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, erosion, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, bridge, viaduct, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), storage of materials, discharges, fertilisation, predator control, water abstractions from surface waters, irrigation, bottom culture, sand and gravel extraction, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, modifying structures of inland water courses, bait digging or collection, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, pollution to surface waters by industrial plants and surface water abstractions for agriculture. The Proposed Variation supports the carrying out of development that has the potential to introduce sources of impact that could be transmitted to this European Site, such as increased disturbance effects, changes to surface water quality and habitat deterioration etc. Mitigation measures are therefore required to prevent adverse effects on the integrity of this European site. These measures are detailed in Section 5 below.
002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC	The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to sand and gravel extraction, erosion, fertilisation, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, grazing, sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, modification of water flow (tidal & marine currents), silviculture, forestry, disposal of industrial waste, railway lines. The Proposed Variation supports the carrying out of development that has the potential to introduce sources of impact that could be transmitted to this European Site, such as increased disturbance effects, changes to surface water quality and habitat deterioration etc. Mitigation measures are therefore required to prevent adverse effects on the integrity of this European site. These measures are detailed in Section 5 below.
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to interpretative centres, peat extraction, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, grazing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, silviculture, forestry. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4. The Proposed Variation provides for amendments to zoning, which will lead to residential development. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration and/or Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species (e.g., through noise, lighting, water quality impacts etc.). Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to hunting, nautical sports, forest planting on open ground, leisure fishing, bridge, and a



Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		viaduct. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4. The Proposed Variation provides for amendments to zoning, which will lead to residential development. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration and/or Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species (e.g., through noise, lighting, water quality impacts etc.). Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, grazing, peat extraction, Interpretative centres, silviculture, forestry, paths, tracks and cycling tracks. The Proposed Variation provides for amendments to zoning, which will lead to residential development. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration and/or Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species (e.g., through noise, lighting, water quality impacts etc.). Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.
004186	The Murrough SPA	The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, railway lines, fertilisation. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4. The Proposed Variation provides for amendments to zoning, which will lead to residential development. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration and/or Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species (e.g., through noise, lighting, water quality impacts etc.). Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to urbanised areas, human habitation, bait digging or collection, leisure fishing, eutrophication (natural), discharges, nautical sports, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, roads, motorways, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, industrial or commercial areas. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4. The Proposed Variation provides for amendments to zoning, which will lead to residential development. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration and/or development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species (e.g., through noise, lighting, water quality impacts etc.). (e.g., through noise, lighting, water quality impacts etc.). Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.



Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, reduction in migration or migration barriers, modifying structures of inland water courses, netting, forest replanting (native trees), industrial or commercial areas, peat extraction, intensive cattle grazing, dredging or removal of limnic sediments, port areas, leisure fishing, forest and plantation management & use, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), forestry activities not referred to above, agricultural intensification, sand and gravel quarries, water abstractions from surface waters, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, invasive non-native species, erosion, intensive fish farming, intensification, use of fertilizers (forestry) and changes in abiotic conditions. The Proposed Variation supports the carrying out of development that has the potential to introduce sources of impact that could be transmitted to this European Site, such as increased disturbance effects, changes to surface water quality and habitat deterioration etc. Mitigation measures are therefore required to prevent adverse effects on the integrity of this European site. These measures are detailed in Section 5 below.
004006	North Bull Island SPA	The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to shipping lanes, other patterns of habitation, roads, motorways, nautical sports, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, bridge, viaduct, Interpretative centres, golf course, continuous urbanisation, discharges, bait digging or collection, industrial or commercial areas. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4. The Proposed Variation provides for amendments to zoning, which will lead to residential development. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration and/or Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species (e.g., through noise, lighting, water quality impacts etc.). Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA	The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to cultivation, grazing, dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, roads, motorways, fertilisation, hunting, urbanised areas, human habitation, marine and freshwater aquaculture, interpretative centres, silviculture, forestry, walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles and polderisation. The Proposed Variation provides for amendments to zoning, which will lead to residential development. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration and/or Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species (e.g., through noise, lighting, water quality impacts etc.). Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.



Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to fertilisation, Golf course, Invasive non-native species, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Bait digging / collection, Eutrophication (natural), Hunting, Roads, motorways, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4. The Proposed Variation provides for amendments to zoning, which will lead to residential development. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration and/or Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species (e.g., through noise, lighting, water quality impacts etc.). Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.
004236	North-West Irish Sea SPA	The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to agriculture, forestry, peat extraction, renewable energy, shipping, fishing, invasive species, problematic native species, pests and pathogens, sport, tourism and leisure, marine particulate pollution, aquaculture, interspecific relations. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4. The Proposed Variation provides for amendments to zoning, which will lead to residential development. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration and/or Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species (e.g., through noise, lighting, water quality impacts etc.). Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.

Assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted utilising the SPR model. The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site. These include: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.); and climate change. The Proposed Variation may result in such changes and adverse effects on the above European sites.

4.3.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

The Proposed Variation will amend the WCDP. The WCDP provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across for the WCDP area. Potential adverse effects arising from residential development and associated infrastructure under the Proposed Variation include land take, habitat destruction, disturbance effects, light pollution, dust, and excessive noise.

Some European sites have the potential to be adversely affected by the implementation of the Proposed Variation. Environmental mitigation measures defined in the current WCDP, which apply to the Proposed Variation, will serve to mitigate these potential effects. These measures are presented in Table 5-2 .



Additional, locally focussed environmental mitigation were introduced into the Proposed Variation (through integration into Specific Local Objectives) to guide and control development at the Relevant Lands. These are also presented in Table 5-3.

These mitigation measures will ensure there is no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Variation.

4.3.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

The Proposed Variation will amend the WCDP. The WCDP provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2) for the WCDP area. Potential adverse effects arising from developments and activities include the fragmentation of habitat through, for example, light pollution, habitat loss or removal of stepping stone habitats.

Some European sites have the potential to be adversely affected by the implementation of the Proposed Variation. The WCDP includes integrated measures to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as riparian zones, geological and geo-morphological systems, management of habitats such as woodlands and minimising inappropriate lighting. These measures are presented in Table 5-2. These measures apply to the Proposed Variation in this case.

Additional, locally focussed environmental mitigation were introduced into the Proposed Variation (through integration into Specific Local Objectives) to guide and control development at the Relevant Lands. These are also presented in Table 5-3.

The mitigation measures defined will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation does not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the integrity of European Sites.

4.3.3 Disturbance to Key Species

The Proposed Variation will amend the WCDP. The WCDP provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2) for the WCDP area. Disturbance effects are caused by any activity or development that has potential to alter the movement patterns or distribution of species, for example direct disturbance through human activity/movement as a result of human activity/movement or noise pollution.

Some European sites have the potential to be adversely affected by the implementation of the Proposed Variation. The WCDP includes integrated measures to minimise disturbance and will be managed through provisions such as CPO 18.18 in the WCDP. These measures are presented in Table 5-2.

Additional, locally focussed environmental mitigation were introduced into the Proposed Variation (through integration into Specific Local Objectives) to guide and control development at the Relevant Lands. These are also presented in Table 5-3.

4.3.4 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 Proposed Variation introduces potential sources for adverse effects to affect these four determinant factors for species densities in the form of construction phase effects such as habitat destruction, light pollution, or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat encroachment and trampling.



The WCDP includes integrated measures to prevent adverse effects on species density. These measures are presented in Table 5-2. Additional, locally focussed environmental mitigation were introduced into the Proposed Variation (through integration into Specific Local Objectives) to guide and control development at the Relevant Lands. These are also presented in Table 5-3. The mitigation measures defined in the WCDP and Proposed Variation will ensure no adverse effects on species density.

4.3.5 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. Land use development supported by the Proposed Variation could result in negative effects on these indicators (e.g., through construction run-off, construction dust, development relate noise and emissions etc.).

Some European sites have the potential to be adversely affected by the implementation of the Proposed Variation. The WCDP includes integrated measures to provide a broader scope to ensure the protection of indicators of conservation value, including the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions. Various integrated measures have been included in the WCDP, such as CPO 17.17, with the objective of preventing the spread of invasive species. Measures defined in the WCDP to prevent adverse effects on European sites are presented in Table 5-2. Additional, locally focussed environmental mitigation were introduced into the Proposed Variation (through integration into Specific Local Objectives) to guide and control development at the Relevant Lands. These are also presented in Table 5-3. The mitigation measures defined in the WCDP and Proposed Variation will ensure there is no changes to the indicators of conservation value which are necessary to maintain the integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Variation.

4.3.6 Climate Change

The Proposed Variation includes provisions that potentially conflict with climate mitigation and provisions that will help to contribute towards climate mitigation. Chapter 2 of the WCDP pertains to Climate Action and contains policy in support of the strategic policy ambitions of the WCDP, where the creation of a climate-resilient County is particularly important in the context of the United-Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Flood risk management is an inherent component of climate adaptation in the context of land use planning. Section 14.3 of the WCDP outlines WCC's approach to supporting the implementation of flood risk measures, and includes the following text in relation to managing flood risk and its impact on surface waters:

"The Council shall adopt a comprehensive risk-based planning approach to flood management to prevent or minimize future flood risk. In accordance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines, the avoidance of certain types of development in areas where flood risk has been identified shall be the primary response. Proposals for mitigation and management of flood risk will only be considered where avoidance is not possible and where development can be clearly justified with the guidelines' Justification Test. Flood management should have regard to surface water, groundwater, drinking water supply, flood plains and water and wastewater infrastructure."

A variety of policies defined in the CDP will serve to minimize the carbon impact of development under the Proposed Variation and improve climate resilience, indirectly benefiting biodiversity components. These are presented in Table 5-2.

Greenhouse gas emissions arising from the development supported by the Proposed Variation will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European Sites considered.



A variety of policies defined in the CDP will serve to minimize the carbon impact of development under the Proposed Variation and improve climate resilience, indirectly benefiting biodiversity components. These are presented in Table 5-2.

Greenhouse gas emissions arising from the development supported by the Proposed Variation will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European Sites considered.



5. MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential adverse effects on European sites that may occur as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Variation (without considering any mitigation) have been identified. This section of the report describes the measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects on European sites that may occur as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Variation.

The following forms of mitigation have been adopted to mitigate the negative environments of the Proposed Variation and maximise its potential positive effects:

- Mitigation through consideration of alternatives.
- Mitigation through avoidance.
- Mitigation through environmental mitigation defined in the current WCDP, and through integrating environmental considerations into the Proposed Variation.

A number of alternatives were considered at an early stage in the Proposed Variation development process. The environmental effects of these alternatives were evaluated during the SEA process. The Proposed Variation was chosen over other alternative options having due regard to the potential environmental effects (positive and negative) associated with the alternatives considered.

The Proposed Variation development process was carried out in parallel with the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. Regular communication and interaction took place between the environmental assessment team and the plan development team. Environmental considerations that came to light during the SEA, AA and SFRA processes, including consultation processes, were regularly communicated to WCC.

Environmental assessment was undertaken early on in the process and in an iterative manner. Environmental considerations shaped the refinement of land use zoning proposals throughout the process. A wide range of avoidance measures were recommended and taken to avoid conflicts between land use zoning proposals and sensitive environmental features relevant to European site conservation objectives. Zoning proposals at sites were avoided or suitably refined, depending on the presence of such sensitive environmental features.

An overview of principal avoidance measures recommended and adopted is provided in Table 5-1.

Environmental mitigation applicable to Biodiversity and European site protection in the County are already defined in the current WCDP. These mitigation measures will apply to the Proposed Variation. A strong level of embedded environmental mitigation relevant to Biodiversity and European site protection was also present in early drafts of the emerging Proposed Variation (i.e. within the new and amended SLOs proposed by WCC). The 'embedded' mitigation in the Proposed Variation, and the relevant mitigatory Policies and Objectives already defined in the WCDP serve to prevent and minimize potential significant adverse effects that may occur during the implementation of the Proposed Variation. These measures may also maximise potential environmental benefits and co-benefits associated with the Proposed Variation.

An overview of existing environmental mitigation measures (in the form of Policies and Objectives) in the WCDP which will apply to the Proposed Variation is provided in Table 5-2.



Where necessary, additional, more focussed environmental mitigation relevant to Biodiversity and European site protection, in the form of amendments to WCDP SLOs for relevant lands were integrated into the Proposed Variation to mitigate the potential negative environmental effects of implementing the Proposed Variation. This process was carried out in an iterative manner to ensure optimal environmental outcomes. Environmental considerations were also integrated into the process so as to facilitate maximising identified positive environmental effects of the Proposed Variation.

An overview of additional environmental mitigation measures relevant to Biodiversity and European site protection is provided in Table 5-3.

Table 5-1: Avoidance Measures Adopted

Site/s	Avoidance Measure Adopted
All sites adjacent to or in close proximity to surface water bodies.	Setback buffers from surface water bodies were introduced - in line guidelines defined in Inland Fisheries Ireland Guidance for Urban Watercourses - for the purpose of avoiding adverse effects on surface water quality and hydrology and inter-related environmental components.
Site 157 / 190 (Charlesland, Greystones).	The layout of zoning proposals at these lands were re-adjusted for the purpose of avoiding adverse effects on biodiversity and better facilitating biodiversity enhancement: • A natural area buffer from the coastline was introduced. • A further passive park buffer from the coastline was introduced • Active Open Space Lands were located away from the coastline to reduce potential for environmental impacts due to sport and recreation development and activity. • Natural areas were connected to ensure better ecological connectivity.
Site 177 (Enniskerry)	An extended setback buffer from County Brook was introduced - to avoid hydrological effects on the surface water body, which runs into the Ballyman Glen SAC. The SAC contains Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems which are dependent on hydrological conditions.
Site 191 (Tinahely)	An extended setback buffer from Slaney River Valley SAC was introduced - to avoid adverse effects on the SAC and its Qualifying Interests.



Table 5-2: Relevant Mitigation defined in the Current Wicklow CDP

Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective
CPO 5.19	To implement environmental and public realm improvements in town and village centres to a high standard and finish.
CPO 11.4	To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.
CPO 11.43	To promote and encourage the recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes and the development of 'blueways' in the County subject to normal environmental protection and management criteria. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Planning Authority will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and character of the area, listed views and prospects onto and from the area in question. Where possible, such structures should be set back an appropriate distance from the actual amenity itself and should not adversely affect the unique sustainable quality of these resources.
CPO 11.50	Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.
CPO 13.1	To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
CPO 13.3	To minimise alterations or interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels, except for reasons of overriding public health and safety (e.g. to reduce risk of flooding); a buffer of generally 25m along watercourses should be provided (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban locations) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.
CPO 13.4	To ensure that any development or activity with the potential to impact on ground water has regard to the GSI Groundwater Protection Scheme (see Map 17.06 Groundwater Vulnerability).
CPO 13.9	To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective
CPO 13.21	Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design; Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.
CPO 14.13	Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design; Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.
CPO 14.16	For developments adjacent to all watercourses or where it is necessary to maintain the ecological or environmental quality of the watercourse, any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back from the edge of the watercourse in accordance with the guidelines in 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland.
CPO 15.17	To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.
CPO 17.1	To protect, sustainably manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, geological heritage, landscape and environment of County Wicklow in recognition of its importance for nature conservation and biodiversity and as a non-renewable resource.
CPO 17.2	Ensure the protection of ecosystems and ecosystem services by integrating full consideration of these into all decision making.
CPO 17.3	To support and promote the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.
CPO 17.4	To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents: • EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC); EU 'Guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making' (European Commission 2019); • National legislation, including the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended), European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 (as amended)10 and the Flora Protection order 2015; • National policy guidelines (including any clarifying circulars or superseding versions of same), including 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment' (2018), 'Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective
	Development' (2003), 'Tree Preservation Guidelines', 'Landscape and Landscape Assessment' (draft 2000), 'Appropriate Assessment Guidance' (2010); • Catchment and water resource management plans, including the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (including any superseding versions of same); • Biodiversity plans and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (including any superseding versions of same) and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan; • Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA), including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges.
CPO 17.6	Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
CPO 17.8	Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.
CPO 17.10	To support the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of site specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) for designated sites.
CPO 17.13	To facilitate, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, the ongoing identification and recording of locally important biodiversity areas and species in County Wicklow, not otherwise protected by legislation and ensure that consideration is given to these in the development management process.
CPO 17.14	Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses (rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the European network in Wicklow.
CPO 17.17	Work with statutory authorities to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species and require, where appropriate Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared as part of the development management process where necessary.
CPO 17.18	To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with demesne planting, in the interest of the long-term sustainability of a stable ecosystem amenity or the environment generally.
CPO 17.22	To require and ensure the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees, as part of the development management process, and require the planting of native broad leaved species, and species of local provenance in all new developments.



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective
CPO 17.23	To require the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the County. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).
CPO 18.1	To recognise the importance and contribution of Green Infrastructure for the maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, ensuring that the region and county will be better able to adapt and respond to climate change issues.
CPO 18.2	To protect existing Green Infrastructure resources and to facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the benefits that can be achieved with regard to the following: • provision of open space amenities, • sustainable management of water, • protection and management of biodiversity, • protection of cultural heritage, and • protection of protected landscape sensitivities
CPO 18.4	To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, European sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.
CPO 18.11	To support the development of greenways, blueways and other access routes along natural corridors while ensuring that there is no adverse impact on the flora and fauna, biodiversity or water quality of natural assets. Wicklow County Council prioritises environmental protection in our design and construction of routes and surface selection.
CPO 19.9	To strictly control the nature and pattern of development within coastal areas and ensure that it is designed and landscaped to the highest standards, and sited appropriately so as not to detract from the visual amenity of the area. Development shall be prohibited where the development poses a significant or potential threat to coastal habitats or features, and/or where the development is likely to result in undesirable patterns of erosion or deposition elsewhere along the coast.



Table 5-3: Mitigation Integrated into the Proposed Variation

Site/s	Proposed Variation	Environmental Mitigation
13 & 154	Specific Objective Local	NEW SLO-6: BALLINAHINCH (NORTH): Development proposals at these lands shall be designed and mitigated so as to avoid and prevent significant adverse effects on surrounding wetland features of importance, including Ballycurry Ponds and Nuns Cross Pond.
59	Amendment to Action Area Plan	ACTION AREA PLAN 2: KNOCKADOSAN: Suitable design and mitigation measures will be incorporated into development proposals at these lands to avoid and prevent significant adverse effects on Poundbrook Stream and its riparian zone which runs to the north of the lands.
62	Specific Objective Local	NEW SLO-7 BALLINAHINCH (SOUTH): Suitable design and mitigation measures will be incorporated into development proposals at these lands to avoid and prevent significant adverse effects on Vartry River which runs to the south of the lands. The natural condition of the river and its riparian zone shall be maintained. Development proposals shall be informed by detailed ecological surveying and Ecological Impact Assessment. Appropriate mitigation measures shall be integrated into development proposals to protect key ecological receptors. Development shall seek to achieve biodiversity enhancement and maintenance of ecological connectivity.
82	Specific Objective Local	New SLO 4: Bawnogue (West): Measures for the protection of Qualifying Interests of the nearby Slaney River SAC, shall be incorporated into development proposals, as necessary, depending on the outcomes of ecological surveying at these lands.
114	Amendment to Action Area Plan	ACTION AREA PLAN 1: FASSAROE: All proposed projects in this AAP shall have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Ballyman Glen SAC) including being subject to Appropriate Assessment, as necessary, that identifies, addresses, and mitigates any adverse effects on the European Site. In doing so, proposed projects and associated Appropriate Assessment in this area shall, as relevant: • Be informed by appropriately targeted ecological and hydrogeological survey(s) and assessment(s) of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC. • Be subject to detailed hydrological/hydrogeological assessment which defines appropriate design/mitigation measures for maintaining the flow rate and quality of waters entering the SAC, including measures relating to the servicing and maintenance of surface water and wastewater systems. • Give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation that arises from the surveying and assessment described



Site/s	Proposed Vaiation	Environmental Mitigation
		above, ensuring that prescribed mitigation measures are proven, robust and address the need for certainty in achievement of mitigation of potentially adverse effects. Notably this should include a presumption to achieve significant net benefit to the features which may otherwise be impacted. To avoid the potential for impacts on the key components of nearby the European Site, any development must adequately address the management of surface water run-off and drainage and wastewater treatment and disposal at the construction and operational phases to ensure that no adverse effects may occur to the European Site. It should be recognized that this may require significant exceedance of any existing measures to ensure that any development provides a net benefit over its life, to the nearby European Site and wider environment.
137	Specific Objective Local	NEW SLO 13 – POWERSCOURT DEMESNE: All proposed projects in this SLO shall have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Knocksink Wood SAC) including being subject to Appropriate Assessment, as necessary, that identifies, addresses, and mitigates any adverse effects on the European Site. In doing so, proposed projects and associated Appropriate Assessment in this area shall, as relevant: • Be informed by appropriately targeted ecological and hydrogeological survey(s) and assessment(s) of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC. • Be subject to detailed hydrological/hydrogeological assessment which defines appropriate design/mitigation measures for maintaining the flow rate and quality of waters entering the SAC, including measures relating to the servicing and maintenance of surface water and wastewater systems. • Give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation that arises from the surveying and assessment described above, ensuring that prescribed mitigation measures are proven, robust and address the need for certainty in achievement of mitigation of potentially adverse effects. Notably this should include a presumption to achieve significant net benefit to the features which may otherwise be impacted. To avoid the potential for impacts on the key components of nearby the European Site, any development must adequately address the management of surface water run-off and drainage and wastewater treatment and disposal at the construction and operational phases to ensure that no adverse effects may occur to the European Site. It should be recognized that this may require significant exceedance of any existing measures to ensure that any development provides a net benefit over its life, to the nearby European Site and wider environment.



Site/s	Proposed Variation	Environmental Mitigation
157 / 190	Amendment to Specific Local Objective	AMEND SLO 3 - CHARLES LAND: Any development on these SLO lands shall protect water courses by avoiding interference with the stream bed, banks and channel and maintaining a core riparian buffer zone of at least 25m along each side free from development. Road / cycleway / footpath crossings over / through any OS2 corridor shall be minimised to that absolutely necessary for access; any such crossing shall be via a clean span bridge over the watercourse designed and built in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance, that maintains its natural character. Prior to the commencement of any development, detailed survey and archaeological assessment of the existing ruined church and lime kiln on the lands shall be undertaken to identify any buffers zones required surrounding same, as well as any necessary conservation / stabilisation / interpretative works, which shall be carried out as part of any development prior to the occupation of any development. All proposed projects in this SLO have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Murrough SPA and the Murrough Wetlands SAC), including being subject to Appropriate Assessment that identifies and addresses any likely significant effects. In doing so, proposed projects and associated Appropriate Assessments in this area shall, as relevant: Be informed by appropriately targeted ecological survey(s) and assessment(s) of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC and SPA that consider issues including: Bird usage of the adjacent wetland and aquatic areas (coastal marshes, shingle shore, nearshore area), including spatial and behavioural considerations and associated role in supporting the QIs of the site as a whole. Use of the area adjacent during darkness, including a consideration of lighting effects on spatial and behavioural considerations. Use of the area for fish and mammal movements and to have consideration of lighting effects on connectivity for these mobile species. Give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation that arises from the surveying and assessment described above, ensuring that prescribed mitigation measures are proven, robust and address the need for certainty in achievement of mitigation of potentially significant adverse effects. Notably this should include a presumption to achieve significant net benefit to the features which may otherwise be impacted. To avoid the potential for impacts on the aquatic environment and associated species, key components of nearby European sites, any development must adequately address the management of surface water run-off and drainage at the construction and operational phases to ensure that no adverse impacts may occur to the sites. It should be recognised that this may require significant exceedance of any existing measures to ensure that any development provides a net benefit over its life, to the nearby sites and wider aquatic environment.



Site/s	Proposed Variation	Environmental Mitigation
		Prior to the commencement of any development, detailed ecological survey and assessment of all natural biodiversity areas, including (but not limited to) watercourses, ponds, mature trees and flood management zones shall be carried out, and measures to protect and manage identified areas of high value shall be integrated into the design of any development.
177	Specific Objective Local	NEW SLO 13 – MONASTERY, SCALP ROAD All proposed projects in this SLO shall have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Ballyman Glen SAC) including being subject to Appropriate Assessment, as necessary, that identifies, addresses, and mitigates any adverse effects on the European Site. In doing so, proposed projects and associated Appropriate Assessment in this area shall, as relevant: • Be informed by appropriately targeted ecological and hydrogeological survey(s) and assessment(s) of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC. • Be subject to detailed hydrological/hydrogeological assessment which defines appropriate design/mitigation measures for maintaining the flow rate and quality of waters entering the SAC, including measures relating to the servicing and maintenance of surface water and wastewater systems. • Give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation that arises from the surveying and assessment described above, ensuring that prescribed mitigation measures are proven, robust and address the need for certainty in achievement of mitigation of potentially adverse effects. Notably this should include a presumption to achieve significant net benefit to the features which may otherwise be impacted. To avoid the potential for impacts on the key components of nearby the European Site, any development must adequately address the management of surface water run-off and drainage and wastewater treatment and disposal at the construction and operational phases to ensure that no adverse effects may occur to the European Site. It should be recognized that this may require significant exceedance of any existing measures to ensure that any development provides a net benefit over its life, to the nearby European Site and wider environment. Suitable design and mitigation measures will be incorporated into development proposals at these lands to avoid and prevent significant adverse effects on the surrounding hydrological network and associated riparian zones.



Site/s	Proposed Variation	Environmental Mitigation
180	Specific Objective Local	NEW SLO 11 - BURGAGE MORE (WEST): Development proposals shall be informed by detailed ecological surveying, including appropriate bird surveying, to develop an understanding of the potential for the lands to be used as an ex situ site for Special Conservation interests associated with the Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA. Where necessary, Appropriate Assessment shall be carried out and any mitigation measures required to fully prevent adverse effects on SCIs shall be integrated into the proposed development.
183	Amendment to Specific Objective Local	AMEND SLO 9 - ASHTOWN LANE: Suitable design and mitigation measures will be incorporated into development proposals at these lands to avoid and prevent significant adverse effects on the Ashtown stream and its riparian zone situated along the northern boundary of the site.
11 & 18	Specific Objective Local	New SLO 14: Corporation Lands Dunbur: Suitable design and mitigation measures will be incorporated into development proposals at these lands to avoid and prevent significant adverse effects on the Dunbar Lower stream and its riparian zone situated along the northern boundary of the site.
191	Specific Objective Local	New SLO 3: Lugduff: All proposed projects in this SLO shall have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Slaney River Valley SAC), including being subject to Appropriate Assessment, as necessary, that identifies, addresses, and mitigates any adverse effects on the European Site. In doing so, proposed projects and associated Appropriate Assessment in this area shall, as relevant: • Be informed by appropriately targeted ecological and hydrogeological survey(s) and assessment(s) of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC. • Be subject to detailed hydrological/hydrogeological assessment which defines appropriate design/mitigation measures for maintaining the flow rate and quality of waters entering the SAC, including measures relating to the servicing and maintenance of surface water and wastewater systems. • Demonstrate the wastewater management proposals for development at these lands can effectively treat wastewater and manage treated water output through ground percolation. All Uisce Éireann and EPA requirements in relation to wastewater management shall be adhered to. Any project-level AA required shall be informed by detailed ground and groundwater impact assessment. • Give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation that arises from the surveying and assessment described above, ensuring that prescribed mitigation measures are proven, robust and address the need for certainty in achievement of mitigation of potentially adverse effects. Notably



Site/s	Proposed Vaiation	Environmental Mitigation
		this should include a presumption to achieve significant net benefit to the features which may otherwise be impacted. Includes measures for the protection of the Qualifying Interests of the nearby Slaney River SAC, depending on the outcomes of ecological surveying at these lands.
4	Specific Objective Local	New SLO 1: Bawnogue (North): Measures for the protection of Qualifying Interests of the nearby Slaney River SAC, shall be incorporated into development proposals, as necessary, depending on the outcomes of ecological surveying at these lands.



6. CONCLUSION

An AA Screening and NIR were carried out for the Proposed Variation. In the absence of mitigation, the implementation of the Proposed Variation was found to have the potential to result in adverse effects on the integrity of the following European Sites:

- Ballyman Glen SAC
- Knocksink Wood SAC
- Slaney River Valley SAC
- The Murrough Wetlands SAC
- Wicklow Mountains SPA
- Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA
- Wicklow Head SPA
- The Murrough SPA
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA
- River Barrow and River Nore SAC
- North Bull Island SPA
- Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA
- Baldoyle Bay SPA
- North-West Irish Sea SPA

The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the QIs Qualifying Interests SCIs of, special conservation interests, and conservation objectives of the European sites have been suitably addressed through the adoption of appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures. In addition, all lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Proposed Variation will themselves be subject to AA when further details of design and location are known.

In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects were considered in the assessment and the mitigation measures presented are seen to be robust to ensure there will be no adverse effects as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Variation either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.

Having considered the relevant mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Proposed Variation, will not give rise to any adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects²⁷. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

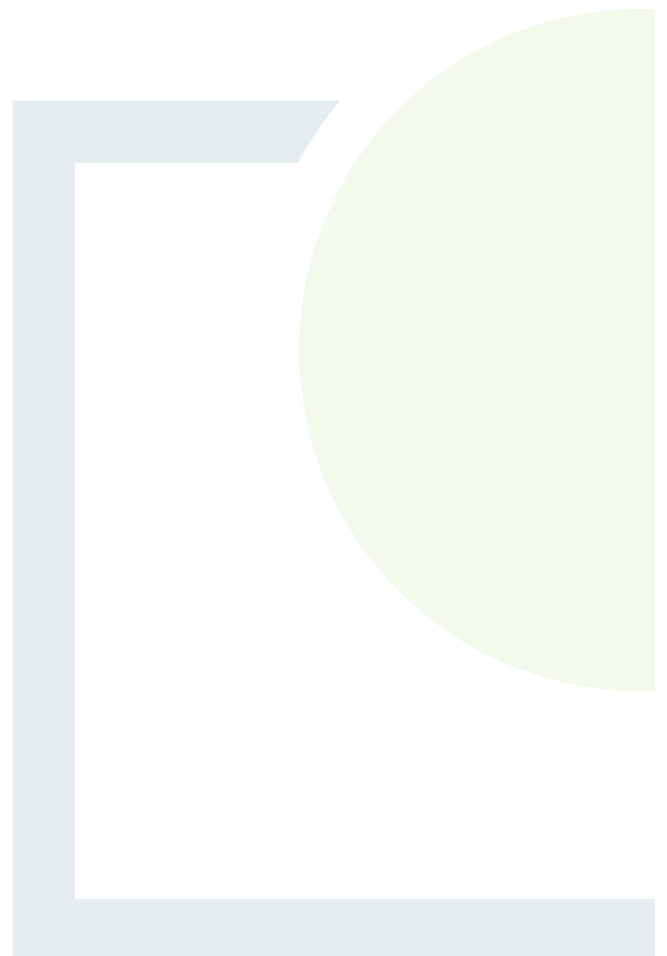
²⁷ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 1

Assessment of Potential
Sources of Impact



Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact

An assessment of the potential sources of environmental impacts that may lead to likely significant effects on European Sites, associated with the implementation of the Proposed Variation has been carried out having regard to the following sources of impacts as defined in in European Commission (2021) guidance document and the OPR (2021) practice note.

- Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration;
- Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses;
- Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project;
- Plan-related (Variation, in this case) activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc) leading to disturbance / displacement of species;
- Plan-related (Variation, in this case) activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density;
- Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions; and
- Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species

The following table presents the codes used in the assessment table overleaf.

Source of Impact	Code
Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration	HAB
Surface water runoff carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses	SWR
Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project	GWQ
Plan-related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc.) leading to disturbance / displacement of species	DDS
Plan-related activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density	RED
Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions	AP
Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species	IS

Amendments to zoning proposals at settlement in the County have the potential to generate sources of impact, including in-combination impacts. These amendments will drive residential development and supporting infrastructure improvements. This development has the potential to generate introduce a range of sources of impact, including:

- Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration.
- Surface water runoff carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses.
- Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project.
- Plan-related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc.) leading to disturbance / displacement of species.
- Plan-related activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density.
- Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions.
- Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species.

An assessment of the potential sources of impact from defined zoning proposals under the Proposed Variation is presented overleaf.

Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 1: Bray	172	BR 1	1.22212	CE	RN	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing at the site. This zoning will not introduce environmental impacts, which may be transmitted to biodiversity components, beyond what has been identified, assessed and mitigated against for the existing zoning under the AA of the current land use planning framework.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Level 1: Bray	76	BR 2	Text Change Only	MU	No change	There is no proposed zoning change at this site from the existing zoning designation of Mixed Use. This existing zoning will not introduce environmental impacts beyond what has been identified, assessed and mitigated against under the AA of the current land use planning framework.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 1: Bray	114	BR 3	3.8633	Unzoned	R-HD	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important hedgerow present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 1: Bray	129	BR 4	Text Change Only	MU	No change	There is no proposed zoning change at this site from the existing zoning designation of Mixed Use. This existing zoning will not introduce environmental impacts beyond what has been identified, assessed and mitigated against under the AA of the current land use planning framework.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 2: Wicklow-Rathnew	11 & 18	WR 1	11.9153	Unzoned, RN	RN, RE	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential and Existing Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting infrastructure and existing residential dwellings at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important hedgerow present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater - effects on aquatic ecology present at the Dunbur Lower Stream (EPA Code: 10D14, Order: 1st) and its riparian zone etc; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 2: Wicklow-Rathnew	77	WR 2	16.9055	Unzoned	RN, AOS	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential and Active Open Space. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting infrastructure and open spaces for recreation at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important wet grassland habitat present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 2: Wicklow-Rathnew	110	WR 3	0.45437	OS2	RN	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential and Active Open Space. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting infrastructure and open spaces for recreation at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important wet grassland habitat present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 2: Wicklow-Rathnew	121	WR 4	4.49257	RN, unzoned	RE, RN	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential and Existing Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting infrastructure and existing residential dwellings at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important hedgerow present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater - effects on aquatic ecology present at the Rossana Lower Stream (EPA Code: 10R19, Order: 1st) and its riparian zone etc; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 2: Wicklow-Rathnew	123	WR 5	3.54803	E	RN, OS2, PU	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential, Natural Areas and Public Utility. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting environmental considerations and the allocation of lands for utilities at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important treelines and woodland area present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 2: Wicklow-Rathnew	131	WR 6	18.0143	Unzoned	RN, OS1, AOS	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential, Open Space and Active Open Space. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting infrastructure and promoting the use of open space at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important hedgerow present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater - effects on aquatic ecology present at the Dunbur Head Stream (EPA Code: 10D15, Order: 1st) and its riparian zone etc; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 2: Wicklow-Rathnew	148 and 160	WR 7	5.86005	Unzoned	RN	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important hedgerow present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater - effects on aquatic ecology present at the Rossana Lower Stream (EPA Code: 10R19, Order: 1st) and its riparian zone etc; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 2: Wicklow-Rathnew	183	WR 8	9.65251	Unzoned	RN	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater - effects on aquatic ecology present at the Ashtown 10 Stream (EPA Code: 10A22, Order: 1st) and its riparian zone etc; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 2: Wicklow-Rathnew	185	WR 9	3.27657	E	RN	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing at the site. This zoning will not introduce environmental impacts, which may be transmitted to biodiversity components, beyond what has been identified, assessed and mitigated against for the existing zoning under the AA of the current land use planning framework.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Level 2: Wicklow-Rathnew	186	WR 10	3.90418	Unzoned	RN, OS1, OS2	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential, Open Space and Natural Areas. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting environmental considerations and open spaces at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important hedgerow present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater - effects on aquatic ecology present at the Dunbur Lower Stream (EPA Code: 10D14, Order: 1st) and its riparian zone etc; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 3: Greystones -Delgany	41	GSD 1	4.63208	AOS	RN, CE	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential, and Community and Education. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing and community facilities at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important treeline and hedgerow present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 3: Greystones -Delgany	157 & 190	GSD 2	62.7255	AOS	RN, OS1, OS2	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential and Existing Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting environmental considerations and open spaces at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important treelines, hedgerows and grassland habitats present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater - effects on aquatic ecology present at the Three Trouts Stream (EPA Code: 10T03, Order: 2nd) and its riparian zone etc; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 3: Blessington	180	BLS 1	9.41938	AG, E, PU	RN, AOS	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential and Active Open Space. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing and open spaces for recreation at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important hedgerows present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 4: Baltinglass	4	BG 1	2.7424	MU, AOS	RN	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 4: Baltinglass	82	BG 2	8.8831	SLB	RN, AOS	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential and Active Open Space. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting infrastructure and open spaces for recreation at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 4: Enniskerry	137	EK 1	10.1754	Unzoned, RN	RN, AOS, RE	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential, Active Open Space and Existing Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting infrastructure, existing residential dwellings and open space designated for recreation at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important treelines present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 4: Enniskerry	177	EK 2	12.4893	Unzoned	RN, AOS, OS2, OS1, SLC	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential, Active Open Space, Open Space, Natural Areas and Small Local Centre. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting localised infrastructure and environmental considerations and open spaces for recreation at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important treelines and hedgerows present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 4: Kilcoole	201	KC 1	0.79546	OS2	RN	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important hedgerow present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 4: Nwetownm ountkenne dy	37 & 198	NT 1	18.4832	SLB, Unzone d	RN, AOS, OS1, RE	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential, Existing Residential, Active Open Space and Open Space. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting infrastructure, open spaces for recreation and existing residential dwellings at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important woodland habitat surrounding the historical pond present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater - effects on aquatic ecology present at the Glendarragh Stream (EPA Code: 10G21, Order: 1st) and its riparian zone etc; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 4: Nwetownm ountkenne dy	105	NT 2	1.41587	E	TC	It is proposed to zone this site for Town Centre. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing and supporting use at the site for retail, commercial offices and civic purposes. This zoning will not introduce environmental impacts, which may be transmitted to biodiversity components, beyond what has been identified, assessed and mitigated against for the existing zoning under the AA of the current land use planning framework.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 4: Rathdrum	20	RD 1	2.46824	AOS	RN, CE	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential, and Community and Education. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing and community facilities at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important treelines present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 4: Rathdrum	59	RD 2	8.45069	Unzoned	RN, RE	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential and Existing Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting infrastructure and existing residential dwellings at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important hedgerows present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater - effects on aquatic ecology present at the Corballis Upper Stream (EPA Code: 10C30, Order: 1st) and its riparian zone etc; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 4: Rathdrum	106 119 151	RD 3	8.77793	Unzoned	RN	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important hedgerows present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 5: Ashford	9 & 12	AS 1	12.9615	Unzoned	RN, OS1	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential and Open Space. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting infrastructure and open space at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater-effects on aquatic ecology present at the Ballymacahara Stream (EPA Code: 10B98, Order: 2nd); or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 5: Ashford	154 & 13	AS 2	19.4152	Unzoned	RN, AOS, OS1	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential, Active Open Space and Open Space. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting infrastructure and open space at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important hedgerow present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 5: Ashford	24	AS 3	11.3327	E, AOS, Unzoned	RN, AOS, OS2	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential, Active Open Space and Natural Areas. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting environmental considerations and open space for recreation at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important treelines present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater - effects on aquatic ecology present at the Newtownboswell Stream (EPA Code: 10N07, Order: 1st) and the Ballymacahara Stream (EPA Code: 10B98, Order: 2nd) and their respective riparian zones etc; or the spread of invasive species. ; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 5: Ashford	62	AS 4	6.5547	Unzoned, RN	RN, OS1, RE, OS2	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential, Existing Residential, Natural Areas and Open Space. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, existing dwellings and supporting environmental considerations and open spaces at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important hedgerow present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater - effects on aquatic ecology present at the Vartry River (EPA Code: 10V01, Order: 3rd) and its riparian zone etc; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 5: Aughrim	93 165 & 167	AU 1	13.4392	Unzoned, R-special	RN, AOS, SLC	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential, Small Local Centre and Active Open Space. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting localised infrastructure and open spaces for recreation at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important hedgerows present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater - effects on aquatic ecology present at the unnamed streams along eastern boundary and bisecting part of the site and its riparian zone etc; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 5: Carnew	47	CN 1	3.21073	SLB, RN	RN, RE	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential and Existing Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting infrastructure and existing residential dwellings at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater - effects on aquatic ecology present at the unnamed stream and its riparian zone etc; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 5: Dunlavin	89	DL 1	1.56013	Unzoned	RN	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important treeline present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 5: Dunlavin	94	DL 2	6.86667	Unzoned, RN	RN, RE	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential and Existing Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting infrastructure and existing residential dwellings at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater - effects on aquatic ecology present at the unnamed streams along eastern boundary and bisecting part of the site and its riparian zone etc; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 5: Dunlavin	111	DL 3	1.19901	E	RN	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater - effects on aquatic ecology present at the Unnamed Stream (EPA Segment Code: 14_9946, Order: 1st) and its riparian zone etc; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 5: Dunlavin	143	DL 4	12.0911	SLB, OS1	RN, AOS, OS1	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential, Open Space and Active Open Space. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting infrastructure and promoting the use of open space at the site. This zoning will not introduce environmental impacts, which may be transmitted to biodiversity components, beyond what has been identified, assessed and mitigated against for the existing zoning under the AA of the current land use planning framework.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Level 5: Tinahely	23	TY 1	2.91075	Unzoned	RN	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important treelines present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 5: Tinahely	191	TY 2	3.171	AOS, CE	OS2, CE, RN	It is proposed to zone this site for New Residential, Community and Education and Natural Areas. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing and community facilities at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 6: Donard	118	DN 1	1.16099	Unzoned	SDA	It is proposed to zone this site for Secondary Development Area. This Zoning Proposal will provide for the sustainable development of a mix of uses including residential, employment, community and recreational uses that provide for the needs of the existing settlement and that allows for the future growth of the settlement. at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important hedgerow and treeline present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 6: Roundwood	19	RW 1	1.76611	Unzoned	SDA	It is proposed to zone this site for Secondary Development Area. This Zoning Proposal will drive future development of housing, supporting infrastructure and open space at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Level 6: Roundwood	61	RW 2	0.58771	Unzoned	SDA	It is proposed to zone this site for Secondary Development Area. This Zoning Proposal will provide for the sustainable development of a mix of uses including residential, employment, community and recreational uses that provide for the needs of the existing settlement and that allows for the future growth of the settlement. at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important woodland present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

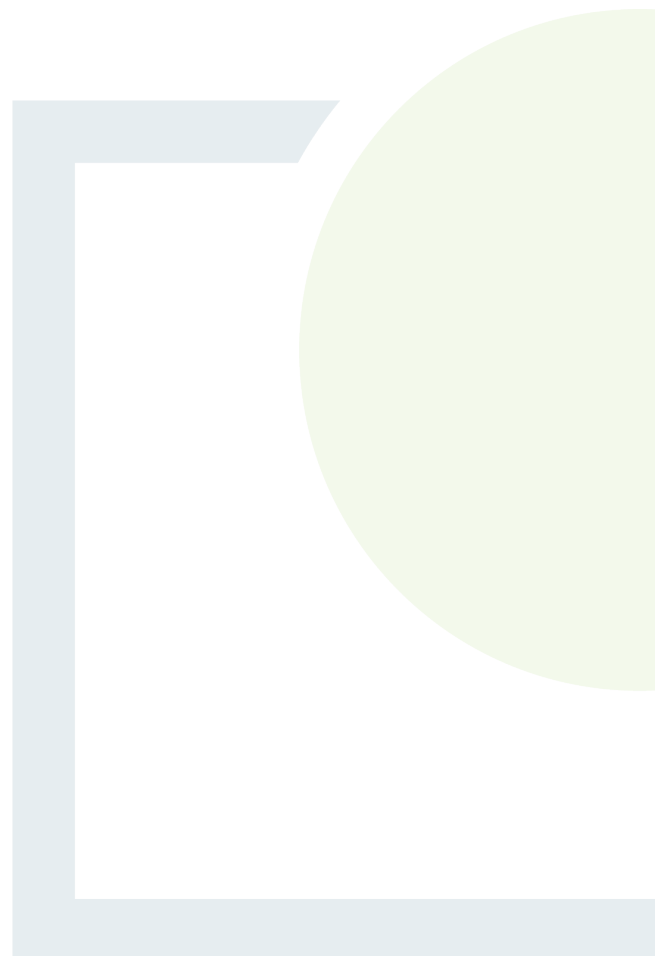
Settlement Level	Site Number	Variation Reference	Area subject to Rezoning (i.e. Variation Site Area)	Existing Zonings	Proposed Zonings	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
							HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Level 6: Roundwood	195	RW 3	0.773727	Unzoned	SDA	It is proposed to zone this site for Secondary Development Area. This Zoning Proposal will provide for the sustainable development of a mix of uses including residential, employment, community and recreational uses that provide for the needs of the existing settlement and that allows for the future growth of the settlement at the site. The future construction of this development has the potential to generate a range of construction phase impacts, including habitat loss - such as loss of potentially important hedgerow present on-site; species disturbance - due to land-take or construction noise, dust and lighting; impacts on surface water and groundwater quality and flow - through hydrological changes, or the discharge of polluting material to surface water or soil/groundwater; or the spread of invasive species. The operational phase of this development may also give rise to impacts, such as lighting impacts, noise impacts or species disturbance or displacement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 2

Defining Zone of Influence



Release of pollutants and sedimentation to watercourses with hydrological connectivity to European sites

As a precautionary approach in defining the ecological receptors that may be affected, all European sites hydrologically connected (i.e. whereby there is potential for surface water from a Plan area or project to runoff directly into a watercourse or drain which flows into a European Site) to the Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation were identified during the assessment.

Potential effects to groundwater / hydrogeology

In accordance with the 'Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems, Land Use Planning System SEPA Guidance Note 31' (2017) a 250 m potential ZoI from Relevant Lands subject to the Proposed Variation was considered in assessing the potential for interaction with Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE).

Potential effect to mobile SCI's from surrounding SPAs

The assessment has considered the potential pathways for effects on bird species based on the following principles: Generally, the core foraging range for SCI birds species is less than 15km. However, SNH (2016)²⁸ core foraging range for some geese species can be larger. Namely:

- Greylag goose Core range of 15-20km* Greylag Geese feed mostly on cereal stubble and grassland in their wintering areas.
- Barnacle goose Core range of 15km, with maximum recorded distance of up to 25km.

Therefore, as a precautionary approach in defining the ecological receptors that may be affected, all SPA's within 15 km and SPA's within 25 km designed for Greylag and Barnacle Geese were examined using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. The conservation objectives of these European sites were assessed to identify potential physical or ecological connectivity to the areas subject to zoning changes having regard to the habitats within the subject lands and the surrounding area.

European sites geographically overlapping or adjacent to the CDP area

All European sites geographically overlapping or adjacent to the CDP area were considered in the assessment.

The Institute of Air Quality Management 'Guidance on the Assessment of dust from demolition and construction' (Holman et al, 2014)²⁹ states that for sensitive ecological receptors, sensitivity to dust is 'High' up to 20m from the source and reduces to 'Medium' over 50m from the source. Holman et al, 2014 also stipulates that trackout³⁰ may occur from roads up to 500 m from large sites, 200 m from medium sites and 50 m from small sites. Dust from soiling (excavation works) can occur up to 25 m, 50 m and 100 m, at minor, moderate, and major construction sites respectively (NRA, 2011).

The disturbance response of birds (e.g., becoming alert or a flight response) can vary depending on season, species sensitivity, and weather. Goodship and Furness (2022)³¹ provides estimates of species-specific buffer zones to protect birds from human disturbance during breeding and non-breeding seasons. Therefore, a disturbance ZoI of 1 km is adopted on the basis of the disturbance distances review.

²⁸ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.

²⁹ Holman et al (2014). IAQM Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction, Institute of Air Quality Management, London. www.iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/construction-dust-2014.pdf.

³⁰ The movement of dust and dirt from a construction/demolition site onto the public road network.

³¹ Goodship, N.M. and Furness, R.W. (MacArthur Green) Disturbance Distances Review: An updated literature review of disturbance distances of selected bird species. NatureScot Research Report 1283.

Other emission sources associated with the Proposed Variation are likely to be more localised than the distances stated for noise impacts and are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Considering the nature of the Proposed Variation, a precautionary Zol of 2 km has been adopted.

Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species

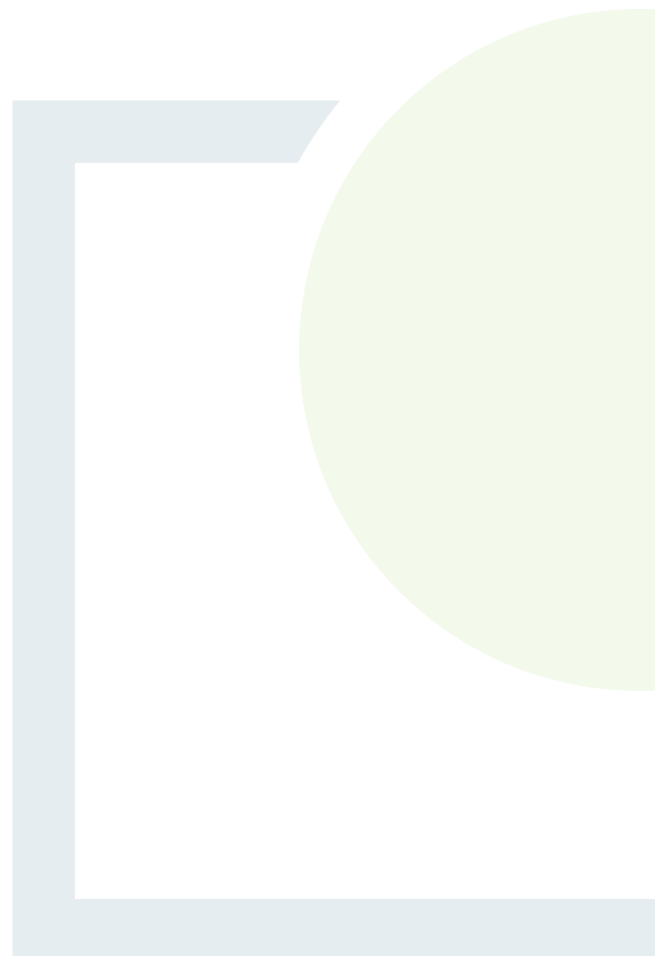
Invasive species can spread to other habitats by the transportation of plant fragments or soil containing seeds / plant material. This typically can occur during excavation and vegetation clearance. Machinery, vehicles and personnel coming into contact with infected areas can spread these species outside of the site. The Zol of this potential impact requires the consideration of European sites in close proximity to the footprint of works. As a precautionary approach a Zol of 2 km has been adopted.



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
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APPENDIX 3

Relationship with other plans
and programmes



The purpose of this Appendix is to identify and examine the relationships the Proposed Variation has with other legislation and plans/programmes. International/European, national and regional/local legislation, plans and programmes, which have an inter-relationship with the Proposed Variation, are itemised in the table below. A summary of the high and lower levels objectives associated with each and a description of their particular relevance to the Proposed Variation is provided. The information on legislation and plans/programmes presented below is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the relevant legislation or plan/programme to gain a full and comprehensive understanding of each, where necessary.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2023/1804)	This Directive repealed the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure directive (2014/94/EU). The Regulation sets binding national targets for the development of adequate alternative fuel infrastructure. The Regulation sets out targets to be achieved by all member states with the purpose to establish a comprehensive and complete network of alternative fuel infrastructure across the EU. The aim of this is to boost production and uptake of sustainable infrastructure in domestic, road, rail, aviation and maritime transport.	The specific objectives of the regulation are as follows: - To ensure minimum infrastructure to support the required uptake of alternative fuel vehicles across all transport modes and in all EU Member States to meet the EU's climate objectives. - To ensure full interoperability of the infrastructure. - To ensure comprehensive user information and adequate payment options at alternative fuels infrastructure.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bali Road Map (2007)	The overall goals of the project are twofold: - To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and - To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.	The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks: - mitigation - adaptation - technology - financing	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)	The convention has three main aims: • to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats • to promote cooperation between states • to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species	The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also: • Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. • Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucus. • Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. • Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. • Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. • Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)	The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: • Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. • An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. • A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision making. • Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended by 2009/147/EC)	• Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. • Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. • The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.	• Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. • Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). • Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. • Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Cancun Agreements (2010)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover: • Mitigation • Transparency of actions • Technology • Finance • Adaptation • Forests • Capacity building	Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	• The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. • The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	• Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. • A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.	• Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. • Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. • Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. • Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. • Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 (laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy)	This regulation introduces faster permitting processes for projects that have the highest potential for a quick roll-out of renewable energy and the least impact on the environment.	The regulation introduces urgent and targeted measures that address specific technologies and types of projects, which have the highest potential for quick deployment and the least impact on the environment.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended, latest Act No. 12 of 2024 and S.I. No. 242 of 2024)	The Act provides a definition of a "derelict site" and imposes a general duty upon the owner or occupier of any land to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the land does not become or continue to be "a derelict site".	The Act provides that all local authorities shall compile and maintain a register of all derelict sites within their area. Local authorities are obliged to levy and collect a charge to be known as a "derelict sites levy" from the owner of all derelict sites within their area. The Act provides that this levy, and interest on it, shall be a charge on the land to which it relates.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
Directive 2010/75/EU on Industrial Emissions (amended by Directive (EU) 2024/1785)	The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection.	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference: • Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); • Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; • Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; • Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and • Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184)	- The recast Drinking Water Directive is the EU's main law on drinking water. It concerns the access to and the quality of water intended for human consumption to protect human health. - The EU adopted the recast Drinking Water Directive in December 2020 and the Directive entered into force in January 2021. Member States have to transpose the Directive into national law and comply with its provisions by 12 January 2023. The recast Drinking Water Directive will further protect human health thanks to updated water quality standards, tackling pollutants of concern, such as endocrine disruptors and microplastics, and leading to even cleaner water from the tap for all.	Key features of the revised Directive are: - reinforced water quality standards, in line or, in some cases, even more stringent than the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations - tackling emerging pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors and PFAs, as well as microplastics - a preventive approach favouring actions to reduce pollution at source by introducing the risk-based approach - measures to ensure better access to water, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups - measures to promote tap water, including in public spaces and restaurants, to reduce (plastic) bottle consumption - harmonisation of the quality standards for materials and products in contact with water - measures to reduce water leakages and to increase transparency of the sector	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	- Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. - Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is 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.	- All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. - For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. - The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. - Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC, Directive 2013/30/EU and Regulation (EU) 2019/1010	Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.	• Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. • Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. • Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. • The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. • The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. • The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. • The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the • Guidelines. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% eu actionshare of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as- usual scenario.	- To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030: - A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). - New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
EU Forestry Strategy for 2030	Sets out a vision and concrete actions to improve the quantity and quality of EU forests and strengthen their protection, restoration and resilience. It aims to adapt Europe's forests to the new conditions, weather extremes and high uncertainty brought about by climate change. This is a precondition for forests to continue delivering their socio-economic functions, and to ensure vibrant rural areas with thriving populations. The commitments and actions proposed in the Strategy will contribute to achieving the EU's greenhouse gas emission reduction target of at least 55% in 2030, as set out in the European Climate Law	The measures proposed in the strategy, to be reviewed in 2025, include: • Promoting sustainable forest management (SFM), including by encouraging the sustainable use of wood-based resources. • Providing financial incentives for forest owners and managers to adopt environmentally friendly practices, such as those linked to carbon storage and sequestration • Improving the size and biodiversity of forests, including by planting 3 billion new trees by 2030. • Promoting alternative forest industries, such as ecotourism, as well as non-wood products, such as cork, honey and medicinal plants. • Encouraging the take-up of financial support under the common agricultural policy (CAP), which can help forests and forest-based industries mitigate against climate change. • Providing education and training for people working in forest-based industries and making these industries more attractive to young people. • Establishing a legally binding instrument for ecosystem restoration, and a new legislative proposal on EU forest observation, reporting and collection. Protecting the EU's remaining primary and old-growth forests.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
European Wind Power Action Plan (COM/2023/669)	The action plan will support the European wind manufacturing sector in overcoming the difficulties it faces and improve its competitiveness to ensure that this sector fully contributes to the ongoing energy transition. The action plan is an initiative established under the EU Wind Power Package in October 2023.	The Plan is based on six pillars, each of which have set actions: 1. Accelerating deployment through faster permitting and increased predictability. 2. Improved auction design. 3. Access to finance. 4. Creating a fair and competitive international environment. 5. Skills (investment in skills development). 6. Industry engagement and member state commitments.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	• A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. • Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.	• To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030: • A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). • New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. • First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil' 2050	The Action Plan sets the key 2030 targets for reducing pollution at source and outlines a number of flagship initiatives. In addition, as pollution does not stop at borders and as the EU acknowledges that it is both the victim and the source of pollution, the Action Plan foresees reinforced external action. The EU in fact is committed to leading the global fight against pollution	Guided by the 9 Flagship Initiatives, the key actions include: • align the air quality standards to the latest recommendations of the World Health Organisation, • review the standards for the quality of water, including in EU rivers and seas, • reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration, • review the majority of EU waste laws to adapt them to clean and circular economy principles, • foster zero pollution from production and consumption (through the revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive, EU Ecolabel and other measures), • minimize EU external pollution footprint through export restriction of harmful products and wastes, • present a Scoreboard of EU regions' green performance to promote zero pollution across regions, • showcase zero pollution solutions for buildings, • launch Living Labs for green digital solutions and smart zero pollution, including by targeting the building and farming sectors, • consolidate the EU's Knowledge Centres for Zero Pollution and bringing stakeholders together in the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform. • Stronger enforcement of zero pollution together with environmental and other authorities.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
EU Bathing Water Directive (revised) 2006 [2006/7/EC] (amended by 2013/64/EU)	The purpose of this Directive is to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing Directive 2000/60/EC	This Directive lays down provisions for: • the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; • the management of bathing water quality; and • the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Climate Adaptation Strategy 2050	The Strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050.	The Strategy has four principle objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
EU Common Agricultural Policy	• To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and • To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.	• Ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; • Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; • Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
EU Energy Efficiency Directive 2023/1791	The new directive introduces a series of measures to help accelerate energy efficiency, including embracing the “energy efficiency first” principle in the energy and non-energy policies.	- Establishing an EU legally-binding target to reduce the EU’s final energy consumption by 11.7% by 2030 (relative to the 2020 reference scenario). This includes for each Member State the requirement to set its indicative national contribution based on objective criteria reflecting national circumstances. If the national contributions do not add up to the EU target, an ambition gap mechanism is applied by the Commission. - Increasing annual energy savings from 0.8% (at present) to 1.3% (2024-2025), then 1.5% (2026-2027) and 1.9% from 2028 onwards. That’s an average of 1.49% of new annual savings for the period from 2024-2030. - Obliging Member States to prioritise vulnerable customers and social housing within the scope of their energy savings measures. - Introducing an annual energy consumption reduction target of 1.9% for the public sector as a whole. - Extending the annual 3% buildings renovation obligation to all the levels of public administration. - Introducing a different approach, based on energy consumption, for business to have an energy management system or to carry out an energy audit. - Bringing in a new obligation to monitor the energy performance of data centres, with an EU-level database collecting and publishing data. - Promoting local heating & cooling plans in larger municipalities. - Progressively increasing the efficient energy consumption in heat or cold supply, also in district heating.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
EU Environment Action Programme to 2030	The long-term priority objective is that, by 2050 at the latest, Europeans should live well, within planetary boundaries, in a healthy economy where nothing is wasted, growth is regenerative, climate neutrality is a reality and inequalities are significantly reduced. Building on the European Green Deal, the environmental action programme aims to speed up the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient economy, recognising that human well-being and prosperity depend on a healthy ecosystem.	Six priority objectives: • Attain the 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction target and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. • Enhance the ability to adapt by strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change. • Move towards a regenerative growth model, detaching economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation, while transitioning faster to a circular economy. • Aim for zero pollution of the air, water and soil and protect the health and well-being of Europeans. • Protect, preserve and restore biodiversity by improving the state of ecosystems and of the environment, as well as by combating desertification and soil degradation. • Reduce environmental and climate pressures from production and consumption, in particular energy, industrial development, buildings and infrastructure, mobility and food systems.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	• Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. • Supporting EU-level GI projects. • Improving access to finance for GI projects. • Improving information and promoting innovation.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)	The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.	The IPPC Directive is based on several principles: • an integrated approach • best available techniques, • flexibility; and • public participation	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC) (as amended)	Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution.	Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include: • a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year • set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk • set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
EU Plant Protection (Products) Directive 2009/127/EC	The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs).	• The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. • Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)(as amended)	Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.	The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely: • Registration, • Evaluation, • Authorisation; and • Restriction of chemicals. REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
EU Renewable Energy Directives (RED II & RED III)	The Renewable Energy Directive (RED) establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. The RED directive was first introduced in 2009 (2009/28/EC) and set an Eu-wide goal for 20% renewable energy use by 2020. This was replaced by RED II (2018/2001) which set a renewable energy target of 32% for the European Union for 2030. Following on from RED II, the EU adopted Red III (2023/2413) with the aim to further increase its renewable energy ambitions. sets a new binding target of c. 42.5% renewable energy in the EU's total energy consumption by 2030, with an aspirational target of 45%. The aim of RED III is to introduce sector-specific targets for transport, heating, cooling, and industry to ensure a balanced contribution from all parts of the economy and also included measures to streamline and accelerate the permitting process for renewable energy projects, addressing one of the major bottlenecks in the deployment of renewables.	• Building on the 2009 and 2018 directives, the RED III directive introduces stronger measures to ensure that all possibilities for the further development and uptake of renewables are fully utilised. • Strong policy framework to facilitate electrification in different sectors, with new increased sector-specific targets for renewables in heating and cooling, transport, industry, buildings and district heating/cooling, but also with a framework promoting electric vehicles and smart recharging. • Permitting procedures will also be easier and faster both for renewable energy projects (including through shorter approval periods and the creation of 'Renewables acceleration areas') and for the necessary infrastructure projects.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.	• The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas: • Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; • The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; • The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; • Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; • Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)	The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.	• The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
European 2020 Strategy for Growth	Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: • Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; • Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; • Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: 1. 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 2. 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; 3. the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); 4. the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 5. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)	The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.	The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
European Landscape Convention 2000	The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.	- Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. - Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Wind Power Action Plan (COM/2023/669)	The action plan will support the European wind manufacturing sector in overcoming the difficulties it faces and improve its competitiveness to ensure that this sector fully contributes to the ongoing energy transition. The action plan is an initiative established under the EU Wind Power Package in October 2023.	The Plan is based on six pillars, each of which have set actions: 1. Accelerating deployment through faster permitting and increased predictability. 2. Improved auction design. 3. Access to finance. 4. Creating a fair and competitive international environment. 5. Skills (investment in skills development). 6. Industry engagement and member state commitments.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	- Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks - Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community	- Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment - Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. - Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. - Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)(as amended)	- Protect, control and conserve groundwater. - Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. - Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.	- Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. - Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)(as amended)	- Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. - Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. - Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. - Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.	- Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. - Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. - Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. - Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.	- Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; - Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; - Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and - 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.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)(as amended)	European legislation which aims to achieve Good Environment Status (GES) for all marine waters in Europe and protect the resource base for marine related economic and social activities.	This was adopted on June 17th, 2008, establishing a framework for EU Community Action specifically regarding marine environmental policy. The MSFD is implemented in cycles of 6 years, with member state being obliged to report to the EU every 2 years. The third cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2023 – 2028) for Ireland is underway. The MSFD is implemented through a national Marine Strategy.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Nature Restoration Law (Regulation (EU) 2024/1991)	The regulation sets binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, particularly those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters. It is also a key instrument to help the EU and its Member States meet international biodiversity commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.	The law aims to restore ecosystems, habitats and species across the EU's land and sea areas in order to: • enable the long-term and sustained recovery of biodiverse and resilient nature • contribute to achieving the EU's climate mitigation and climate adaptation objectives • meet international commitments	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to: • Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; • Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
OSPAR Convention	The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.	OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies: 1. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy 2. Eutrophication Strategy 3. Hazardous Substances Strategy 4. Offshore Industry Strategy 5. Radioactive Substances Strategy 6. Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Public Participation Directive (2003/35/EC)	The objective of this Directive is to contribute to the implementation of the obligations arising under the Aarhus Convention, in particular by: (a) providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment; (b) improving the public participation and providing for provisions on access to justice within Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC.	Not applicable.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ramsar Convention	The Convention's mission is <i>"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"</i>.	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: 1. Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; 2. Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; 3. Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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RePower EU Plan (2022)	This plan was launched as a response to global energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The overarching aim of this plan is to reduce the reliance on Russian fossil fuels and enhance energy security within the EU. The plan specifies that Member States should speed up the green transition and spur massive investment in renewable energy.	The main measures introduced under this plan are concerned with the following: • Save Energy • Diversify supplies • Quickly substitute fossil fuels by accelerating Europe's clean energy transition • Smartly combine investments and reforms.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	• Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. • Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.	• Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. • Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. • Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. • Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. • Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. • Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. • Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Soil monitoring law: EU on the pathway to healthy soils by 2050	According to the EU soil strategy, presented by the Commission in 2021, the lack of a dedicated EU legislation was singled out as a major cause for the alarming state of EU soils. To ensure the same level of protection to soil that exists for water, the marine environment and air in the EU, the Commission put forward the soil monitoring directive on 5 July 2023.	The general approach reached by the Council today aims to make soil health monitoring obligatory, provides guiding principles for sustainable soil management and addresses situations where soil contamination poses unacceptable health and environment risks.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Stockholm Convention	The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	• Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention • Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention • Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention • Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner • To target additional POPs • Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	• The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). • Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. • Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. • Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM10) or up to five years (NO2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. • The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	• Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. • Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. • Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. • Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. • Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. • Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
The EU LULUCF Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2018/841)(as amended)	The LULUCF (Land Use, Land Change and Forestry) Regulation addresses greenhouse gas emissions and carbon removals in the land use and forestry sector from the period of 2021-2030, establishing an emissions target for the sector. The regulation entered into force in 2018.	This regulation was revised in 2023 with a new set of rules introduced to address the carbon footprint of activities related to the conversion, use and management of land and forests for both human and environmental benefits. These activities can occur in areas such as grasslands, agricultural land and forests. Previous rules (the 'no debt' rule) required that EU member states ensure that emissions from land and forestry are compensated by an equivalent removal of CO ₂ within the sector for the period of 2021-2030. This has been replaced by a more ambitious new rule that sets the EU-wide net target of 310 million tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent carbon removals in the LULUCF sector by 2030. Each member state has a specific target under this regulation which they must meet to contribute towards the EU-wide net target. The national targets are based on the recent level of removals or emissions with the member state and on the potential to further increase removals, taking into account the principles of cost-effectiveness, fairness and environmental integrity. Ireland's binding target is to achieve a reduction of 0.6 Mt CO ₂ equivalent LULUCF emissions by 2030, relative to average levels in 2016-2018.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.	• It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. • It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. • In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change	It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.	The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	The Convention has three main goals: 1. the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); 2. the sustainable use of its components; and 3. the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol. At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.	• The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). • EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. • Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	• Links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and • Recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.	• Sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them; • Each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage; • Encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	• This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. • The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.	• Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. • Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. • Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	- Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. - Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain “good status” of water bodies. - Promote sustainable water usage. - The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: - The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive - Sampling Drinking Water Directive - Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive - Shellfish Directive - Freshwater Fish Directive - Groundwater Directive - Dangerous Substances Directive	- Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. - Achieve "good status" for all waters. - Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. - Involve the public and streamline legislation. - Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. - Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. - Recover costs for water services.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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All Island Grid Study 2008	- The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network (“the grid”) on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. - The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system.	Key conclusions of the study: - 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. - All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO₂ emissions compared to portfolio 1. - All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports. - 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. - Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered. - Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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 Proposed Variation
All-Ireland Pollinator Plans: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2026-2030 (latest)	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a framework bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. Implementation is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) for 2026-2020 is a four-year road map that aims to help bees, other pollinating insects and our wider biodiversity. The AIPP 2026-2025 identifies 50 aims across 10 work packages: 1. Protecting Farmland Pollinators 2. Local Authorities and Public Bodies – making public land pollinator-friendly 3. Transport Authorities and Utility Companies – creating pollinator corridors across the landscape 4. Buzzing Communities – helping communities take action 5. Encouraging Businesses to Protect Pollinators 6. Pollinators on the Edge – restoring rare species 7. Mapping Pollinator Action across All Sectors 8. Monitoring the Status of Pollinators 9. Research – ensuring evidence-based action for pollinators 10. Raising Awareness of Pollinators and Inspiring Collective Action	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
All-Island Strategic Rail Review	The Review aims to inform policy and future strategy for the railways in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland.	The Review sets out six high-level goals which aim to use rail as effectively as possible to: 1. contribute to decarbonisation; 2. improve All Island connectivity between major cities; 3. enhance regional accessibility; 4. stimulate economic activity; 5. encourage sustainable mobility; and achieve economic and financial feasibility.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023-2025	The first national action plan for an Irish bioeconomy. The purpose of this plan is to further develop Ireland's bioeconomy in delivering the vision of the 2018 National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy; for Ireland <i>"to be a global leader for the bioeconomy through a coordinated approach that harnesses Ireland's natural resources and competitive advantage and that fully exploits the opportunities available while monitoring and avoiding unintended consequences"</i>.	This action plan approaches the bioeconomy using seven pillars: 1. Governance & Awareness 2. Research, Development & Innovation 3. Nature, Climate, Energy & Circular Economy 4. Agriculture, Food, Forestry, And The Marine 5. Communities, Regions & Cities 6. Industry & Enterprise 7. Knowledge & Skills The Action Plan is aligned with the implementation of the National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Building Regulations	The aim of the building regulations is to provide for the safety and welfare of people in and about buildings.	The building regulations apply to the design and construction of a new building (including a dwelling) or an extension to an existing building.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Clean Air Strategy for Ireland (2023)	The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	- Through this document Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. - The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. - The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. - In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount, this is a strong theme of the Strategy.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021	An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.	When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to: - The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, - The policy of the Government on climate change, - Climate justice, - Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and - The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Climate Action Plan 2025	The Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25) is the third annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan. The purpose of the Climate Action Plan is to lay out a roadmap of actions which will ultimately lead us to meeting our national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. It aligns with the legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings that were agreed by Government in July 2022.	Climate Action Plan 2025 builds upon CAP24 by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings and it should be read in conjunction with Climate Action Plan 2024. The Plan provides a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019)	- Heritage in Ireland ranges from private homes, commercial and public buildings, national monuments, underwater and buried archaeology and the physical and cultural settings of all of these. - This plan considers not only those structures and sites that have been statutorily listed, but all man-made assets that have historical, aesthetic and cultural value, but does not consider natural heritage. Aims to: - Build adaptive capacity within the sector - Reduce the vulnerability of built and archaeological heritage to climate change - Identify and capitalise on the various potential opportunities for the sector.	The five adaptation goals for built and archaeological heritage in Ireland are: - To improve understanding of each heritage resource and its vulnerability to climate change - To develop and mainstream sustainable policies and plans for climate-change adaptation of built and archaeological heritage - To conserve Ireland's heritage for future generations - To communicate and transfer knowledge - To exploit the opportunities for built and archaeological heritage to demonstrate value and secure resources	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	- Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. - The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.	This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: - A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; - Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; - The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; - Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; - Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; - Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and - Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Electricity Storage Policy Framework (2024)	This Framework aims to clarify the role of electricity storage systems (ESS) in Ireland's climate objectives and energy transition. This will support Ireland's 2030 climate targets as grid scale electricity storage is vital in securing an electricity grid capable in supporting Ireland's renewable generation programme and the future growth of industrial sectors. The Electricity Storage Policy Framework refers, in the main, to front of meter electricity storage, outlining its present roles, technical processes, market positions and regulatory structures in Ireland. The framework addresses the grids immediate and near-term needs by supporting the incorporation of electricity storage from the immediate up until 2040 and presents 10 government actions to support the role of electricity storage systems in Ireland's energy transition, identifying the key stakeholders and timelines for these actions.	Under this framework there are ten government actions to support the role of electricity storage systems in Ireland's energy transition: 1. Maintain a technology neutral approach to all electricity storage systems. 2. Creation of a 'sandbox' project to advance both System Operators' technological knowledge of emerging electricity storage technologies. 3. Convene an electricity storage and system services working group as part of the Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce. 4. Convene a forum for an expanded group of stakeholders including statutory bodies, leading industry representatives and academic or interest groups. 5. Support access to the wholesale electricity markets, arbitrage and revenue stacking for electricity storage systems. 6. Support the immediate procurement of Demand Flexibility products and of (long duration) electricity storage to meet specific network needs, on the Distribution and Transmission systems respectively. 7. Initiate a 'Quantity' consultation to establish the optimal (long duration) electricity storage requirements to meet climate targets and electricity grid network expansion between 2030-2040. 8. Initiate a 'Financial' consultation to establish if the expected market mechanisms due between 2025-2028 will provide sufficient service provider certainty to meet the optimum (long duration) electricity storage systems requirements of 2030-2040. 9. If required and pending the outcome of the 'Financial' consultation, develop a market framework to further incentivise the incorporation of (long duration) electricity storage system technologies to the grid to meet projected 2030-2040 requirements. Ensure a route to market for the identified optimum (long duration) electricity storage requirements for 2030-2040 is in place before end of 2028.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Energy Security in Ireland to 2030	Energy Security in Ireland to 2030 outlines a new strategy to ensure energy security in Ireland for this decade, while ensuring a	The Energy Security Package states that we must ensure energy security is prioritised, monitored, and reviewed regularly, and	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes

National Level			
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	sustainable transition to a carbon neutral energy system by 2050. This report is being published as part of an Energy Security Package, containing a range of supplementary analyses, consultations, and reviews, which have informed the recommendations and actions related to energy security.	includes a range of measures to implement this approach in the short and medium term by prioritising: • Reduced and Responsive Demand • A Renewables-Led System • More Resilient Systems • Robust Risk Governance Under each of these four areas of actions, the report sets out a range of mitigation measures, including the need for additional capacity of indigenous renewable energy, but also energy imports, energy storage, fuel diversification, demand side response, and renewable gases. The governance structures supporting the energy system, including oversight and accountability reforms, were also examined.	relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)	These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.	• They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. • 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.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011)	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	• The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. • These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. • Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of statutory land use plan on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	• The Regulations cover statutory land use plans, including Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Regional Planning Guidelines etc.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations of 2003 (as amended)	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. The Directive aims to provide a common framework to avoid, prevent or reduce, on a prioritised basis, the harmful effects of exposure to environmental noise.	• The Regulations set out a two-stage process for addressing environmental noise (preparation of strategic noise maps and preparation of noise action plans for each area concerned. • The Regulations designate noise-mapping bodies and action planning authorities for the making and reviewing of strategic noise maps and action plans. • The Regulations designate the Environmental Protection Agency as the National Authority for the purposes of the Regulations. • The Regulations provide for strategic noise maps and action plans and revised noise maps and action plans to be made available to the general public.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations (as amended) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations (as amended)	• Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. • Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. • Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water (now Uisce Eireann) in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.	• Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. • Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. • Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. • Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. • Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. • Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. • Outlines surface water quality standards. • Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Harvest 2020	Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.	Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Food Vision 2030	The Food Vision 2030 Strategy is a new ten year Strategy for the Irish agri-food sector (taken to include primary agriculture, food and drink processing and manufacturing, fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing, forestry and forestry processing and the equine sector).	The Strategy consists of 22 Goals, grouped into four high-level Missions for the sector to work toward: 1. A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector 2. Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Well-Being 3. Food Which is Safe, Nutritious And Appealing, Trusted And Valued at Home and Abroad 4. An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Agri-Food Sector, Driven by Technology And Talent	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: • 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. • 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. • 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. • The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high end value added product development.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning: • Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% • Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
GRID25 Implementation Programme and associated Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028 for the Electricity Transmission System in Ireland	Grid25 is a high-level strategy outlining how EirGrid intends to undertake the development of the electricity transmission grid in the short-, medium- and longer-terms, to support a long-term sustainable and reliable electricity supply. This Grid25 Implementation Programme (IP) is a practical strategic overview of how the early stages of Grid25 are intended to be implemented. The IP identifies the best current understanding of those parts of the transmission system that are envisaged as likely to be developed over the next five years. The IP identifies the issues, objectives and associated processes that will need to be adopted when making decisions about how and where developments will occur. This Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028 supersedes the Grid Implementation Plan 2017-2022. It is focused on the Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2023-2032.	Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to upgrade 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. • The EirGrid Shaping Our Electricity Future Version 1.1 (SOEF - published in June 2023) is a core context for grid development as part of this Plan. The SOEF addresses matters such as why EirGrid develops the electricity transmission network, Government policy context that underpins this, and the importance of an efficient and economical grid network. • The Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2023 also forms a core context for this Plan. The TDP lists the committed projects and projects under development for the enhancement of the Irish transmission network over the coming ten years.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2023-2027	This plan sets out the direction for the HSE to deliver its national <i>Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025</i>. The HSE aims to support 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.	This Health Services Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2023-2027 has four main goals: 1. Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life. 2. Reduce health inequalities. 3. Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing. Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a Healthy Ireland.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Heritage related legislation and guidelines: • National Monuments Act 1930 as amended; • Natural Cultural Institutions Act 1997. • Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. • Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Government of Ireland 1999). • The Heritage Act 2018. • Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities.	Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the Proposed Variation. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the Proposed Variation. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Housing for All (2021)	Housing for All (2021) is the Government's housing plan to 2030. The overall aim of the housing plan for Ireland is that everyone in the State should have access to a home to purchase or rent at an affordable price, built to a high standard and in the right place, offering a high quality of life. The plan's vision is to have a steady supply of housing in the correct locations with economic, social, and environmental sustainability built into the system.	Housing for All provides four pathways to achieving its overarching objectives: • Supporting Homeownership and Increasing Affordability. • Eradicating Homelessness, Increasing Social Housing Delivery and Supporting Social Inclusion. • Increasing New Housing Supply. • Addressing Vacancy and Efficient Use of Existing Stock.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	The vision is: <i>"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."</i>	These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive: • Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life • Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities • Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing • Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Ireland 2040: The National Development Plan (2021 - 2030)	The National Development Plan 2021-2030 (NDP) sets out the Government's over-arching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030. It sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.	The key role of the NDP is to set out the updated configuration for public capital investment over the next 10 years in order to achieve the National Strategic Outcomes (NSO), as set out within the NPF. These ten National Strategic Outcomes are as follows: 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. Sustainable Mobility 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 6. High-Quality International Connectivity 7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage 8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Planning Framework (First Revision) 2025	The revised National Planning Framework (NPF) published in April 2025 replaced the National Planning Framework (2018) and now informs the wider Government Policy agenda, the actions of a broad range of public and private bodies, including homebuilders, the renewable energy sector, infrastructure agencies and domestic and international investors. • The focus of the revised NPF have been the following key drivers of change in Ireland: • Population growth and associated housing requirements • Infrastructure delivery • Climate and Environment • The revised NPF now provides the basis of review and updating of regional strategies and local authority development plans to reflect matters such as updated housing figures, projected jobs growth, renewable energy capacity allocations, including through the zoning of land for residential, employment and a range of other purposes. • The implementation of the Planning and Development Act 2024 will also be closely aligned with the implementation of the revised NPF, with updated regional strategies and new 10-year development plans required to reflect the revised NPF as they are prepared.	The revised NPF's ambition is expressed in a set of goals, termed National Strategic Outcomes: 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. High-Quality International Connectivity 5. Sustainable Mobility 6. A Strong Economy 7. Enhanced Amenities and Heritage 8. Transition to a Carbon Neutral and Climate Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2030	Ireland's 4 th 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.	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.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's Long-term Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction 2024	This long-term strategy aims to build on the targets, policies, measures and actions that Ireland has committed to in the period to 2030 (as set out in success annual national Climate Action Plans and the EU National Energy and Climate Plans.	The Strategy sets out Ireland's 2050 climate action targets and describes sector-specific pathways to reaching those targets. These sectors include: • Electricity • Industry • Built Environment • Transport • Agriculture, Forestry and Land-Use	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024)	- National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). - The first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also included a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.	The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation: - To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development; - To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs; - Greater partnerships for the Goals; - To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and - Strong reporting mechanisms	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (as amended)	This act is designed to regulate the maritime area within Ireland. This regulation will be achieved by means of the National Marine Planning Framework. The Act provides the legislative framework for a new streamlined development consent process for activities in the maritime area including offshore renewable energy projects. The Bill will also establish a new body, the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority to undertake certain consenting and enforcement functions in the new regime. Enactment and implementation of the Bill will help Ireland to reach its climate action and renewable energy targets.	The key features of the plan are as follows: - Provision of Maritime Area Consents (MACs) for permission to occupy a maritime area over undefined or relatively long periods of time. - It is required that projects obtain a MAC as a pre-requisite before seeking planning permission for developments which fall under the Planning and Development Act 2000. - Provision of licenses for certain maritime usages which do not require planning permission or an EIA. Establishment of a Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) which will grant MACs, licence specified maritime usages, ensure compliance with MACs, licences and offshore planning permissions.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, childcare facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Adaptation Framework: Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland 2024, and Sectoral Adaptation Plans	This framework specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities to reduce the vulnerability of Ireland to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur. It sets out an extended suite of guiding principles that underscore the need for smarter, faster and transformative adaptation actions, which demand a pathway planning approach to account for a range of future warming and impact scenarios. It acts as a roadmap for governments, organisations, and communities to plan and implement adaptation strategies. The Framework helps coordinate efforts, allocate resources, and prioritise actions that reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience. A robust framework not only enables more effective responses to immediate climate related challenges but also fosters long-term sustainability by ensuring that adaptation measures are integrated into policymaking, infrastructure development, and local planning.	Key actions under the framework: • Putting in place revised governance and reporting arrangements • Formalising the status of existing guidelines • Formalising long term operational support for key sectors • Facilitating the establishment of regional local authority climate action offices • Increasing awareness around climate adaptation and resilience • Integrating climate adaptation into key national plans and policies	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP)	The National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) is a technical document which outlines the pathway Ireland will follow to achieve compliance with its commitments under the National Emission Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive). The National Emissions Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive) establishes emission ceilings for 2020 and 2030 for five specified pollutants: nitrogen oxides (NO_x), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), ammonia (NH₃) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). It also mandates the development of a National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) for each Member State.	The programme includes: • An overview of sectors and national policy frameworks in Ireland that impact on emissions of the five NEC pollutants • An overview of the current outlook for compliance with NEC targets for each pollutant • Projections of relevant pollutant emissions to 2030 • Policy options, measures and actions across sectors but in particular in the residential, transport agricultural and energy sectors aimed at reducing emissions of the five specified air pollutants	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Broadband Plan (2019)	The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is the government's initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.	The Plan sets out: • A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband. • Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. • The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. • A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Aviation Policy 2015	Specifically, the principal goals of this National Aviation Policy are: • To enhance Ireland's connectivity by ensuring safe, secure and competitive access responsive to the needs of business, tourism and consumers; • To foster the growth of aviation enterprise in Ireland to support job creation and position Ireland as a recognised global leader in aviation; and • To maximise the contribution of the aviation sector to • Ireland's economic growth and development.	The National Aviation Policy commits to: • Maintaining safety as the number one priority in Irish aviation and ensuring that safety regulation is robust, effective and efficient; • Creating conditions to encourage the development of new routes and services, particularly to new and emerging markets; • Ensuring a high level of competition among airlines operating in the Irish market; • Optimising the operation of the Irish airport network to ensure maximum connectivity to the rest of the world; • Ensuring that the regulatory framework for aviation reflects best international practice and that economic regulation facilitates continued investment in aviation infrastructure at Irish airports to support traffic growth; • Supporting the aircraft leasing and aviation finance sectors to maintain Ireland's leading global position in these spheres; and • Maintaining a safe and innovative general aviation sector to support Ireland's broader aviation industry	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Demand Management Strategy - Moving Together: A Strategic Approach to Improving the Efficiency of Ireland's Transport System	The Strategy encourages an urban first approach to rolling out measures, where other travel options exist, and aims to improve journey times for car drivers, public transport users, business and freight, leading to improvements in local air quality and reduced stress with associated health benefits for drivers and non-drivers alike.	The Strategy does not contain a prescriptive series of actions. Instead, it provides a firm policy direction and suite of options - such as road space reallocation, progressive taxation, freight efficiency, or behavioural incentives - that can be taken at national, regional and local levels to bring about the systems changed needed. It is also intended that the Strategy will provide guidance needed for local authorities and local council representatives to develop plans for their own areas that suit their own communities' needs best.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030	The NECP outlines Ireland's energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and looks onwards to 2050. The NECP is a consolidated plan which brings together energy and climate planning into a single process for the first time.	The NECP facilitates the ongoing analysis at EU level. It will be revised to bring it in line with the 7% trajectory and to include policies and measures currently being developed to achieve the 7% trajectory.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Energy Security Framework	The Framework outlines the structures which are in place within Government to monitor and manage our energy supplies. It sets out the plans which are in place to deal with energy security emergencies should they arise, and outlines out how these plans will be tested in light of the war in Ukraine. The Framework also sets out how Government can support households and businesses, with a particular focus on protecting those most at risk of fuel poverty, how it is already ensuring Ireland's energy security, how it will speed up the country's shift to increased energy efficiency and indigenous renewable energy systems. It also sets out how consumers and businesses can be supported to save energy and save money.	The Framework sets out the government's action in response to these issues across three key themes: - managing the impact on consumers and businesses, with a specific focus on financially vulnerable residential consumers in the short-term - ensuring security of energy supply in the near term, with a focus on the period up to and including winter 2022/23 - reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels, in the context of the phasing out of Russian energy imports across the EU	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027	The national Forestry Programme 2023-2027 came into force in 2023, as soon as State Aid approval by the European Commission has been received. The new Programme sets out increased support for a number of schemes.	The Forestry Programme 2023-2027 contains a series of eight different interventions: 1. Forest creation; 2. Agroforestry; 3. Infrastructure and technology investments; 4. Sustainable forest management; 5. Developing skills and empowering the forest sector for sustainable forest management; 6. Open forests - social, cultural and heritage forests; 7. Climate resilient reforestation; 8. Reconstruction.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2021 - 2027	This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published. Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities: • To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; • To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a • view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; • To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; • To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.	The revised Plan makes 20 recommendations under the following topics: • Policy and Regulation • Prevention • Collection and Treatment • Implementation	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Inspection Plan - Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2022 - 2026	The Water Services Act 2007 (as amended) requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to produce a national inspection plan for domestic waste water treatment systems (DWWTSs). The purpose of the plan is to protect human health and water quality from the risks posed by DWWTSs. This document is the fourth plan and covers the period 2022 to 2026.	The plan sets out the background, minimum inspection numbers, risk based allocation of inspections, requirements for enforcement of advisory notices and for engagement to promote broader compliance.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) 2021	- NIFTI is the Department of Transport's framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network to support the delivery of the National Strategic Outcomes. - The NIFTI will guide transport investment in the years ahead to enable the National Planning Framework, support the Climate Action Plan, and promote social, environmental and economic outcomes throughout Ireland.	The four investment priorities stated in NIFTI are: - Mobility of people and goods in urban areas. - Protection and renewal. - Enhanced regional and rural connectivity. - Decarbonisation.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character	- The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. - Landscape Strategy Vision: “Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning.”	The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: - Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; - Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; - Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; - Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National legislation transposing the Industrial Emissions Directive, including: • Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, amended by the Protection of the Environment Act 2003; and • Environmental Protection Agency (Integrated Pollution Control) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992)(Amendment) Regulations 2020 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. • European Union (Industrial Emissions) Regulations 2013 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013	The purpose of this Directive is to lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection. This legislation transposes the provisions of the Directive.	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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National Marine Planning Framework 2021	The NMPF is a key consideration for decision makers on all marine authorisations. The NMPF creates the overarching framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence based, and secures a sustainable future for the maritime area.	The National Marine Planning Framework is a succinct strategic document that will deal with, inter alia, the following environmental, social and economic issues: • Key marine activities such as fisheries, tourism, transport, offshore renewable energy generation, oil and gas exploration and production, aquaculture, and how they interact; • Climate change and related impacts; • Communities and health; • Cultural heritage; • Marine environment and biodiversity; • Transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Mitigation Plan 2017	The National Mitigation Plan represents an initial step in transitioning Ireland to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. This whole-of-government Plan draws on the perspectives and responsibilities of a range of government departments, and reflects the central roles of key ministers responsible for electricity generation, the built environment, transport and agriculture.	The Plan includes over 100 individual actions for ministers and public bodies to implement and began the process of developing medium to long term mitigation choices for the next and future decades. The Plan is structured across several key themes: • Climate Action Policy Framework • Decarbonising Electricity Generation • Decarbonising the Built Environment • Decarbonising Transport • An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	Objectives of the Strategy: • To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. • To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. • To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. • To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. • To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. • To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. • To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs. To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	- This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. - By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. - This 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.	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: - Reduce overall travel demand - Maximise the efficiency of the transport network - Reduce reliance on fossil fuels - Reduce transport emissions - Improve accessibility to transport These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework. Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: - AFV forecasts - Electricity targets - Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets - Hydrogen targets - Biofuels targets - LPG targets - Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Ports Policy 2013	The core objective of National Ports Policy is to facilitate a competitive and effective market for maritime transport services.	National Ports Policy introduces clear categorisation of the ports sector into Ports of National Significance (Tier 1), Ports of National Significance (Tier 2) and Ports of Regional Significance.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Retrofit Plan	The National Retrofit Plan sets out how the Government will deliver on the Climate Action Plan targets of retrofitting the equivalent of 500,000 homes to a BER of B2/cost-optimal and installing 400,000 heat pumps in existing homes to replace older, less efficient heating systems by the end of 2030.	The Plan is designed to address barriers to retrofit across four key pillars: driving demand and activity; financing and funding; supply chain, skills and standards; and governance. For each pillar, barriers were identified and time-bound policies, measures and actions were put in place to address them. The initiatives in the Plan were guided by a number of key principles.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Roads 2040	NR2040 sets out TII's long-term strategy for the maintenance, development, and management of Ireland's National Roads network. NR2040 is fully aligned with NIFTI and Project Ireland 2040 and focuses on strategic issues for National Roads identified by TII.	The following objectives have been defined. • Safe and efficient transport network for people and goods • Environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable • Tailored for different customers in different places • Managed and improved as a key public asset	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030	Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy ('the CFP'), on the promotion of sustainable aquaculture, calls for the establishment of multiannual national strategic aquaculture plans. The NSPSA 2030 is the second such plan under the current CFP.	This Plan proposes 58 actions to be implemented over the period up to 2030. The purpose is as follows: • To align and mainstream the recently updated but non-binding guidance for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture (2021 – 2030) with national aquaculture sector planning. • To help inform the investment priorities for aquaculture in Ireland's new Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027 (EMFAF). • To provide a framework so that strategic planning for the aquaculture sector in Ireland responds to the latest thinking in terms of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for Irish aquaculture in order to promote the development of a sustainable and forward-looking sector.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Sustainable Mobility Policy and the Sustainable Mobility Policy Action Plan 2026 - 2030	The National Sustainable Mobility Policy sets out a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport journeys to help Ireland meet its climate obligations. It is accompanied by an action plan to 2030 which contains actions to improve and expand sustainable mobility options across the country by providing safe, green, accessible and efficient alternatives to car journeys. It also includes demand management and behavioural change measures to manage daily travel demand more efficiently and to reduce the journeys taken by private car.	The policy aims to deliver at least 500,000 additional daily active travel and public transport journeys by 2030 and a 10% reduction in the number of kilometres driven by fossil fuelled cars. It will make it easier for people to choose walking, cycling and use public transport daily instead of having to use a petrol or diesel car.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Transport Authority's Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024	Section 13(1) of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 (the DTA Act) requires the NTA to prepare an integrated implementation plan covering a six-year period.	In accordance with the DTA Act, the Plan comprises the following: • An infrastructure investment programme, identifying the key objectives and outputs to be pursued by the Authority over the period of the Plan; • The actions to be taken by the Authority to ensure the effective integration of public transport infrastructure over the period of the Plan; • An integrated service plan, identifying the key objectives and outputs to be pursued by the Authority in relation to the procurement of public passenger transport services over the period of the Plan; • The actions to be taken by the Authority in relation to small public service vehicles; • The actions to be taken by the Authority to ensure the effective integration of public passenger transport services over the period of the Plan; and • Such other matters as the Authority considers appropriate or as may be prescribed by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030	The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 has been published and replaces the Regional Waste Management Plans. The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.	The ambition of this Plan is 0% total waste growth per person over the life of the Plan with an emphasis on non-household wastes including waste from commercial activities and the construction and demolition sector. This ambition is underpinned with a comprehensive series of targets, policies, actions and a suite of key deliverables. The Plan is presented in 5 Volumes. • VOLUME I Sets out the current situation including policy, the existing waste landscape and financial, human and market resources deployed. It also identifies the key waste management challenges facing the State. • VOLUME II Sets out the responses to the waste management challenges identified including the Plan ambition, targets, policies and priority actions. Targeted policies and priority actions are identified for a range of focus areas chosen to align with the challenges. • VOLUME III Sets out the delivery roadmap for the responses contained in Volume II and contains key deliverables required to enable the ambition, targets, policies, and actions identified. • VOLUME IV Provides the supporting information for the Plan in a series of technical appendices. • VOLUME V Contains the Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement and Natura Impact Statement. Key challenges identified in the Plan include resources, organisational capability, policy requirements, specific material stream targets, the provision of infrastructure and waste generation.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020-2025 National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030	The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy is an action-focused plan that will place Ireland at the vanguard of EU efforts. It will act as a roadmap for Ireland to embrace the opportunities in becoming a circular economy in the upcoming decade.	The overarching objectives of this action plan are to: • Shift the focus away from waste disposal and treatment to ensure that materials and products remain in productive use for longer thereby preventing waste and supporting reuse through a policy framework that discourages the wasting of resources and rewards circularity • Make producers who manufacture and sell disposable goods for profit environmentally accountable for the products they place on the market; • Ensure that measures support sustainable economic models (for example by supporting the use of recycled over virgin materials); • Harness the reach and influence of all sectors including the voluntary sector, R&D, producers / manufacturers, regulatory bodies, civic society; and • Support clear and robust institutional arrangements for the waste sector, including through a strengthened role for Local Authorities (LAs).	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Water Resources Plan (2021)	• The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. • The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.	The key objectives of the plan are to: • Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions • Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry • Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources • Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events • Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water • Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies • Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning and Development Acts	The principal objectives of these are to provide a framework for land use planning and development control – with a view to promoting proper planning and sustainable development	• Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning and Development Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. • There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. • Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects. • Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 (PLUTO)	PLUTO's objective is to develop a transport investment framework which delivers a land transport network that meets the travel needs of the population in the coming decades and which supports the National Strategic Outcomes of Project Ireland 2040.	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will: • Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; • Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, • Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework (RESPF)	Under Action EL/23/2 of CAP23, the Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework (RESPF) is currently being prepared. In effect, this will be the national policy for onshore renewable electricity and will inform and reshape the development and distribution of onshore renewables in order to enable the delivery of Ireland's renewable electricity targets, as set out in CAP23. The RESPF will promote a plan-led and evidence-based approach to the allocation of renewable electricity spatial and generation targets across the three Regional Assemblies, to facilitate the achievement of the national target of 80% RES-E by 2030.	The objective of this spatial policy framework is to effectively translate renewable electricity objectives, as those outlined in Climate Action Plan 2023, to the regional level and allocate regional spatial and renewable generation capacity targets.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Renewable Energy Ireland Strategy (2023)	The vision of the Strategy is to ensure by 2050 that Ireland will be energy independent through using indigenous, clean, carbon-free renewable energy supported by, and supporting, communities across the country.	Priority actions for the Strategy include: • Use the Planning and Development Acts to instruct An Bord Pleanála to prioritise planning applications for renewable energy and associated grid infrastructure. • Delivery of grid is a necessary foundation for decarbonisation of the economy. Market designs must include system services, flexibility, and capacity markets and fully exploit demand side resources. • Simplify administrative & regulatory requirements for renewable heat, energy efficiency, flexible demand, and storage technologies • Encourage EVs, enhanced public mobility and cycling infrastructure while harnessing Ireland's strengths for the appropriate use of sustainable biofuels and green hydrogen. • Bring together industry, Government and other key stakeholders to identify ways to cut the price of renewable energy in Ireland so that we can deliver clean energy at the lowest possible price for Irish consumers.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)	• Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. • GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.	• Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. • Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. • Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. • Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. • Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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S.I. 79 of 2008 - Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008, as amended (latest S.I. No. 322/2024)	• These Regulations provide for transposition of the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (Directive 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006) which aims: • To improve health protection for bathers • To establish a more pro-active approach to management of bathing waters, and • To promote increased public involvement and dissemination of information to the public.	• The Regulations establish a new classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications “poor”, “sufficient”, “good” and “excellent” and generally require that a classification of at least “sufficient” be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters. • Local authorities must take appropriate measures with a view to improving waters which are classified as “poor” and increasing the number of bathing waters classified as “good” or “excellent”. • A permanent advice against bathing must be issued in a case where a bathing water is classified as “poor” for five consecutive years. • Local authorities are required annually to identify bathing waters, establish a monitoring calendar, carry out the specified monitoring, report the results to the EPA, carry out appropriate management measures where necessary and provide information to the public. • There must be public participation in the identification of waters and the general implementation of the Regulations. • The EPA is required by the Regulations to classify bathing waters, generally on the basis of the monitoring results for the four preceding bathing seasons, and to publish an annual report in relation to bathing water quality. • Monitoring by local authorities is to commence not later than 2011 with a view to ensuring that a classification is assigned to bathing waters not later than 2015. Private controllers of access lands may be required to contribute towards the costs incurred by a local authority or the EPA.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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S.I. No. 113/2022 - European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022, as amended	The purpose of the Regulations is to provide a basic set of measures to ensure the protection of waters, including drinking water sources, against pollution caused by nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural sources, with the primary emphasis on the management of livestock manures and other fertilisers. The set of measures also provide some basic safeguards against possible harmful impacts on water quality arising from agricultural expansion. This basic set of measures has been strengthened over the last two reviews and this new programme provides a further strengthened set of measures to help reduce nitrogen and phosphorus losses from agriculture and contribute to improvements in water quality.	The Regulations include measures such as: • Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited • Limits on the land application of fertilisers • Storage requirements for livestock manure; and • Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
S.I. No. 254/2001 - Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001, as amended (latest S.I. No. 48/2010)	These regulations concern the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.	The objective of these regulations is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of the abovementioned waste water discharges.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
S.I. No. 296/2009 - European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009, as amended (latest S.I. 355/2018)	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	Actions: • Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). • Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. • Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
S.I. No. 9/2010 - European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, as amended (latest S.I. No. 287/2022)	These Regulations are made to give effect to the measures needed to achieve the environmental objectives established for groundwater by Article 4(1)(b) of the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) and to give effect to the requirements of the Groundwater Directive (Directive 2006/118/EC) on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	The Regulations establish clear environmental objectives to be achieved in groundwater bodies within specified timeframes and introduce the legal basis for a more flexible, proportionate and risk-based approach to implementing the legal obligation to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater, which already exists under Directive 80/68/EEC. Measures include: • measures to prevent or limit the input of pollutants into groundwater and to prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater • measures to protect, enhance and restore all bodies of groundwater and to ensure a balance between abstraction and recharge of groundwater, with the aim of achieving good groundwater within a particular timeframe • measures requiring the reversal of any significant and sustained upward trend in the concentration of any pollutant resulting from the impact of human activity in order to progressively reduce pollution of groundwater • measures for determining groundwater quantitative and chemical status • measures establishing procedures for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and the definition of the starting point for trend reversal • the laying down of rules for the presentation and reporting of groundwater monitoring results, trend assessments and the classification of quantitative status and chemical status of groundwater bodies	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	- The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. - It also aims to increase the number and 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.	- A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; - Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism - to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, - domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; - Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; - Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and - Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) as transposed into Irish legislation by the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011 as amended)	The Directive sets air quality standards for European Union member states.	Limit values for air quality parameters are set in this Directive.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
The CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027	Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan provides a framework for the application of the Common Agricultural Policy in Ireland. It aims to promote the agricultural sector and the provision of safe and sustainable food in the country. Ireland as an EU member state is responsible for the running of our own CAP Strategic Plan, in close co-operation with the European Commission, and the EU Court of Auditors as the guardian of EU finances. he CAP is divided into two pillars. Pillar 1 covers direct support and market supports, and rural development is in Pillar 2.	The Irish CAP Strategic Plan aims to: 1. Protect farm family incomes 2. Recognise the hard work of our farm families as food producers regardless of where they are in the country 3. Play a meaningful role in supporting our climate ambitions. It provides for the following: • Pillar 1 agri-environment schemes, including direct support consisting of payments granted directly to farmers and provides baseline income support and operates as a safety net in cases of market disturbances, and market measures to manage and control the agricultural economy. • Pillar 2 direct payments supporting rural development. Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan has a strong emphasis on achievement of a higher level of climate and environment ambition that will be achieved through the CAP's new green architecture. It contains measures that will help to achieve significant improvements in the areas of biodiversity and water quality, as well as contributing to national and EU climate and environmental targets, including through increased sequestration and carbon removal. There are three key areas in the new green architecture: 1. Conditionality 2. Pillar 1 Eco-schemes 3. Pillar 2 climate and environment-related interventions	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)	- Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process. - Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications. - Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels. - Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts.	- Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. - Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off. - Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains. - Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth. - Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders. - Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management. The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: - Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; 250,000 people employed in tourism; and 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Uisce Éireann Water Services Strategic Plan 2015, Water Services Strategic Plan 2050, and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2020 - 2024)	The Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) presents Uisce Éireann's objectives for the next 25 years and the means by which we will achieve them. It aligns to requirements set out in the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013. The first Water Services Strategic Plan was published in 2015 and are the draft Water Services Strategic Plan 2050 (WSSP 2050) is in the process of consultation which will replace the current plan.	The new Water Services Strategic Plan 2050 will be an important strategic document that will focus on the provision of safe drinking water and ensure that the environment is protected from the impacts of wastewater discharges.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Water Action Plan 2024 - A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027	The Water Action Plan 2024 is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters, and provide sustainable management of our water resources (as specified under SDG 6). This Water Action Plan enhances and builds upon the work of the first and second cycle plans. Where necessary, this plan addresses the shortcomings experienced during the implementation of previous plans.	The objectives of the Water Framework Directive are: (i) to prevent the deterioration of water bodies and to protect, enhance and restore them with the aim of achieving at least good status and (ii) to achieve compliance with the water standards and objectives for designated protected areas.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to: • Prosecute for water pollution offences. • Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. • Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. • Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; • Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. • Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Water Services Act 2007, and amendments in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2022	- Provides the water services infrastructure. - Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. - Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply. - Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.	Key strategic objectives include: - Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. - Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services. - Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards - Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. - Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. - Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. - Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. - Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.	• Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems • Give statutory protection to NHAs • Enhances wildlife species and their habitats • Includes more species for protection	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Development Plans, Local Area Plans and other land use plans in other areas and adjacent counties/Local Authorities in Ireland – South Dublin, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Kildare, Carlow and Wexford.	• These statutory land use plans outline planning objectives for land use development (e.g. housing, economic, community, transport objectives). • These plans provide strategic frameworks for planning and sustainable development in areas. In alignment with the higher-order National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. • These plans set out the policies and proposals to guide development in other areas in the functional area and adjacent counties	• Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. • Protect and enhance amenities and environment. • Guides planning authorities in assessing proposals. • Aim to guide development in areas • Aim to promote sustainable development in neighbouring and connected areas. • Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031	The overall aim of the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2026-2031 is protecting and restoring biodiversity in the local authority functional area.	The Wicklow BAP provides a structured approach to biodiversity conservation at the county level, with the following aims: • Assess, Protect and Restore Local Biodiversity • Embed Biodiversity in Decision-Making • Build and Strengthen Partnerships • Ensure Resilience for the Future • Monitor, Learn and Adapt	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wicklow Noise Action Plan 2024-2029	The Noise Action Plan is required under the Environmental Noise Directive ("END") (2002/49/EC) which was transported into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 549/2018) and the European Communities (Environmental Noise) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 663/2021). The regulations require Strategic Noise Maps and Noise Action Plans to be made or revised every five years.	The Environmental Noise Directive (END) requires local authorities to draw-up plans of action which will include measures to "address priorities which may be identified by the exceeding of any relevant limit value or by other criteria chosen by the Member State and apply in particular to the most important areas as established by strategic noise mapping." It also requires plans to identify and protect "quiet areas against an increase in noise."	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Wicklow County Climate Action Plan 2024-2029	Ireland's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act (2021) required each local authority to prepare a Local Authority Climate Action Plan to meet national climate targets and develop resilience to the impacts of climate change. The plans are consistent with the most recently approved National Climate Action Plan and National Adaptation Framework. Wicklow County Council has prepared their Climate Action Plan for the period 2024 to 2029 to create a low carbon and climate resilient county, by delivering and promoting best practice in climate action in Wicklow.	The plan demonstrates the ambition, focus and commitment of each local authority to reduce carbon emissions and improve the quality of life for people living, working and studying in each county. The plan is built on a strong evidence base. To help inform the plans, Wicklow County Council developed a Climate Change Risk Assessment which sets out the likely risks in terms of climate change, such as increased rainfall or flooding. They also did a Baseline Emissions Inventory which calculates the emissions within the local authority area and sets out emission by sector such as transport, the built environment and agriculture. As part of its local authority climate action plan, Wicklow County Council is responsible for establishing a decarbonising zone within their local authority area. Decarbonising zones (DZs) are intended to be the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and will help local authorities to identify projects which will contribute to the delivery of the national climate objective.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2024-2029	Provides a roadmap for the next phase of development within the local area. ‘A progressive, sustainable, inclusive and accessible county underpinned by a strong economy.’	Adopts four Strategic High Level Goals: 1. To strengthen and sustain Wicklow as a vibrant County, by delivering key infrastructure, supporting economic growth and innovation, shaping our towns and villages through proper planning and sustainable development. To create quality public realm that contributes to people’s health, happiness and wellbeing. 2. To deliver climate resilient and regenerative biodiversity actions and maximise renewable energy opportunities in the county. Incorporate the Sustainable Development goals into our business strategies and support communities and business to deliver on climate change targets thereby protecting our environment now and for future generations. 3. To develop and strengthen communities by promoting an inclusive, creative, welcoming and safe, natural sustainable environment. To improve the health and quality of life for everyone in County Wicklow by leading, guiding and developing recreational facilities to promote social, health and economic benefit meeting the changing needs of the people of County Wicklow. 4. To strengthen and develop staff to effectively respond to the changing needs of our organization and the evolving environment in which we operate to deliver the best possible service in the most efficient manner.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Draft County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2025-2029	The Plan sets out a framework for heritage activity across the community, volunteer and NGO sectors and for state agencies with a role in Wicklow heritage.	The Plan focuses on the following key strategic themes: • Protecting Our Heritage • Connecting People and Place • Sharing and Celebrating Our Heritage • Collaboration and Partnership • Building and Sharing Knowledge ~ Responding to Climate Change	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029	• Sets out the objectives and actions needed to promote the community and economic development of Wicklow's neighbourhoods and communities.	Not applicable.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Wicklow Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan	Ambition is to develop an attractive and accessible tourist destination where visitors are given the opportunity to seamlessly explore the County's rich history and immerse themselves in the local culture.	Priority actions include: • Develop new accommodation • Develop Key Towns as Visitor Hubs • Masterplan for Glendalough • Grow Thematic Experiences • A Common Narrative	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub- Basin Management Plans	• Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline. • Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status.	• Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland. • Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2022-2042)	It sets out how transport will be developed across the region, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare, over the period of the strategy and has been approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in accordance with the relevant legislation.	They set out a number of core principles deriving from the strategic vision, which are: - Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, national, regional and local needs. - The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country. - The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance. - Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high-quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form. - Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form - Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high-quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan	- Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow - Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically - The Plan refers to the EuroVelo International Cycle Route Network of the European Cyclists Federation is a network of 15 long distance cycle routes connecting and uniting the whole European continent. Two of these routes are in Ireland including EV2 from Galway through Dublin to London, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow.	Aims to identify and determine: - The Urban Cycle Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level - The Inter-Urban Cycle Network linking the relevant sections of the Urban Network including the elements of the National Cycle Network within the Greater Dublin Area including linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and ports The Green Route Network being cycle routes for development of tourist, recreational and leisure purposes.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Protection Schemes	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Local Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans	- Produced by Local Authorities. - Outlines areas local flood risk. - Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level.	Not applicable.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Transport Plans and Strategies	Local Transport Plans and Strategies relevant to a particular local authority functional area provide a more granular framework for the delivery of sustainable transport systems in accordance with higher-level plans.	- To promote sustainable transport. - To promote integrated and proper transport planning. - To promote safe travel. - To promote active travel infrastructural development. - To encourage modal shift.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council. The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Waterford City and County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Tipperary County Council, Wexford County Council, Kerry County Council, Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council. The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its eight constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council, Leitrim County Council, Sligo County Council, Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, and Galway County Council.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes	Aims to improve water quality and ensure the protection or improvement of designated shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth and contribute to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man.	- Identifies key and secondary pressures on water quality in designated shellfish areas. - Outlines specific measures to address identified key and secondary pressures on water quality. - Addresses the specific pressures acting on water quality in each area.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

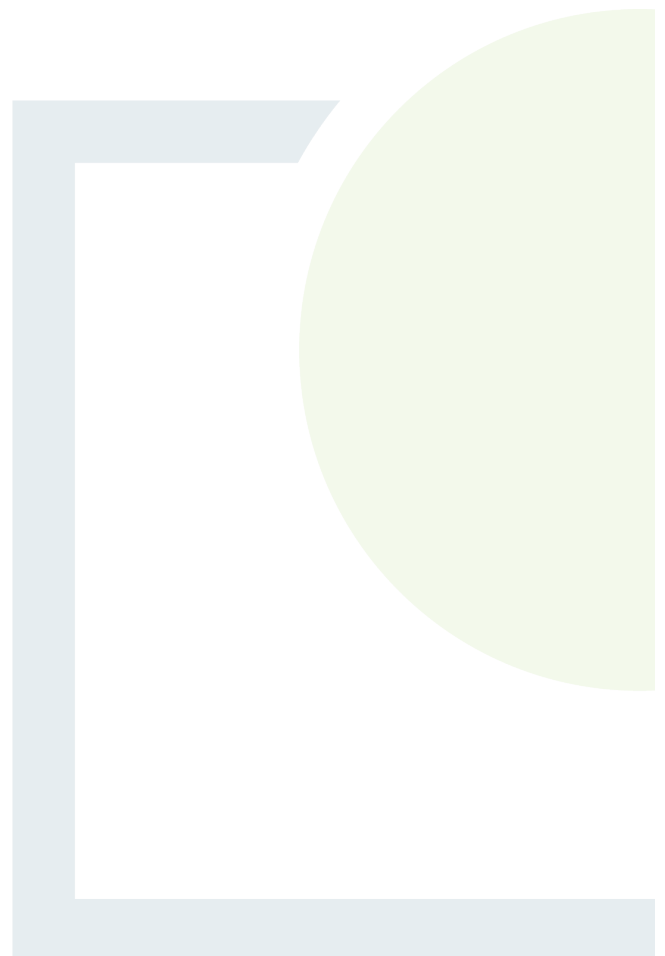
Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
Water Quality Management Plans	• Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained. • Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope.	• Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards. • Outlines management programmes for water catchments. • Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 4

Background information to
European sites



Appendix 4 - Table 1 Quality and site characteristics of European sites considered in NIR

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

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

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

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
			The marine area to a distance of 500 m from the base of the cliffs where seabirds forage bathe and socialise is included in the site.
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	A small but extremely species-rich site with a high diversity of habitats in a predominantly agricultural area. The site is notable for the presence of many petrifying springs for alkaline fen and for wet woodland.	A small glen cut through calcareous sands and gravels with a tributary stream of the Dargle river flowing west to east through it. The site supports a strip of wet woodland a small area of alkaline fen fed by petrifying springs and grades to scrub and dry calcareous grassland on the upper edges of the valley sides.
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	A relatively small but diverse wooded valley notable for the occurrence of good examples of tufa-forming springs and associated alluvial forest. The site is also important for a number of rare plants including <i>Erigeron acer</i> , <i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> and <i>Wahlenbergia hederacea</i> and a particularly diverse woodland invertebrate fauna. Its proximity to Dublin adds to its value as an educational and amenity resource.	A wooded valley cut through calcareous glacial drift with the fast-flowing Glencullen river flowing west to east through it. Vegetation types include broadleaf deciduous woods including wet woodland near the river heath and a number of tufa-forming springs and seepage areas.
004186	The Murrough SPA	The site is of high importance for the good numbers and wide variety of waterfowl species that it holds in winter and on passage. The improved grassland provides feeding for Greylag Geese (<i>Anser anser</i>). This is one of a handful of sites around the south and east coasts at which Reed Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>) has in recent years proved to be a regular breeding species. For some years in the 1980s Bearded Tit (<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>) bred here at its only site in Ireland emphasizing the potential of this site to hold the community of reedswamp species present in Great Britain but largely absent in Ireland. The shingle beach is a breeding site for the country's largest colony of Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) and supports 19% of the all-Ireland population.	The Murrough SPA comprises a coastal wetland complex that stretches for 13 km from Kilcoole Station east of Kilcoole village in the north to Wicklow town in the south and extends inland for up to 1 km. The site includes area of marine water to a distance of 200 m from low water mark. There is a railway on top of the beach and much agricultural reclamation of the marshes/saltmarshes.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
002249	The Murrrough Wetlands SAC	This is the most extensive series of wetland habitats on the east coast with six Annex I habitats occurring. Formerly the area of wetland was more extensive but the integrity of the site has been diminished through drainage agricultural improvement and levelling of sand hills. The railway line has influenced the development of the entire system. It is an important site for winter wildfowl and supports internationally important no's of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> as well as nationally important numbers of several species. <i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Annex I Birds Directive) breeds in the site. Many other Annex I species are also present. The site is also of importance for the populations of rare invertebrate and plant species that it supports.	The site comprises a series of coastal habitats and brackish to freshwater marshes stretching for about 15km. Drainage directly to the sea is impeded along most of the site by a shingle ridge along which runs a railway line. There are two main outlets to the sea and there is seepage into the marshes under the shingle ridge and where breaches occur. Freshwater drains into the site via the Vartry River and many drains. Freshwater springs provide a permanent source of water for a complex fen system. Other habitats present on the site include salt marsh tidal reed bed freshwater reedswamp wet grassland wet woodland mudflat dry heath and dry grassland. Parts of the site are farmed.
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	The site is of national importance for its population of <i>Anser anser</i> which is one of the largest in the country. The site provides the main roost for the birds with feeding mostly on improved grassland outside of the site. A range of other waterfowl species occur in relatively low numbers including <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , <i>Anas penelope</i> and <i>Bucephala clangula</i> . The reservoir attracts roosting gulls during winter most notably a large population of <i>Larus fuscus</i> which in Ireland is rare in winter away from the south coast.	Poulaphouca Reservoir located in the western foothills of the Wicklow Mountains was created in 1944 by damming of the River Liffey for the purpose of generating electricity from hydropower. The reservoir covers an area of approximately 20 square kilometres and is the largest inland water body in the mid-east and south-east regions. The reservoir receives water from two main sources the River Liffey at the northern end and the Kings River at the southern end. The exit is into the Liffey gorge at the western end. Underlying the reservoir are sands and gravels deposited during the last glaciation. The shores of the lake are mostly sandy. When water levels are low exposed lake muds are colonised by an ephemeral flora of annual plant species.
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	The site supports many Annexed habitats including the priority habitats of alluvial woodland and petrifying springs. Quality of habitat is generally good. The site also supports a number of Annex II animal species - <i>Salmo salar</i> , <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> , <i>M.m. durrovensis</i> , <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> , <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> , <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> , <i>Lutra lutra</i> , <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> and <i>L. planeri</i> .	This site consists of most of the freshwater stretches of the Barrow/Nore River catchments. The Barrow is tidal as far upriver as Graiguenamanagh while the Nore is tidal as far upriver as Inishtioge. The site also includes the extreme lower reaches of the River Suir and all of the estuarine component of Waterford Harbour extending to Creadan Head.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		Annex I Bird species include <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> , <i>Falco peregrinus</i> , <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> , <i>Limosa lapponica</i> , <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Alcedo atthis</i> . A range of rare plants and invertebrates are found in the woods along these rivers and rare plants are also associated with the saltmarsh.	The larger of the many tributaries include the Lerr, Fushoge Mountain, Aughavaud Owenass, Boherbaun and Stradbally Rivers of the Barrow and the Delour, Dinin, Erkina, Owveg Munster, Arrigle and King's Rivers on the Nore. Both rivers rise in the Old Red Sandstone of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. They traverse limestone bedrock for a good proportion of their routes though the middle reaches of the Barrow and many of the eastern tributaries run through Leinster Granite. A wide range of habitats associated with the rivers are included within the site including substantial areas of woodland (deciduous mixed) dry heath wet grassland swamp and marsh vegetation salt marshes a small dune system biogenic reefs and intertidal sand and mud flats. Areas of improved grassland arable land and coniferous plantations are included in the site for water quality reasons.
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA	This site is of international importance for several species of waterfowl but also because it regularly supports well in excess of 20000 waterfowl. It is one of the top three sites in the country for numbers and diversity of wintering birds. Of particular importance is that it is one of the two most important sites in the world for <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>. It also has internationally important populations of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>, <i>Cygnus columbarius bewickii</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> and is now one of the few sites in the country which supports a regular flock of <i>Cygnus columbarius bewickii</i>. There is at least a further 22 species of wintering waterfowl which occur in numbers of national importance. Several of these represent substantial proportions of the national totals especially <i>Anas penelope</i> (3.1%), <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> (3.6%), <i>Anas acuta</i> (3.3%), <i>Aythya marila</i> (4.9%), <i>Mergus serrator</i> (4.1%), <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (3.7%), <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (11.3%), <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (5.1%) and <i>Limosa limosa</i> (3.6%). Numbers of wintering birds are	Wexford Harbour is the lowermost part of the estuary of the River Slaney a major river that drains much of the south-east region. The site is divided between the natural estuarine habitats of Wexford Harbour and the reclaimed polders known as the north and south 'slobs'. The seaward boundary extends from the Rosslare peninsula in the south to the area just west of The Raven Point in the north while the inner boundaries of the site extend to Ferraris bridge and towards Castlebridge. Shallow marine water is a principal habitat but at low tide extensive areas of intertidal flats are exposed. These vary from rippled sands in exposed areas to sandy-muds in the more sheltered areas especially at Hopeland and the inner estuary to the west of Wexford bridge. Salt marshes fringe the intertidal flats especially in the sheltered areas. The slobs are two flat areas of farmland mainly arable and pasture grassland empoldered behind 19th century sea-walls.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		often swelled by hard-weather movements from Europe notably <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>. The site is a regular location for <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> during passage and in winter and is regularly visited by a range of other passage waders most notably <i>Tringa glareola</i>, <i>Tringa erythropus</i> and <i>Tringa ochropus</i>. <i>Asio flammeus</i> is a regular visitor in small numbers to the slob during winter. A nesting colony of <i>Egretta garzetta</i> has recently become established within the site and birds are present in the area throughout the year. <i>Passer montanus</i> a Red Data Book species breeds. Part of the North Slob is a Nature Reserve and much of the slob is managed for the benefit of the wintering geese. Monitoring of the wintering birds of the slob extends back to the 1960s and nowadays there is an ongoing monitoring and research programme. The North Slob has a wildfowl collection and an interpretative centre. The site supports <i>Puccinellia fasciculata</i> a Red Data Book species and has a good population of <i>Lepus timidus hibernicus</i>.	The lands are drained by a network of channels which flow into two central channels in parts several hundred metres in width. Water from the channels is pumped into the sea with electric pumps. The channels often support swamp vegetation. Several conifer plantations are included especially on the south slob.
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	This site is of high conservation importance, for supporting internationally important numbers of Light-bellied Brent Goose as well as nationally important populations of a further five species, including Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit, both species that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The inner part of the site is a Statutory Nature Reserve and also designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Regular breeding birds include Shelduck, Mallard and Ringed Plover. In autumn, passage migrants such as Curlew Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank and Green Sandpiper are regular in small numbers. Little Egret, a species which has recently colonised Ireland, also occurs at this site.	Baldoyle Bay is an important site for wintering waterfowl, providing good quality feeding areas and roost sites for an excellent diversity of waterfowl species. Large areas of intertidal flats are exposed at low tide. These are mostly sands but grade to muds in the inner sheltered parts of the estuary. Extensive areas of Common Cord-grass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>) occur in the inner estuary. Both the Narrow-leaved Eelgrass (<i>Zostera angustifolia</i>) and the Dwarf Eelgrass (<i>Z. noltii</i>) are also found here. During summer, the sandflats of the sheltered areas are covered by mats of green algae (<i>Ulva</i> spp.). The sediments have a typical macrofauna, with Lugworm (<i>Arenicola marina</i>) dominating the sandy flats. Areas of saltmarsh occur near Portmarnock Bridge and at Portmarnock Point, with narrow strips found along other parts of the estuary. Species such as Glasswort (<i>Salicornia</i> spp.), Sea-purslane

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
			(<i>Halimione portulacoides</i>), Sea Plantain (<i>Plantago maritima</i>) and Sea Rush (<i>Juncus maritimus</i>) are found here.
004236	North-West Irish Sea SPA	The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for Common Scoter, Red-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Fulmar, Manx Shearwater, Shag, Cormorant, Little Gull, Kittiwake, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Little Tern, Roseate Tern, Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Puffin, Razorbill and Guillemot. Those marine bird species whose estimated abundances equalled or exceeded 1% of the total estimated size of the winter assemblage are: Red-throated Diver (538), Fulmar (506), Little Gull (391), Kittiwake (944), Black-headed Gull (508), Common Gull (2,866), Herring Gull (6,893), Great Black-backed Gull (2,096), Razorbill (4,638) and Guillemot (13,914).	This site constitutes an important resource for marine birds. The estuaries and bays that open into it along with connecting coastal stretches of intertidal and shallow subtidal habitats, provide safe feeding and roosting habitats for waterbirds throughout the winter and migration periods. These areas, along with more pelagic marine waters further offshore, provide additional supporting habitats (for foraging and other maintenance behaviours) for those seabirds that breed at colonies on the north-west Irish Sea's islands and coastal headlands. These marine areas are also important for seabirds outside the breeding period. This SPA extends offshore along the coasts of counties Louth, Meath and Dublin, and is approximately 2,333km² in area. This SPA is ecologically connected to several existing SPAs in this area.

Appendix.7._Table.8.Background.data.for.European.sites.considered.in.the.assessment.including.the.Qualifying.features.(Qualifying.Interests.or.Special.Conservation.Interests).and.the.known.threats.and.pressures.as.recorded.by.the.National.Parks.and.Wildlife.Services.

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	Alkaline fens [7230] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]	D01.02, H01.03, C01.01, A04, E01.02, E01.01, E03.01, A08, A01, B01, H02.01, A10.01	Roads, motorways, Other point source pollution to surface water, Sand and gravel extraction, Grazing, Discontinuous urbanisation, Continuous urbanisation, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Fertilisation, Cultivation, Forest planting on open ground, Groundwater pollution by leakages from contaminated sites, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	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]	E03.01, I01, B01.02, D05, G05.07, G03, E01.02, G02.08, B01, B02.03, G05.06, A04, D01.01, D01.02, G05.04, G01.02	Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Invasive non-native species, Artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), Improved access to site, Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, Interpretative centres, Discontinuous urbanisation, Camping and caravans, Forest planting on open ground, Removal of forest undergrowth, Tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, Grazing, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Roads, motorways, Vandalism, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103] 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] Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106] Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]	A01, J02.11, B02, I01, D03.01.03, J02.12.02, H01.05, K01.01, J02, D01.05, H01, E05, E03, A08, F03.02.04, J02.06, A09, F01.03, C01.01, D01.01, A10.01, J02.05.02,	Cultivation, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Forest and Plantation management & use, Invasive non-native species, Fishing harbours, Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Erosion, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Bridge, viaduct, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Storage of materials, Discharges, Fertilisation, Predator control, Water abstractions from surface waters, Irrigation, Bottom culture, Sand and gravel extraction ,

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029] Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365] Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095] River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Estuaries [1130] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]	F02.03.01, H01.08, H01.01, J02.06.01	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Bait digging or collection, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, Surface water abstractions for agriculture
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Nore Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera.durrovensis</i>) [1990] White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius.pallipes</i>) [1092] Reefs [1170] 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] Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo.salar</i>) [1106] Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes.speciosum</i>) [1421] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] River lamprey (<i>Lampetra.fluviatilis</i>) [1099]	J02.12.02, J03.02.01, J02.05.02, F02.01.02, B02.01.01, E02, C01.03, A04.01.01, J02.02.01, D03.01, F02.03, B02, A10.01, F02, H01, B07, A02.01, C01.01.01, J02.06, J02, I01,	Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Reduction in migration or migration barriers, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Netting, Forest replanting (native trees), Industrial or commercial areas, Peat extraction, Intensive cattle grazing, Dredging or removal of limnic sediments, Port areas, Leisure fishing, Forest and Plantation management & use, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Forestry activities not referred to above, Agricultural intensification, Sand and gravel quarries, Water abstractions from surface waters, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Invasive non-native species, Erosion, Intensive fish

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		Desmoulin`s whorl snail (<i>Vertigo.moulinsiana</i>) [1016] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia.maritimi</i>) [1410] Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra.planeri</i>) [1096] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] European dry heaths [4030] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia.maritimae</i>) [1330] Twaite shad (<i>Alosa.fallax</i>) [1103] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon.marinus</i>) [1095] Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera.margaritifera</i>) [1029] Estuaries [1130] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon.fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] Otter (<i>Lutra.lutra</i>) [1355] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	K01.01, F01.01, B05, M01	farming, intensification , Use of fertilizers (forestry), Changes in abiotic conditions

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC	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 <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] Alkaline fens [7230] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]	C01.01, K01.01, A08, D01.01, G01.02, A04, J02.12.01, J02.05.01, B, E03.02, D01.04	Sand and gravel extraction, Erosion, Fertilisation, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Grazing, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Modification of water flow (tidal & marine currents), Sylviculture, forestry, Disposal of industrial waste, Railway lines, TGV
004006	North Bull Island SPA	Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]	E01.04, D01.02, G03, E03, G02.01, E02, D01.05, F02.03.01, G01.01, E01.01, G01.02, D03.02	Other patterns of habitation, Roads, motorways, Interpretative centres, Discharges, Golf course, Industrial or commercial areas, Bridge, viaduct, Bait digging or collection, Nautical sports, Continuous urbanisation, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Shipping lanes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]		
004024	South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA	Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]	D01.02, G01.01, G01.02, J02.01.02, E03, E01, F02.03, E02, K02.03, F02.03.01	Roads, motorways, Nautical sports, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Discharges, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Leisure fishing, Industrial or commercial areas, Eutrophication (natural), Bait digging or collection
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098]	G01.02, A04, C01.03, G03, B, D01.01	Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Grazing, Peat extraction, Interpretative centres, Sylviculture, forestry, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]	F02.03, D01.05, B01, G01.01, F03.01	Leisure fishing, Bridge, viaduct, Forest planting on open ground, Nautical sports, Hunting
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	Black-legged kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]	G01.02	Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004186	The Murrough SPA	Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195], Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	D01.04, G01.02, A08	Railway lines, TGV, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Fertilisation
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004]	A01, A04, J02.12, D01.02, A08, F03.01, E01, F01, G03, B, G01.02, J02.01.01	Cultivation, Grazing, Dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, Roads, motorways, Fertilisation, Hunting, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Interpretative centres, Sylviculture, forestry, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Polderisation

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]		
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta.bernicla.hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna.tadorna</i>) [A048] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius.hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis.apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis.squatarola</i>) [A141]	A08, E01, G02.01, I01, J02.01.02, D01.02, F02.03.01, F03.01, G01.02, K02.03	Fertilisation, Golf course, Invasive non-native species, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Bait digging / collection, Eutrophication (natural), Hunting, Roads, motorways, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa.lapponica</i>) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]		
004236	North-West Irish Sea SPA	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia.stellata</i>) [A001] Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia.immer</i>) [A003] Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus.glacialis</i>) [A009] Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus.puffinus</i>) [A013] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax.carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax.aristotelis</i>) [A018] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta.nigra</i>) [A065] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus.ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus.canus</i>) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus.fuscus</i>) [A183] Herring Gull (<i>Larus.argentatus</i>) [A184] Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus.marinus</i>) [A187] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa.tridactyla</i>) [A188] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna.dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna.hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna.paradisaea</i>) [A194] Guillemot (<i>Uria.aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca.torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula.arctica</i>) [A204] Little Gull (<i>Hydrocoloeus.minutus</i>) [A862] Little Tern (<i>Sternula.albifrons</i>) [A885]	n/a	n/a

Appendix.7. Table.9. Known threats and pressures related to the qualifying interests from each Special Area of Conservation as per article.7 reporting from the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)	[1016]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)	[1029]	In stream works, hydrological and morphological alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due urbanisation etc. Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)	[1092]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)	[1095]	Barriers to upstream migration (e.g., weirs), which limit access to spawning beds and juvenile habitat are main threats to this species.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity.
Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)	[1096]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.
River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)	[1099]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.
Twaite Shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>)	[1103]	Habitat quality, particularly at spawning sites is the most notable threat to this species.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	[1106]	Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations.	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.
Estuaries	[1130]	Pollution, fishing /aquaculture and habitat quality.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	[1140]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
Reefs	[1170]	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Annual vegetation of drift lines	[1210]	Grazing; sand and gravel extraction; recreational activities; coastal protection works.	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	[1220]	Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	[1310]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	[1330]	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	[1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); hunting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>)	[1365]	Distance to human activities, accidental entanglement in fishing gear competition for prey resources, illegal killing, pollution and habitat degradation.	Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)	[1410]	Over-grazing by cattle or sheep; infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>)	[1421]	Threatened by habitat loss, deliberate collection, encroachment of invasive or vigorous species, or indirectly by water pollution, removal of woodland or alteration of watercourses.	Land use management and direct impacts.
River Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>)	[1990]	In stream works, hydrological and morphological alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due urbanisation etc. Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation (<i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i>)	[3260]	Hydrological and morphological changes, water quality, enrichment, and surface water discharges from industrial site and/or agriculture.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.
European dry heaths	[4030]	Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	[6430]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Calcareous fens with species of <i>mariscus</i> sedge and bog cotton (<i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Caricion davallianae</i>)	[7210]	Hydrological changes, pollution to surface waters, urbanisation, roads development, groundwater interactions, grazing and cultivation practices and the inappropriate use of pesticides.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	[7220]	Ground water interactions, on site management activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Alkaline fens	[7230]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	[91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
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]	Logging, Invasive species, Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests, Problematic native species, Drainage, Modification of hydrological flow.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.

Appendix.7. Table.0. Known threats and pressures related to the qualifying interests from each Special Area of Conservation as per article.7 reporting from the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A001	Red-Throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	A04, C01, C03, F02, G01, H03, I01, J02, J02.06, K03, M02	Grazing, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Water abstractions from surface waters, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions
A003	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	F02, H03, G01, C03	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Renewable abiotic energy use.
A004	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis</i>	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A005	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A009	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	C03, F02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources
A013	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	C03, H03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution, invasive non-native species
A017	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i>	D01	Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A018	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution
A028	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea cinerea</i>	H01, Xxp/Xxt	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A037	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	A02, B01, C03, D02, G01, H07, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other forms of pollution, Changes in biotic conditions
A038	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	A02, A11, C03, D02, G01, H07	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other forms of pollution
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
A046	Light-Bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	A02, A11, C03, D02, F01, G01, G05, H03, H07, I01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other Human intrusions and disturbances , Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A048	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	F01, F02, G01, H03, M01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A050	Wigeon	Anas penelope	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, I01, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A052	Teal	Anas crecca	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A053	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A054	Pintail	Anas acuta	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A056	Shoveler	Anas clypeata	C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A062	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	C03, F01, F02, F03, G01, H01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution
A065	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	A04, C03, F02, G01, H01, H03, I01, K03, M02	Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Invasive non-native species, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions
A067	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, M02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Changes in biotic conditions
A069	Red-Breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A082	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	A02, B01, B02, C01, C03, F03, G01, I01, J01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Forest and Plantation management & use, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species, Fire and Fire suppression, Other Ecosystem Modifications

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A098	Merlin	Falco columbarius	A02, B01, B02, C03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Forest and Plantation management & use, Renewable abiotic energy use, Changes in biotic conditions
A103	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus peregrinus	C03, F03, J03, M02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in biotic conditions
A125	Coot	Fulica atra atra	C03, G01, H01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)
A130	Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A137	Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A140	Golden Plover	Pluvialis apricaria	A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Forest planting on open ground, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Fire and Fire suppression, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A141	Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A142	Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	A02, C03, F01, G01, H03	Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A143	Knot	Calidris canutus	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A144	Sanderling	Calidris alba	C03, F01, G01, H03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions
A149	Dunlin	Calidris alpina	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A156	Black-Tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	A02, C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A157	Bar-Tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A160	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata arquata</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A162	Redhank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A169	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	C03, F01, G01, H03, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A177	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	N/A	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A179	Black-Headed Gull	Larus ridibundus	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A182	Common Gull	Larus canus	H03, F02, C03, J03	Marine water pollution, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Renewable abiotic energy use, Other ecosystem modifications
A183	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	Larus fuscus graellsii	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A184	Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications
[A187]	Great Black-backed Gull	Larus marinus	N/A	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A188	Black-Legged Kittiwake	Rissa tridactyla	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution
A192	Roseate Tern	Sterna dougallii dougallii	C03, D01, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species
A193	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	C03, D01, D03, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species
A194	Arctic Tern	Sterna paradisaea	C03, D01, G01, I01, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species, Changes in abiotic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A195	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons albifrons</i>	C03, D01, I01, I02, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Invasive non-native species, Problematic native species, Changes in abiotic conditions
A199	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution
A395	Greater White-Fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	A02, A04, A06, A11, B01, C03, D02, D05, F01, F03, G01, H03, H07, K03, M01, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Annual and perennial non-timber crops, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Forest planting on open ground, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Improved access to site, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in abiotic conditions, Changes in biotic conditions
A200	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution
A204	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	C03, H03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution, Invasive non-native species
[A999]	Wetland and Waterbirds	N/A	N/A	N/A



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