

CONSOLIDATED NATURA IMPACT REPORT

IN SUPPORT OF THE **APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

FOR THE **LOUGHREA LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024-2030**

for: Galway County Council

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JULY 2024

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030 to be adopted¹ 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”).

In carrying out AA and in preparing this consolidated Natura Impact Report, the Council takes into account the matters specified under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including the following:

- The Natura Impact Report prepared for the Draft Plan (an earlier version of this consolidated document);
- AA Screening of Proposed Material Alterations;
- Written submissions made during the Plan preparation process; and
- Ongoing advice on AA from the Council’s agents.

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

1.2 Legislative Context

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

AA is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European site. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe’s most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

1.3 Approach

The Draft Plan was informed by this NIR (an earlier version of this report) was prepared to accompany it on public display and inform the competent authority on conducting Stage 2 AA. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the NIR to conclude that that the Draft Plan was not foreseen to give rise to any effect on the integrity of any European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects². The Draft Plan and AA NIR were placed on public display and submissions were invited.

Submissions received may result in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan. These alterations were subject to Screening for AA. Taking into account the measures that were integrated into the Draft Plan, it was determined that the Proposed Material Alterations are not foreseen to give rise to any likely significant effect on any European Site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects³.

¹ Incorporating: the Draft Plan; all and any alterations; and all and any further modifications considered by the AA process. Note that non-material changes to individual Plan provisions referenced in this report may be updated during the finalisation of the Plan, including numbering, formatting and graphic design.

² 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.

³ 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.

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and ecological expertise, and is supported by desktop research on national databases including the National Biodiversity Data Centre⁴, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)⁵ and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)⁶ mapping websites (including data collected for the most recent Article 12 and 17 conservation status reporting cycle, 2019).

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

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

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

Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

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

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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

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

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

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor⁷ model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

In the interest of this report, receptors are the ecological features that are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the Plan provision that is known to interact with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the Plan.

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

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009;

⁴ Available at: <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/>

⁵ Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> and <https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba>

⁶ Available at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

⁷ Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off from proposed works; Pathway(s) – e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European sites.

- "Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018;
- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Notice, Journal of the European Union, 2021; and
- Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021.

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

Section 2 Description of the Plan

2.1 Introduction

The Loughrea Local Area Plan⁸ to be adopted sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the town over the years 2024-2030. LAPs are required to be consistent with the Policy and Objectives of the County Development Plan and its Core Strategy, as well as the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial Economic Strategies. The LAP should be read in conjunction with the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, which sets out the overarching development strategy for the County. Where conflicting objectives arise between the County Development Plan and the LAP, the objectives of the County Development Plan shall take precedence.

2.2 Content of the Plan

The LAP sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Loughrea in the context of Project Ireland 2040, the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Western and Northern Region and the Galway County Development Plan. It is informed by Ministerial Guidelines issued pursuant to Section 28 of the Act together with EU requirements regarding SEA and AA. The LAP is set out across three sections as follow:

- Section 1: This section contains the Written Statement for the LAP, which includes a zoning matrix table, the development strategy for the life of the Plan and a suite of Policy Objectives.
- Section 2: This section contains the land use zoning and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Maps.
- Section 3: Local Transport Plan.

2.3 Strategic Aims

As identified in the Plan, the town will fulfil its role identified in the RSES to bring investment into the local economy and also provide employment opportunities in the town and surrounding regions. This can be achieved through the following aims:

- Realising Loughrea's potential as a Self-Sustaining Town as set out in the GCDP 2022 - 2028 and attracting the population target established in the Core Strategy/Settlement Strategy up to 2028 and beyond;
- Secure the delivery of compact growth with critical mass in a consolidated plan area;
- Promote the reuse of existing buildings along with a sustainable level of densities as appropriate depending on the character of the receiving environment and access to services and critical infrastructure such as sustainable means of mobility;
- Support investment in regeneration and other town centre improvement works to maintain Loughrea as an attractive place to live, work and visit;
- Maintaining a strong and vibrant town centre that sustains the ability to attract new businesses and meets the retail and services needs of the town and its surrounding hinterland, in addition to offering a pleasant and attractive environment for shopping, business, recreation and living;
- Focus on the town's historic role as a major employment centre in east County Galway by supporting economic potential and investment in appropriately zoned locations;
- Provide future residential and employment development in Loughrea with supporting services and infrastructure as appropriate, including retail, community and amenity areas;
- Foster economic development and employment creation by optimizing the potential of towns strategic location and enhancing Loughrea's as a place of employment through the provision of a positive and flexible framework for the creation of a new employment;
- Encourage the promotion of sustainable mobility, including walking and cycling, in accordance with the aspirations of the LPT and support the continued provision of investment in public transport;
- Providing a variety of facilities, amenities, and support services for children, youths, adults, and the elderly, including educational, recreational, religious, social, community, and civic needs, to serve a growing community and promote an inclusive and cohesive local community;
- Optimising the potential of Loughrea in encouraging & fostering appropriate economic/tourism development while enhancing the town as a place of employment by setting a positive & flexible framework for the creation of new employment opportunities;
- Protecting and enhancing the heritage and character of Loughrea, including the natural assets, environment, built heritage, public realm, local character, and amenity for the benefit of current and future generations.

⁸ Incorporating: the Draft Plan; all and any alterations; and all and any further modifications considered by the AA process. Note that non-material changes to individual Plan provisions referenced in this report may be updated during the finalisation of the Plan, including numbering, formatting and graphic design.

Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

The following NPWS First Order Site-Specific Conservation Objectives have been considered in the screening:

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

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat⁹ or species¹⁰ at that site have been considered.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km pathway consideration zone to be considered. A review of all sites within this zone has allowed a determination to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of the Plan will not impose effects beyond the 15 km zone. With regard to SPAs within, within 15 km of and downstream of the Plan area, provisions have been integrated into the Plan that will protect these sites from the full range of potential effects. Other SPAs would not be impacted upon due to distances involved.

Details of European sites that occur within the 15 km Pathway Consideration Zone (or beyond if surface or groundwater hydrological pathways are identified) of the Plan area are listed in Table 3.1 and mapped on Figure 3.1. European sites and surface water bodies in Ireland as mapped by the Environmental Protection Agency’s database¹¹ that have surface hydrological connectivity with the Plan area are mapped on Figure 3.2. In addition, Figure 3.3 shows the European sites¹² that are within the same groundwater body¹³ as the Plan area (these can occur beyond the 15 km Pathway Consideration Zone).

⁹ Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

¹⁰ The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

¹¹ Source: EPA datasets (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>). Accessed: October 2023

¹² Special Areas of Conservation with groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests

¹³ Source: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

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

- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Lough Rea SAC [IE0000304] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Lough Rea SPA [IE0004134] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA [IE0004168] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Sonnagh Bog SAC [IE0001913] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Rahasane Turlough SAC [IE0000322] Version 1.
- NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives for Rahasane Turlough SPA [IE0004089] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Peterswell Turlough SAC [IE0000318] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Castletaylor Complex SAC [IE0000242] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Coy SAC [IE0002117] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC [IE0002293] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Ardahan Grassland SAC [IE0002244] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Galway Bay Complex SAC [IE0000268] Version 1.¹⁴
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Inner Galway Bay SPA [IE0004031] Version 1.¹⁵

The assessment considers available conservation objectives. Since conservation objectives focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each site, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential effects of the Plan against the QIs/SCIs of each site. The conservation objectives for each site were consulted throughout the assessment process.

3.3 Screening and Potential Significant Effects

All policies and objectives contained within the Plan are considered in this report with respect to the ecological sensitivities of each of the European sites identified. The sensitivities, threats and pressures of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects identified, and potential pathways for such effects identified above are then examined in Table 3.1 (Screening stage). Where sources within the Plan and pathways for potential significant effects are identified, the European sites concerned will proceed to Stage 2 AA. Potential effects will be assessed in relation to the Conservation Objectives of each QI and SCI and the appropriate corresponding mitigation will be (detailed in Section 5) applied to each potential effect in Table 4.1.

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

The overarching objective of the Plan is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to coordinate and plan the future development of Loughrea. Therefore, the Plan is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites.

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

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

The Plan will provide a framework for the sustainable development of the Loughrea Plan area. Plan elements that could present sources with pathways for potential significant effects to European sites are:

- The Plan's provisions, including those relating to land use zoning, strategies for planning and development, town centre and economic development, sustainable communities, transport and connectivity, local heritage, infrastructure, energy and utilities, which introduce sources for potential effects through construction phase such as habitat loss, light pollution, disturbance effects and hydrological interactions through surface hydrological connectivity (Figure 3.2) and/or shared groundwater sources (Figure 3.3);

¹⁴ This SAC is surface hydrologically connected the Plan area, but beyond 15km pathway consideration zone.

¹⁵ This SPA is surface hydrologically connected the Plan area, but beyond 15km pathway consideration zone.

- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss/fragmentation, light pollution, disturbance effects and interactions with water quality (surface and/or groundwater); and
- Increases in visitor numbers to ecologically sensitive areas during the operational phase of developments which have potential to introduce sources for significant effects, such as recreational and tourism developments.

All policies and objectives within the Plan are considered in this assessment with respect to the ecological sensitivities of each of the European sites identified. Considering the sensitivities/vulnerabilities of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects and potential pathways for such effects. Where sources and pathways for potential significant effects are identified, these potential effects will be assessed in relation to the SSCOs.

3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 examines whether there is a likelihood of potential for significant effects on European sites, considering: information on potential effects provided above; the Conservation Objectives for each site; each site's QIs and SCIs; and their threats and pressures – as provided in Appendix I. Sites are screened based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

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

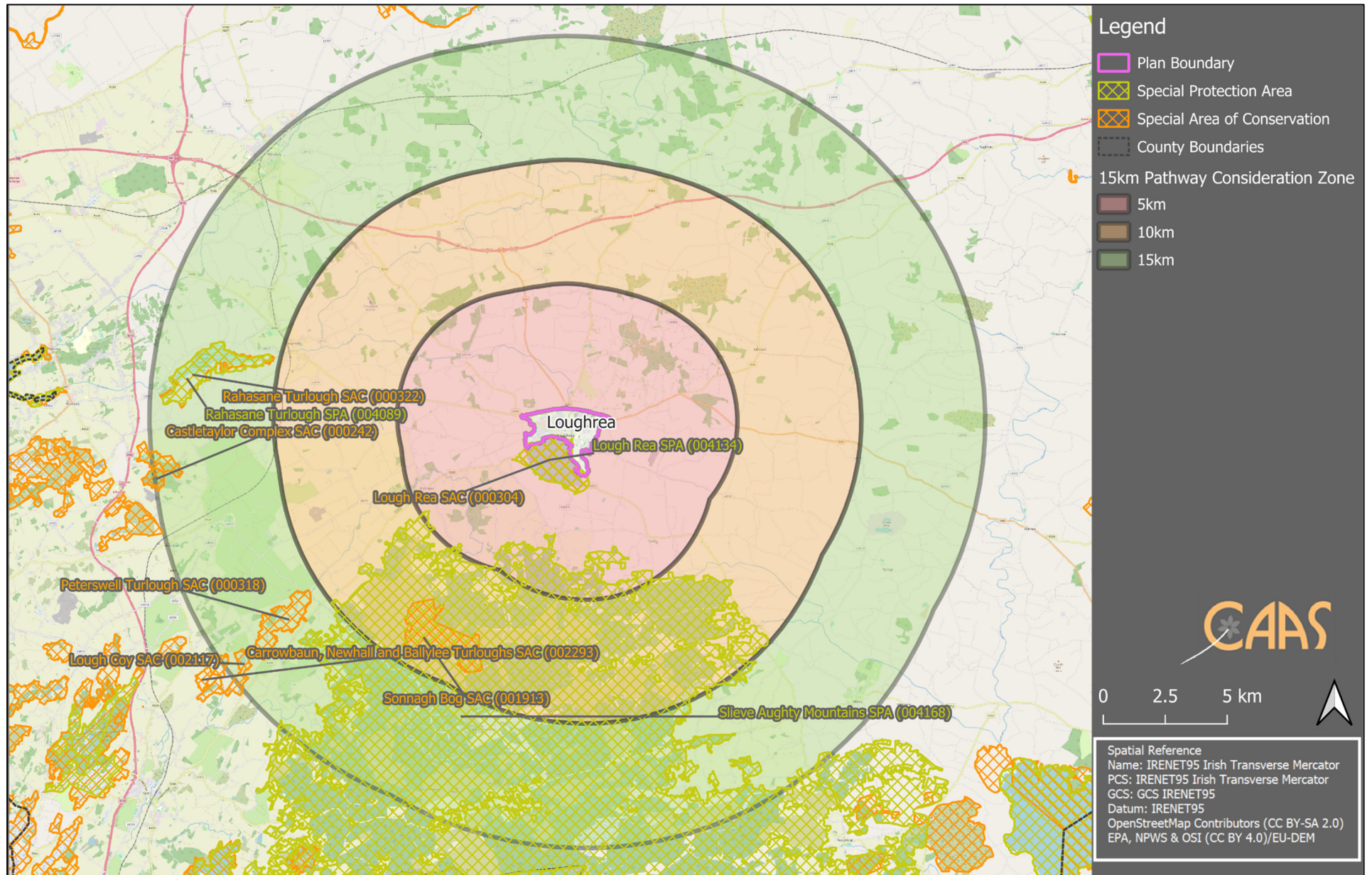


Figure 3.1 European sites and Pathway Consideration Zones up to 15 km from the Plan area¹⁶

¹⁶ Source: NPWS

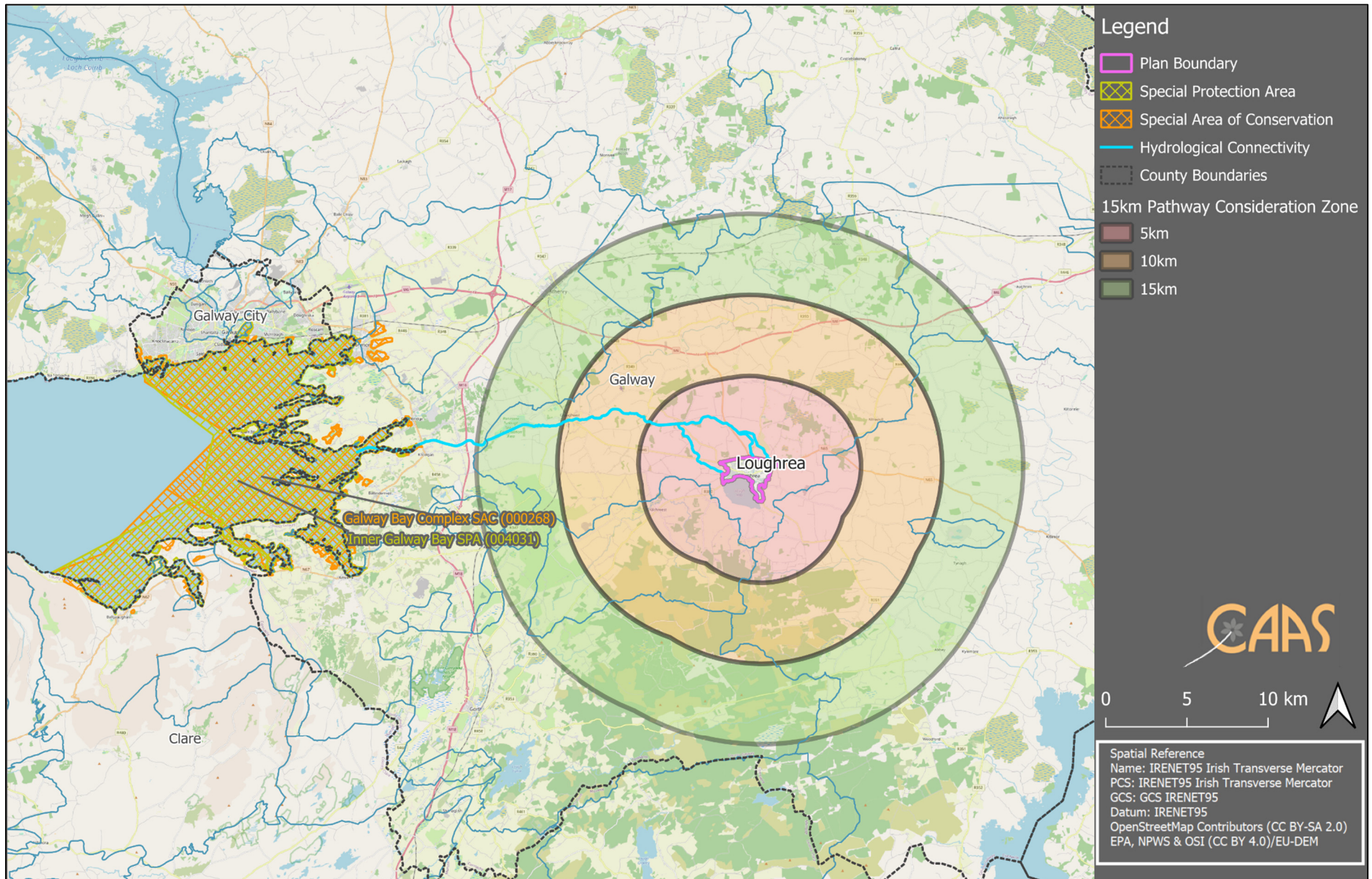


Figure 3.2 European sites with surface hydrological connectivity¹⁷ to the Plan Boundary area

¹⁷ Source: EPA datasets – accessed at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

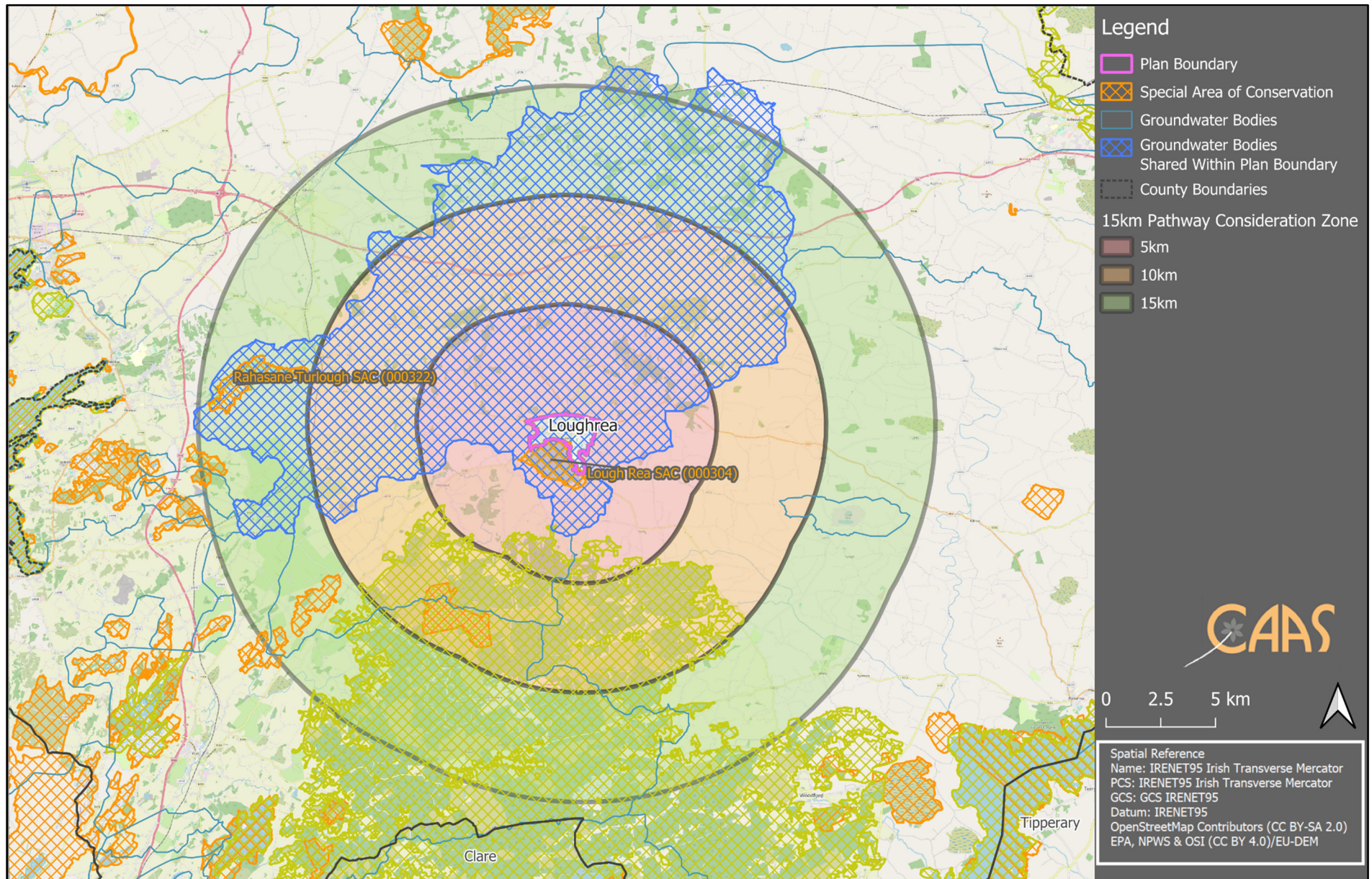


Figure 3.3 European sites¹⁸ occurring within the same groundwater bodies¹⁹ as the Plan area

¹⁸ Special Areas of Conservation and/or Special Protection Areas with groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests

¹⁹ Source: EPA datasets – accessed at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

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

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature ²⁰	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
000304	Lough Rea SAC	Within	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions. This site exists within the Plan boundary. Considering the QI of this SAC, and given that the SAC is within the Plan boundary, sources for potential significant effect have been identified for direct land use management activities and for hydrological interactions, via both groundwater and surface hydrological interactions, within the Plan. Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics²¹; and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams²². It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water²³. However, given that this SAC exists within the Plan boundary, a pathway for likely significant effects via groundwater has been identified as: the SAC and Plan boundary are within the same groundwater body²⁴ (Figure 3.3); and sources for potential effects regarding groundwater interactions have been identified in the Plan. Thus, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site, resulting from the implementation of the Plan, have been identified. As a result, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Report is required.	Yes	Yes
004134	Lough Rea SPA	Within	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125], Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, direct land use management activities and disturbance effects. This site exists within the Plan boundary. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects^{25,26}. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year^{27,28}. However, given that This site exists within the Plan boundary, pathways for potential significant effects via disturbance effects have been identified, and sources for potential effects regarding disturbance to SCI species have been identified in the Plan. Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and this site lies within the Plan boundary, there are sources with pathways of potential significant effect via direct land use management activities and hydrological interactions. Thus, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site, resulting from the implementation of the Plan, have been identified. As a result, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Report is required.	Yes	Yes
004168	Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA	2.56	Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082], Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance effects. This site exists 2.56 km outside of the Plan area.	No	No

²⁰ Qualifying Interest or Special Conservation Interest

²¹ Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

²² Silva, A.C.F. *et al.* 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

²³ Lasagna, M. *et al.* 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.

²⁴ EPA groundwater datasets. Available at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

²⁵ Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.

²⁶ Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.

²⁷ Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 284(1858), p.20170846.

²⁸ Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. *Ibis*, 162(3), pp.845-862.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature ²⁰	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
				SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects^{29,30}. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year^{31,32}. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for potential significant effects via disturbance effects identified. These SCI species are highly vagile and therefore may utilise ex-situ ecological resources which may have interactions with the Plan; however, at this scale landscape characteristics and the availability of alternate resources ensure the local scale interactions with ex-situ resources are not likely to have potential significant effects on the SPA. Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no pathways for potential significant effects via direct land use management or disturbance effects on the SPA. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects identified and no further assessment is required.		
001913	Sonnagh Bog SAC	7.12	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 7.12 km outside of the Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Plan boundary and this European site. Considering the QI of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, and the distances involved, there are no potential pathways for direct land use management effects, as the site is outside of the Plan boundary. In addition, there are no direct surface or groundwater hydrological pathways between the site and the Plan boundary, therefore, there are no sources for potential significant effect for hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects identified and no further assessment is required.	No	No
000322	Rahasane Turlough SAC	9.99	Turloughs [3180]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 9.99 km outside of the Plan area. There is a direct surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this site. In addition, this European site has groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests and shares the same groundwater body as the Plan area (Figure 3.3). Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics³³, and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams³⁴. It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water³⁵. Considering the distance between the Plan area, there is considerable dilution effect, and therefore no potential for significant effects to the QI identified. Considering the QI of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan, and the distances involved, there are no potential sources for direct land use management effects as the site is outside of the Plan boundary. There are also no potential sources for likely significant effects to groundwater interactions due to the distance between the Plan area and the SAC. However, a pathway for potential significant effects has been identified via a direct surface hydrological connection with the Plan area, and sources for likely significant effects have been identified for hydrological interactions within the Plan.	Yes	Yes

²⁹ Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.

³⁰ Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.

³¹ Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 284(1858), p.20170846.

³² Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. *Ibis*, 162(3), pp.845-862.

³³ Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.

³⁴ Silva, A.C.F. *et al.* 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 97, pp.38-43.

³⁵ Lasagna, M. *et al.* 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, 70(6), pp.2767-2784.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature ²⁰	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
				Thus, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site, resulting from the implementation of the Plan, have been identified. As a result, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Report is required.		
004089	Rahasane Turlough SPA	10.05	Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, direct land use management activities and disturbance effects. This site exists 10.05 km outside of the Plan boundary. There is a direct surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this site. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects^{36,37}. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year^{38,39}. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for potential significant effects via disturbance effects identified. Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or disturbance effects on the SPA. However, a pathway for potential significant effects has been identified via a direct surface hydrological connection with the Plan area, and sources for potential significant effects have been identified for hydrological interactions within the Plan. Thus, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site, resulting from the implementation of the Plan, have been identified. As a result, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Report is required.	Yes	Yes
000318	Peterswell Turlough SAC	10.46	Turloughs [3180], Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidention</i> p.p. vegetation [3270]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 10.46 km outside of the Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Plan boundary and this European site. Considering the QIs of this SAC and given the nature of the Plan and the distances involved, there are no potential pathways for direct land use management effects, as the site is outside of the Plan boundary. In addition, there are no direct surface hydrological or groundwater pathways between the site and the Plan boundary, therefore, there are no pathways for potential significant effect for hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects identified and no further assessment is required.	No	No
000242	Castletaylor Complex SAC	13.55	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Turloughs [3180], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Limestone pavements [8240]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions. This site exists 13.55 km outside of the Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Plan boundary and this European site. Considering the QIs of this SAC and given the nature of the Plan and the distances involved, there are no potential pathways for direct land use management effects, as the site is outside of the Plan boundary. In addition, there are no direct surface hydrological or groundwater pathways between the site and the Plan boundary, therefore, there are no pathways for potential significant effect for hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects identified and no further assessment is required.	No	No
002117	Lough Coy SAC	13.96	Turloughs [3180]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 13.96 km outside of the Plan area. There is no direct	No	No

³⁶ Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.

³⁷ Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.

³⁸ Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.

³⁹ Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature ²⁰	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
				surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Plan boundary and this European site. Considering the QI of this SAC and given the nature of the Plan and the distances involved, there are no potential pathways for direct land use management effects, as the site is outside of the Plan boundary. In addition, there are no direct surface hydrological or groundwater pathways between the site and the Plan boundary, therefore, there are no pathways for potential significant effect for hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects identified and no further assessment is required.		
002293	Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC	14.64	Turloughs [3180]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 14.64 km outside of the Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Plan boundary and this European site. Considering the QI of this SAC and given the nature of the Plan and the distances involved, there are no potential pathways for direct land use management effects, as the site is outside of the Plan boundary. In addition, there are no direct surface hydrological or groundwater pathways between the site and the Plan boundary, therefore, there are no pathways for potential significant effect for hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects identified and no further assessment is required.	No	No
002244	Ardrahan Grassland SAC	14.93	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Limestone pavements [8240]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities. This site exists 14.93 km outside of the Plan area. Considering the QIs of this SAC and given the nature of the Plan and the distances involved, there are no potential pathways for direct land use management effects, as the site is outside of the Plan boundary. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects identified and no further assessment is required.	No	No
000268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	18.09	Reefs [1170], Turloughs [3180], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Alkaline fens [7230], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Coastal lagoons [1150], Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Limestone pavements [8240], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities. hydrological interactions and groundwater interactions. This site exists 18.09 km outside of the Plan area. There is a direct surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Plan boundary and this European site. Considering the QIs of this SAC and given the nature of the Plan and the distances involved, there are no potential pathways for direct land use management effects, as the site is outside of the Plan boundary. There is a direct surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and the SAC, however, there is a considerable dilution effect due to the distances involved. Therefore, there are no pathways with a likelihood for potential significant effect for hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects identified and no further assessment is required.	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature ²⁰	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	18.26	Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A674], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003], Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Black-throated Diver (<i>Gavia arctica</i>) [A002], Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, direct land use management activities and disturbance effects. This site exists 102.27 km outside of the Plan area. There is a direct surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this site. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects^{40,41}. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year^{42,43}. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no pathways for potential significant effects via disturbance effects identified. These SCI species are highly vagile and therefore may utilise ex-situ ecological resources which may have interactions with the Plan; however, at this scale landscape characteristics and the availability of alternate resources ensure the local scale interactions with ex-situ resources are not likely to have significant effects on the SPA. Considering the SCIs of this SPA and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or disturbance effects on the SPA. There is a direct surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and the SPA, however, there is a considerable dilution effect due to the distances involved. Therefore, there are no pathways for potential significant effect for hydrological interactions to the SPA. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects identified and no further assessment is required.	No	No

⁴⁰ Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.

⁴¹ Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.

⁴² Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.

⁴³ Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.

3.4 In Combination Effects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the likelihood for potential significant effects on European sites. Appendix II outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the Plan to cause in-combination effects on European sites, such as the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, the Galway Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 and the Galway Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. These plans and programmes were considered throughout the assessment.

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

Additional information on the relationship with other plans and programmes is provided at Appendix II.

3.5 Conclusion

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

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have likely significant effects on 4 (no.) European sites.

Therefore, under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, a Stage 2 AA is required for the Draft Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030. An AA Screening Determination undertaken by the planning authority is provided at Figure 3.4.

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Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Determination

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

Emerging Draft Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030

In order to comply with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, this determination has been made by Galway County Council relating to the potential for the emerging Draft Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030 to have effects on the integrity European Sites.

In making the determination that Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required, the information on the potential effects on the integrity of European Sites arising from the emerging Draft Plan has been taken into account (this information will be placed on public display in the Natura Impact Report alongside the emerging Draft Plan). The process of screening for AA began at an early stage in the drafting of the Plan. The screening process assessed whether the emerging Draft Plan had the potential to have effects on the integrity of any European Site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The screening process concluded that an AA of the emerging Draft Plan would be required, as the Plan: is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites; and may, on the basis of objective information, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects, if unmitigated have adverse effects on the integrity of 4 (no.) European Sites.

Factors that could potentially affect the integrity of European Sites include:

- The Plan's provisions, including those relating to land use zoning, strategies for planning and development, town centre and economic development, sustainable communities, transport and connectivity, local heritage, infrastructure, energy and utilities, which introduce sources for potential effects through construction phase such as habitat loss, light pollution, disturbance effects and hydrological interactions through surface hydrological connectivity and/or shared groundwater sources;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss/fragmentation, light pollution, disturbance effects and interactions with water quality (surface and/or groundwater); and
- Increases in visitor numbers to ecologically sensitive areas during the operational phase of developments which have potential to introduce sources for significant effects, such as recreational and tourism developments.

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

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that it could not be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the emerging Draft Plan, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects would have a likely adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site. Therefore, an AA is required.

Signatory:

Brendan Dune A/S EP.

Date: 20.11.2023

Valerie Fayh SP.

Figure 3.4 Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination

Section 4 Informing Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

4.1 Introduction

This Natura Impact Report is compiled to inform the competent authority on Stage 2 of the AA process, and in assessing whether the Plan, alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, may result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 4 (no.) European sites brought forward from screening (for more information refer to Section 3 above) – i.e., those sites considered in Table 3.1, for which a “Likelihood of Significant Effects” and/or “Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effects” has been identified, with respect to site structure, function, Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests, and Conservation Objectives of each European site considered.

4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

Screening for AA (for more information refer to Section 3 above) identified 4 (no.) European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Plan. Appendix I characterises each of the 4 (no.) European sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each sites’ Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests, and Conservation Objectives (as listed by the NPWS⁴⁴).

4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Adverse Effects⁴⁵

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts⁴⁶:

Direct and Indirect Impacts - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a Plan/Project.

Magnitude - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.

Extent - The area over that the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.

Duration - The time that the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.

- Temporary: Up to 1 Year;
- Short Term: The effects would take 1-7 years to be mitigated;
- Medium Term: The effects would take 7-15 years to be mitigated;
- Long Term: The effects would take 15-60 years to be mitigated; and
- Permanent: The effects would take 60+ years to be mitigated.

Likelihood – The probability of the effect occurring taking into account all available information.

- Certain/Near Certain: >95% chance of occurring as predicted;
- Probable: 50-95% chance as occurring as predicted;
- Unlikely: 5-50% chance as occurring as predicted; and
- Extremely Unlikely: <5% chance as occurring as predicted.

Ecologically Significant Impact - An impact (negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographic area.

Integrity of a Site - The coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

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

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

⁴⁴ Available at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>.

⁴⁵ Note that non-material changes to individual Plan provisions referenced in this report may be updated during the finalisation of the Plan, including numbering, formatting and graphic design.

⁴⁶ These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2016) “Guidelines for ecological impact assessment”; Environmental Protection Agency (2002) “Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements”; and National Roads Authority (2009) “Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes”.

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

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

A First Order Site-Specific Conservation Objective for SACs:

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

A First Order Site-Specific Conservation Objective for SPAs:

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

4.3.1 Types of potential effects

Assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted utilising a standard source-pathway model (see approach referred to under Sections 1.3 and 3).

The 2002 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.); and climate change.

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

4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

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

Various measures have been integrated into the Draft Plan, in alignment with the policies and objectives of the existing Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, with the objective of ensuring that there are no adverse effects on the ecological integrity of any European site. In addition, the Plan introduces measures that ensure that all projects arising from the implementation of the Plan will undergo AA and EIA assessments where required. These policies ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites, and are provided in Section 5 below.

4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

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

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

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

4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

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

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

4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density

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

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

4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

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

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

4.3.1.6 Climate change

Climate provisions within the existing Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 with which the Plan is aligned, provide for policies that will ensure alignment with and adherence to emissions targets locally and nationally. The Local Area Plan includes various provisions, as listed in Section 5 below, that will help to contribute towards climate mitigation, the reduction of emissions and meeting climate targets. Therefore, at the Plan level, greenhouse gas emissions arising from the Plan 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.

Table 4.1 Characterisation of Adverse Effects arising from the Plan

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of adverse effects against mitigation measures
000304	Lough Rea SAC	The known threats to this site are: storage of materials, disposal of inert materials, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, flooding and rising precipitations, agricultural intensification, continuous urbanisation, pollution to surface waters by storm overflows, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, forest planting on open ground (native trees), invasive non-native species, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and wastewaters. These pressures relate to: direct land use management, flood risk management, agriculture, urbanisation, pollution, human habitation, forestry, invasive species, waste and wastewater. There are no provisions in the Plan which introduce sources for potential effect from forestry to this European site as a result of implementation of the Plan, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan does present sources for potential adverse effects from direct land use management, flood risk management, agriculture, urbanisation, pollution, human habitation, invasive species, waste and wastewater, and direct pathways have been identified due to the direct hydrological connection with Lough Rea SAC and SPA and the Plan boundary and that part of this SAC is within the Plan boundary. Therefore, the following mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to ensure no adverse effects occur to this European site as a result of the implementation of the Plan: - No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to implementation of the Plan within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as LSST 37, LSST 63, LSST 64, and, LSST 65 and compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding maintenance of supporting or connecting habitat for European sites via policy LSST 83 of the Plan. - The Plan also provides for the appropriate management of flood risk zones and measures to mitigate against flood risk within the Plan area via policies such as: LSST 67, LSST 68, LSST 69, LSST 72, and, LSST 73 and compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding maintenance of supporting or connecting habitat for European sites via Policy LSST 83 of the Plan. - Agriculture will be appropriately managed in Plan area through policies such as LSST 29 and compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding maintenance of supporting or connecting habitat for European sites via Policy LSST 83 of the Plan. - The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards and services throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: LSST 32, LSST 33 and LSST 70 and compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding maintenance of supporting or connecting habitat for European sites via Policy LSST 83 of the Plan. - The appropriate and sustainable management of waste and wastewater within the Plan boundary is ensured with policies such as: LSST 31 and LSST 78, and compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding waste management via policy LSST 83 of the Plan. - Human habitation and urbanisation will be appropriately managed in Plan area through policies such LSST 74 surrounding water quality and development proposals; LSST 71 regarding restricting inappropriate development around waterways; and, compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding maintenance of supporting or connecting habitat for European sites via Policy LSST 83 of the Plan. - The control and management of the spread and occurrence of invasive species is ensured via compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding invasive species via policy LSST 83 of the Plan. For further details in relation to mitigation measures/Policy Objectives incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
000322	Rahasane Turlough SAC	The known threats to this site are: management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, hunting, fertilisation, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, modification of hydrographic functioning, disposal of inert materials, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and wastewaters, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, agricultural intensification, intensive mixed animal grazing, removal of hedges and copses or scrub. These pressures relate to: direct land use management, land take, leisure activities, agriculture, pollution, waste, wastewater, hydrological changes and forestry. There are no provisions in the Plan which introduce sources for potential effect from forestry or leisure activities to this European site as a result of implementation of the Plan, therefore there are no sources for effects in these regards. The Plan does present sources for potential adverse effects from direct land use management, agriculture, pollution, waste, wastewater, and hydrological changes, and a direct pathway has been identified due to the direct hydrological connection. Therefore, the following mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to ensure no adverse effects occur to this European site as a result of the implementation of the Plan: - No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to implementation of the Plan within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as LSST 37, LSST 63, LSST 64, and, LSST 65 and compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding maintenance of supporting or connecting habitat for European sites via Policy LSST 83 of the Plan. - Agriculture will be appropriately managed in Plan area through policies such as LSST 29 and compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding maintenance of supporting or connecting habitat for European sites via Policy LSST 83 of the Plan. - The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards and services throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: LSST 32, LSST 33 and LSST 70 and compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding maintenance of supporting or connecting habitat for European sites via Policy LSST 83 of the Plan. - The appropriate and sustainable management of waste and wastewater within the Plan boundary is ensured with policies such as: LSST 31 and LSST 78, and compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding waste management via policy LSST 83 of the Plan. For further details in relation to mitigation measures/Policy Objectives incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of adverse effects against mitigation measures
004089	Rahasane Turlough SPA	The known threats to this site are: grazing, fertilisation, hunting. These pressures relate to: agriculture, pollution and leisure activities. There are no provisions in the Plan which introduce sources for potential effect from leisure activities to this European site as a result of implementation of the Plan, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan does present sources for potential adverse effects from agriculture and pollution, and a direct pathway has been identified due to the direct hydrological connection. Therefore, the following mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to ensure no adverse effects occur to this European site as a result of the implementation of the Plan: - Agriculture will be appropriately managed in Plan area through policies such as LSST 29 and compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding maintenance of supporting or connecting habitat for European sites via policy LSST 83 of the Plan. - The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards and services throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: LSST 32, LSST 33 and LSST 70 and compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding maintenance of supporting or connecting habitat for European sites via policy LSST 83 of the Plan. For further details in relation to mitigation measures/Policy Objectives incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
004134	Lough Rea SPA	The known threats to this site are: leisure fishing, sylviculture, forestry, urbanised areas, human habitation, fertilisation, hunting, nautical sports. These pressures relate to: leisure activities and tourism, forestry, urbanisation, human habitation, agriculture and pollution. There are no provisions in the Plan which introduce sources for potential effect from forestry to this European site as a result of implementation of the Plan, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan does present sources for potential adverse effects from urbanisation, leisure activities and tourism, human habitation, agriculture and pollution, and direct pathways have been identified due to the direct hydrological connection with Lough Rea SAC and SPA and that part of this SPA is within the Plan boundary. Therefore, the following mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to ensure no adverse effects occur to this European site as a result of the implementation of the Plan: - Human habitation and urbanisation will be appropriately managed in Plan area through policies such LSST 74 surrounding water quality and development proposals; LSST 71 regarding restricting inappropriate development around waterways; and, compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding maintenance of supporting or connecting habitat for European sites via policy LSST 83 of the Plan. - Agriculture will be appropriately managed in Plan area through policies such as LSST 29 and compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding maintenance of supporting or connecting habitat for European sites via policy LSST 83 of the Plan. - The provision and maintenance of good water quality standards and services throughout the Plan area relative to pollutants is provided for via policies such as: LSST 32, LSST 33 and LSST 70 and compliance with the current Galway County Development Plan's policies and objectives regarding maintenance of supporting or connecting habitat for European sites via policy LSST 83 of the Plan. - The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through policy objectives such as: policies LSST 24, LSST 26, LSST 27 and LSST 28. For further details in relation to mitigation measures/Policy Objectives incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.

Section 5 Mitigation Measures

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

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

All mitigation measures apply to all developments and European sites, as relevant, to be determined at project level, when the nature, location, size, layout and operational processes associated with individual and combinations of projects are known.

Table 5.1 Measures that will protect European sites and their sustaining resources integrated into the Plan

Sources and/or pathways for adverse effects ⁴⁷	Respective Plan Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
Alignment with County Development Plan	LSST 83 Development Management Standards, Guidelines and Other Provisions Ensure that all of the provisions and general development management standards and guidelines set out in the current Galway County Development Plan 2022 - 2028, or any subsequent variation or review shall apply as appropriate in the plan area. Provisions from the County Development Plan identified as mitigation in the SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report shall apply regardless of whether the County Development Plan expires and/or is reviewed. In addition, any specific development management guidelines set out within this Local Area Plan shall also be applied, as appropriate, to development proposals in the plan area.
Natural Heritage and Biodiversity	LSST 3 Environmental Assessment To require the preparation and assessment of all planning applications in the plan area to have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report that accompany this LAP. LSST 28 Water-Based Tourism The Council will support, subject to meeting the requirements of relevant Irish Planning and European environmental legislation including the Habitats Directive, the development of the necessary infrastructure and amenities to support water-based tourism within the plan area. The Council shall: - Collaborate with Waterways Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and other relevant agencies in enhancing water-based tourism for the Loughrea town and surrounding region. - Liaise with local organisations in the promotion of Lough Rea as a tourist attraction enabling the area to thrive off an inland water way feature. - Continue to implement the necessary policy objectives in terms of the SEA and AA mitigation measures for the Lough Rea Lake and environs. LSST 37 Green Network and the Landscape Support the development of a network of amenities, open spaces and natural areas that support biodiversity, that incorporate existing landscape features such as local rivers, streams, trees, stone walls and hedgerows, that provide pedestrian and cycling linkages and active and passive recreation opportunities, that help to structure and provide relief from the built environment and that can provide areas for surface water attenuation and flood risk management. LSST 40 Design Statements Require design statements with all large scale or sensitively located development proposals, such as in close proximity to an ACA, protected structure, natural heritage designation, significant public amenity, elevated position or visually vulnerable area, and in the case of any other development proposals where this is considered necessary by the planning authority. Design statements should include a site appraisal examining the location, context, landscape/townscape setting, accessibility, features and characteristics of the development site, which should be used to inform the selection of appropriate development forms and design responses and the incorporation and provision of any important landscape features in the layout and design of the development. Design statements should be succinct documents that include both text and supporting graphics demonstrating how the site context and characteristics and design principles, policies and objectives have been addressed in the design and layout of the development proposal. LSST 63 European Sites Protect European sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), that form part of the Natural 2000 Network, in accordance with the requirements in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011) (and any subsequent amendments or updated legislation) and having due regard to the guidance in the Appropriate Assessment Guidelines 2010 (and any updated/superseding guidance). A plan or project (e.g., proposed development) within the plan area will only be authorised after the competent authority (Galway County Council) has ascertained, based on scientific evidence and a Appropriate Assessment where necessary, that: - The plan or project will not give rise to adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any European Sites (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or - The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites (that does not host a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of European Sites; or - The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites (that hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of European Sites. LSST 64 Trees, Parkland/Woodland and Hedgerows - Protect important trees, tree clusters and hedgerows in the plan area and ensure that development proposals take cognisance of significant trees/tree stands. Ensure that all planting schemes use suitable native variety of trees (excluding Ash). - Seek to retain natural boundaries, including stone walls, hedgerows and tree boundaries, wherever possible and replace with a boundary type similar to the existing boundary where removal is unavoidable. Discourage the felling of mature trees where possible. All works to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Forestry Act, 1946 (as amended). - Carry out a tree survey on important tree stands within the plan area by suitably qualified personnel. LSST 65 Biodiversity & Ecological Networks Support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the Plan Area, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, rivers, streams, natural springs, peatlands, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or steppingstones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive: - Seek to retain and/or incorporate these natural features into developments, in order to avoid ecological fragmentation and maintain ecological corridors and stepping stones. - Protect and enhance the water quality and ecology of St. Cleran's River and its tributary to the east, and their function as ecological corridors, by maintaining the existing banks and channel and ensuring that new developments are set back at least 10m from the top of the bank of the stream. - Ensure greater biodiversity through the appropriate planting of native trees, shrubs and hedgerows indigenous to the Loughrea area and of Irish provenance in public and private areas and in new developments.

⁴⁷ The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e., a measure providing for the protection of water could beneficially impact upon the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, for example. All of the measures included in this table would benefit the protection of European sites.

Sources and/or pathways for adverse effects ⁴⁷	Respective Plan Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	LSST 71 Protection of Waterbodies and Watercourses Protect waterbodies and watercourses within the County from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in the riverine, wetland and coastal areas as appropriate. To contribute towards protection and improvement of the status of surface and ground waters in accordance with the Water Framework Directive. Applications for development under the Plan must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not adversely affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive, individually as a result of the proposed development or cumulatively, in combination with other developments. LSST 74 River Basin Management Plan and Protection of Waters Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the National River Basin Management Plan or any other plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of this Local Area Plan. Development shall only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface water, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated wetlands. Galway County Council will contribute towards the protection and, where necessary, the restoration of all water bodies in order to reach good status, and will seek to prevent deterioration in the status of all water bodies.
Peatlands, wetlands and surface water courses	LSST 71 Protection of Waterbodies and Watercourses Protect waterbodies and watercourses within the County from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in the riverine, wetland and coastal areas as appropriate. To contribute towards protection and improvement of the status of surface and ground waters in accordance with the Water Framework Directive. Applications for development under the Plan must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not adversely affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive, individually as a result of the proposed development or cumulatively, in combination with other developments. LSST 74 River Basin Management Plan and Protection of Waters Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the National River Basin Management Plan or any other plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of this Local Area Plan. Development shall only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface water, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated wetlands. Galway County Council will contribute towards the protection and, where necessary, the restoration of all water bodies in order to reach good status, and will seek to prevent deterioration in the status of all water bodies.
Water services, groundwater and water quality	DM Standard 2: Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS): Nature based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas Best Practice Interim Guidance Document. LSST 2 Service - Led Development Development under the plan shall be preceded by sufficient capacity in the public wastewater infrastructure and potable water infrastructure. Potential developers shall make a Pre-Connection Enquiry to Uisce Éireann in order to establish the feasibility of a connection to the public network. LSST 31 Water Supply, Wastewater and Combined Drainage Infrastructure Support Uisce Éireann in the provision and maintenance of adequate wastewater disposal and water supply and the maintenance of existing combined (sewage and surface water) drainage infrastructure, in accordance with EU Directives, to service Loughrea. This will include satisfactory capacity for public wastewater and a satisfactory quantity and quality of water supply, Sustainable Drainage System and approaches and techniques with the plan area shall also be supported. The removal of surface water from combined drainage infrastructure is strongly encouraged in order to free up capacity for future development. LSST 32 Water Supply and Water Conservation Ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with a suitable quantity and quality of drinking water supply, promote water conservation to reduce the overall level of water loss in the public supply and require that new domestic developments provide for water supply metering in accordance with their connection agreement with Uisce Éireann. LSST 33 Connections to the Public Sewer and Public Water Mains Developments shall connect to the public sewer and public water mains, subject to a connection agreement with Uisce Éireann, to protect all waters in the plan area, consolidate the urban structure and control ribbon development along approach roads into Loughrea. LSST 65 Biodiversity & Ecological Networks Support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the Plan Area, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, rivers, streams, natural springs, peatlands, wetlands, stone walls, geological and geo-morphological systems, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or steppingstones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive: - Seek to retain and/or incorporate these natural features into developments, in order to avoid ecological fragmentation and maintain ecological corridors and stepping stones. - Protect and enhance the water quality and ecology of St. Cleran's River and its tributary to the east, and their function as ecological corridors, by maintaining the existing banks and channel and ensuring that new developments are set back at least 10m from the top of the bank of the stream. - Ensure greater biodiversity through the appropriate planting of native trees, shrubs and hedgerows indigenous to the Loughrea area and of Irish provenance in public and private areas and in new developments. LSST 70 Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the existing surface water drainage system in Loughrea. Ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems in all new developments. Surface water runoff from development sites will be limited to pre-development levels and planning applications for new developments will be required to provide details of surface water drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems proposals. To maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water, the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers is not permitted. Refer also to Section 3.5 of the accompanying SFRA, "Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and Surface Water Guidance and Strategy" LSST 71 Protection of Waterbodies and Watercourses Protect waterbodies and watercourses within the County from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in the riverine, wetland and coastal areas as appropriate. To contribute towards protection and improvement of the status of surface and ground waters in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.

Sources and/or pathways for adverse effects ⁴⁷	Respective Plan Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	Applications for development under the Plan must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not adversely affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive, individually as a result of the proposed development or cumulatively, in combination with other developments. LSST 74 River Basin Management Plan and Protection of Waters Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the National River Basin Management Plan or any other plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of this Local Area Plan. Development shall only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface water, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated wetlands. Galway County Council will contribute towards the protection and, where necessary, the restoration of all water bodies in order to reach good status, and will seek to prevent deterioration in the status of all water bodies.
Tourism	LSST 24 Open Space, Recreation and Amenity Promote the sustainable management, use and/or development, as appropriate, of open space/recreation and amenity lands. This will include: • Development of open spaces and recreational activities, in accordance with best practice and on suitable lands with adequate access to the local community; • Existing open space, sport and recreational facilities should be retained unless it can be clearly demonstrated to the satisfaction of Galway County Council that these uses are surplus to requirements of the local community or are to be replaced by an equivalent or better provision; • Appropriate management and use of any flood risk areas within the OS zone to avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate, the risk and potential impact of flooding; • Support the protection of habitats and species listed in the annexes to and/or covered by the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), and species that are protected under the Wildlife Acts, 1976-2000, and stepping stones or ecological corridors in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive; • Tourism; • Encourage and assist the development of the tourist potential within Loughrea in a manner that protects the architectural, archaeological and cultural significance of the town and its environs in a sustainable manner. LSST 26 Tourism Promote and encourage cultural, historical and tourism potential for Loughrea as Self Sustaining Town through Tourism identified lands. Chapter 8 Tourism and Landscape of the GCDP 2022 – 2028 supports the tourism potential of these lands. Any proposals shall have a unique setting of these lands overlooking the Lough Rea Lake and due recognition of the same. All development shall occur with environmental consideration and proper planning and sustainable development. LSST 27 Tourism Development It will be a Policy Objective of the Council to seek to; a) Facilitate the sustainable development of Loughrea as a cultural and tourist destination while simultaneously safeguarding its integrity. Promote active collaboration between all stakeholders both in County Galway and adjoining counties and region. b) Collaborate with relevant tourism agencies in the enhancement and increased economic value of Loughrea's town to create a broader tourist offer within the concept of the 'Heritage Towns'. c) Ensure that in particular that all such developments shall meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive and shall not adversely affect habitats and species protected by Article 10 of the Directive and any other sites that may be considered as stepping stones in support of European sites. d) Support tourism based enterprises at this location (identified on Map 2) with due recognition and respect to surrounding landscape. LSST 28 Water-Based Tourism The Council will support, subject to meeting the requirements of relevant Irish Planning and European environmental legislation including the Habitats Directive, the development of the necessary infrastructure and amenities to support water-based tourism within the plan area. The Council shall: a) Collaborate with Waterways Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and other relevant agencies in enhancing water-based tourism for the Loughrea town and surrounding region. b) Liaise with local organisations in the promotion of Lough Rea as a tourist attraction enabling the area to thrive off an inland water way feature. c) Continue to implement the necessary policy objectives in terms of the SEA and AA mitigation measures for the Lough Rea Lake and environs.
Built environment	LSST 8 Compact Growth It is a Policy Objective of the Council to support the delivery of new homes in Loughrea urban area within the existing built up footprint of the settlement, by developing infill, brownfield, opportunity, and regeneration sites and prioritizing underutilized land in preference to greenfield sites. LSST 11 Town Centre Management Subject to appropriate resources, noting and taking account of the Local Transport Plan, the Council in collaboration with local stakeholders shall prepare town centre management plans for Loughrea. The management plan will consider some or all of the following; a) The feasibility of a Town Centre market; b) Upgrade of public lighting and tidying of wirescapes in the Town Centre; c) Connectivity of the Town Centre including upgrading of paving, consideration of the feasibility of identified pedestrianised lanes and routes through the Town; d) Scheme for façade improvement on identified priority streetscapes; e) Upgrade and improvement of street furniture; f) A co-ordinated vehicular access arrangement, which shall be in consultation and agreement with the Road Design Section of Galway County Council; g) Consistent sustained signage design policy within the Town Centre; h) Provision of appropriate quality landscaping and functional public spaces; i) Provide footpath and cycling links to the Town Centre; and, j) Car parking management.

Sources and/or pathways for adverse effects ⁴⁷	Respective Plan Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	LSST 21 Strategic Sites in Loughrea It is a Policy Objective of the Council to establish a database of strategic brownfield and infill sites in Loughrea so that brownfield land re-use can be managed and co-ordinated across multiple stakeholders as part of an active land management process. LSST 22 Active Land Management in Loughrea To promote and facilitate the re-use of underutilized or vacant lands in Loughrea or lands identified for regeneration, through a coordinated approach to active land management between the Council and stakeholders. LSST 24 Open Space, Recreation and Amenity Promote the sustainable management, use and/or development, as appropriate, of open space/recreation and amenity lands. This will include: • Development of open spaces and recreational activities, in accordance with best practice and on suitable lands with adequate access to the local community; • Existing open space, sport and recreational facilities should be retained unless it can be clearly demonstrated to the satisfaction of Galway County Council that these uses are surplus to requirements of the local community or are to be replaced by an equivalent or better provision; • Appropriate management and use of any flood risk areas within the OS zone to avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate, the risk and potential impact of flooding; • Support the protection of habitats and species listed in the annexes to and/or covered by the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), and species that are protected under the Wildlife Acts, 1976-2000, and stepping stones or ecological corridors in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive; • Tourism; • Encourage and assist the development of the tourist potential within Loughrea in a manner that protects the architectural, archaeological and cultural significance of the town and its environs in a sustainable manner. LSST 34 High Quality, Contextually Sensitive Design Ensure that new developments are responsive to their site context and in keeping with the character, heritage, amenities, environment and landscape of the area. New development proposals will be required to complement the existing character of the area in terms of scale, height, massing, building line, urban grain and definition and through high quality design proposals for buildings/structures/shop fronts, the use of high quality, appropriate materials and the provision of appropriate signage, lighting, landscaping proposals and other such details. LSST 35 Public Spaces and Streets Promote the development of high quality public spaces consisting of streets, squares, parks and amenities connected by a network of pedestrian and cycling routes. Public spaces should have a high standard of design and street furniture that will create a coherent character for the area. This would include appropriately designed and located park benches, bus shelters, bicycle storage facilities, refuse bins, signage, street sculpture, etc. but should avoid the over-proliferation of different elements and/or cluttering of public spaces. LSST 37 Green Network and the Landscape Support the development of a network of amenities, open spaces and natural areas that support biodiversity, that incorporate existing landscape features such as local rivers, streams, trees, stone walls and hedgerows, that provide pedestrian and cycling linkages and active and passive recreation opportunities, that help to structure and provide relief from the built environment and that can provide areas for surface water attenuation and flood risk management. LSST 53 Sustainable Transportation Facilitate any Smarter Travel initiatives that will improve sustainable transportation within the Plan Area and facilitate sustainable transportation options including public transportation, rail freight, electric vehicles rentals, car clubs, public bike schemes, cycle parking as appropriate. LSST 54 Pedestrian and Cycle Network Facilitate the improvement of the pedestrian and cycling environment and network so that it is safe and accessible to all, through the provision of the necessary infrastructure. New development shall promote and prioritise walking and cycling, shall be permeable, adequately linked and connected to neighbouring areas, the town centre, recreational, educational, residential and employment destinations and shall adhere to the principles contained within the national policy document Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future 2009 - 2020 and the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2013), as updated in 2019 and NTA document Permeability: Best Practice Guide.
Invasive species	The management of invasive species' occurrence and risk where required is provided for by adherence to the policies and objectives of the current Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 via policy LSST 83, as outlined below: LSST 83 Development Management Standards, Guidelines and Other Provisions Ensure that all of the provisions and general development management standards and guidelines set out in the current Galway County Development Plan 2022 - 2028, or any subsequent variation or review shall apply as appropriate in the plan area. Provisions from the County Development Plan identified as mitigation in the SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report shall apply regardless of whether the County Development Plan expires and/or is reviewed. In addition, any specific development management guidelines set out within this Local Area Plan shall also be applied, as appropriate, to development proposals in the plan area. This statement therefore renders any development or project resulting from the implementation of this Plan subject to compliance with invasive species policy objectives IS 1 and IS 2 of the current Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.
Agriculture	LSST 29 Agriculture There will be a general presumption against residential development on Agricultural zoned lands, located within the plan boundary except for single house developments for family members on farm family owned lands..
Flood Risk Management	DM Standard 2: Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS): Nature based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas Best Practice Interim DM Standard 3: Flooding Flood Zones and Appropriate Uses Guidance Document. CDP Integration LSST 24 Open Space, Recreation and Amenity Promote the sustainable management, use and/or development, as appropriate, of open space/recreation and amenity lands. This will include: • Development of open spaces and recreational activities, in accordance with best practice and on suitable lands with adequate access to the local community; • Existing open space, sport and recreational facilities should be retained unless it can be clearly demonstrated to the satisfaction of Galway County Council that these uses are surplus to requirements of the local community or are to be replaced by an equivalent or better provision; • Appropriate management and use of any flood risk areas within the OS zone to avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate, the risk and potential impact of flooding;

Sources and/or pathways for adverse effects ⁴⁷	Respective Plan Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	- Support the protection of habitats and species listed in the annexes to and/or covered by the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), and species that are protected under the Wildlife Acts, 1976-2000, and stepping stones or ecological corridors in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive; - Tourism; - Encourage and assist the development of the tourist potential within Loughrea in a manner that protects the architectural, archaeological and cultural significance of the town and its environs in a sustainable manner. LSST 37 Green Network and the Landscape Support the development of a network of amenities, open spaces and natural areas that support biodiversity, that incorporate existing landscape features such as local rivers, streams, trees, stone walls and hedgerows, that provide pedestrian and cycling linkages and active and passive recreation opportunities, that help to structure and provide relief from the built environment and that can provide areas for surface water attenuation and flood risk management. LSST 66 Constrained Land Use To facilitate the appropriate management and sustainable use of Flood Risk within the zoning plan area. This zoning indicates where the Plan Making Justification Test may need to be applied and as such can limit new development, while recognising that existing development uses within these zones may require small scale development, as outlined below, over the life of the Local Area Plan, which would contribute towards the compact and sustainable urban development of the town. New development will generally be limited to water-compatible uses in Flood Zone A, and less vulnerable or water compatible uses in Flood Zone B, and a detailed site-specific Flood Risk Assessment will be required in these areas. The underlying zoning or the existing permitted uses may be deemed to be acceptable in principle, however within Flood Zone A/B development is typically limited to extensions, renovations and change of use. Infill highly vulnerable development and demolition and reconstruction can only take place in Flood Zone C. Less vulnerable development in Flood Zone B will also need to be considered carefully. These aspects are assessed on a case by case basis under the application of the Plan Making Justification Test and as supported by specific objectives in the written statement. Where the Justification Test is passed there is also a requirement for a detailed Flood Risk Assessment at Development Management stage. The FRA should be carried out in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk LSST 67 Flood Risk Management Guidelines It is the policy objective of Galway County Council to support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DEHLG/OPW publication The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009) (and any updated/superseding legislation or policy guidance) and Department Circular PL2/2014 or any updated / superseding version. LSST 68 Flood Risk Management and Assessment It is a Policy Objective of the Council to comply with the requirements of the DoEHLG/OPW The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its accompanying Technical Appendices Document 2009 (including any updated/superseding documents). This will include the following: - Avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate in accordance with the Guidelines; - Development proposals in areas where there is an identified or potential risk of flooding or that could give rise to a risk of flooding elsewhere will be required to carry out a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, and justification test where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 (or any superseding document); Any flood risk assessment should include an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change, such as an increase in the extent or probability of flooding, and any associated measures necessary to address these impacts; - Development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or that would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations shall not normally be permitted; - Galway County Council shall work with other bodies and organisations, as appropriate, to help protect critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater, within the County, from risk of flooding. LSST 69 Principles of Flood Risk Management Guidelines The Council shall implement the key principles of flood risk management set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines as follows: - Avoid development that will be at risk of flooding or that will increase the flooding risk elsewhere, where possible; - Substitute less vulnerable uses, where avoidance is not possible; and, - Mitigate and manage the risk, where avoidance and substitution are not possible. Development should only be permitted in areas at risk of flooding when there are no alternative reasonable sites available in areas at lower risk that also meet the objectives of proper planning and sustainable development. Vulnerable development in areas which have the highest flood risk should be avoided and/or only considered in exceptional circumstances (through a prescribed Justification Test) if adequate land or sites are not available in areas which have lower flood risk. LSST 72 Flood Risk Assessment for Planning Applications and CFRAMS Protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/land uses into the appropriate Flood Zone in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any superseding document) and the guidance contained in Development Management Standards² and 3. Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required for all planning applications in areas at elevated risk of flooding, even for developments appropriate to the particular flood zone. The detail of these site-specific FRAs will depend on the level of risk and scale of development. A detailed site specific FRA should quantify the risks, the effects of selected mitigation and the management of any residual risks. The Council shall have regard to the results of any CFRAM Studies in the assessment of planning applications. Where a development/land use is proposed that is inappropriate within the Flood Zone, then the development proposal will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test in addition to the site-specific Flood Risk Assessment. In Flood Zone C, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%, Flood Zone C), site-specific Flood Risk Assessment may be required, and the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed. LSST 73 Flood Risk Assessment and Climate Change Flood Risk Assessment in Loughrea shall provide information on the implications of climate change with regards to flood risk in relevant locations. The Flood Risk Management – Climate Changes Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019 shall be consulted with to this effect. LSST 75 Flood Risk Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Flood risk may constitute a significant environmental effect of a development proposal that in certain circumstances may trigger a sub-threshold EIA. FRA should therefore be an integral part of any EIA undertaken for projects within Loughrea.

Sources and/or pathways for adverse effects ⁴⁷	Respective Plan Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	LSST 76 Flood Vulnerable Zones It is a policy objective of the Council to ensure that applications pertaining to existing developments in flood vulnerable zones provide details of structural and non-structural risk management measures to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following – floor levels, internal layout, flood resilient construction, flood resistant construction, emergency response planning, access and egress during flood events. LSST 77 Flood Risk Management Ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.
Light, air & noise pollution	The curtailment of light, air and noise pollution is provided for by adherence to the policies and objectives of the current Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 via policy LSST 83, as outlined below: LSST 83 Development Management Standards, Guidelines and Other Provisions Ensure that all of the provisions and general development management standards and guidelines set out in the current Galway County Development Plan 2022 - 2028, or any subsequent variation or review shall apply as appropriate in the plan area. Provisions from the County Development Plan identified as mitigation in the SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report shall apply regardless of whether the County Development Plan expires and/or is reviewed. In addition, any specific development management guidelines set out within this Local Area Plan shall also be applied, as appropriate, to development proposals in the plan area. This statement therefore renders any development or project resulting from the implementation of this Plan subject to compliance with light, air and noise pollution policy objectives LP 1, AQ 1 – 4 and NP 1- 5 respectively of the current Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.
Climate/ Renewable Energy	LSST 52 Transportation Infrastructure Facilitate the provision and maintenance of essential transportation infrastructure. This shall include the reservation of lands to facilitate public roads, footpaths, cycle ways, bus stops and landscaping together with any necessary associated works, as appropriate. LSST 53 Sustainable Transportation Facilitate any Smarter Travel initiatives that will improve sustainable transportation within the Plan Area and facilitate sustainable transportation options including public transportation, rail freight, electric vehicles rentals, car clubs, public bike schemes, cycle parking as appropriate. LSST 61 Climate Change To implement, through this Local Area Plan Policy Objectives that support and encourage sustainable compact growth and settlement patterns, integrate land use and transportation, and maximise opportunities through development location, form, layout and design to secure climate resilience and reduce carbon dioxide and greenhouse emissions. To include for the preparation of a green infrastructure strategy, which includes for an initial inventory of green resources, to ensure the conservation and enhancement of green resources. LSST 62 Climate Change and Local Renewable Energy Sources Promote and encourage development which is resilient to climate change by ensuring that development proposals demonstrate sustainable design principles for new buildings/ services/site including: - Measures such as green roofs and green walls to reduce internal overheating and the urban heat island effect; - Ensuring the efficient use of natural resources (including water) and making the most of natural systems both within and around buildings; - Minimising pollution by reducing surface water runoff through increasing permeable surfaces and use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); - Reducing flood risk, damage to property from extreme events–residential, public and commercial; - Reducing risks from temperature extremes and extreme weather events to critical infrastructure such as roads, communication networks, the water/drainage network, and energy supply; - Promoting and protecting biodiversity and green infrastructure. - Promotion of water-efficient technologies in new development e.g., rainwater harvesting. LSST 73 Flood Risk Assessment and Climate Change Flood Risk Assessment in Loughrea shall provide information on the implications of climate change with regards to flood risk in relevant locations. The Flood Risk Management – Climate Changes Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019 shall be consulted with to this effect. LSST 78 Waste Prevention, Reduction and Recycling Promote the prevention, reduction and recycling of waste in new developments, new development proposals shall be required to submit proposals demonstrating how this is to be achieved and shall seek to ensure on-site provision for waste storage and segregation (bio-waste/dry recyclables/residual waste) pending collection at all new domestic and non-domestic premises. LSST 82 Renewable Energy Promote and facilitate the development of renewable sources of energy and associated infrastructure within the LAP area and encourage the integration of micro-renewable energy sources into the design and construction of new developments as appropriate.
Waste Management	LSST 78 Waste Prevention, Reduction and Recycling Promote the prevention, reduction and recycling of waste in new developments, new development proposals shall be required to submit proposals demonstrating how this is to be achieved and shall seek to ensure on-site provision for waste storage and segregation (bio-waste/dry recyclables/residual waste) pending collection at all new domestic and non-domestic premises.

Section 6 Conclusion

This AA Natura Impact Report demonstrates that implementation of the Plan to be adopted⁴⁸ has the potential to result in likely significant effects to the ecological integrity of 4 (no.) European sites, if unmitigated.

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

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures into the Plan, it has been demonstrated that the Plan to be adopted⁴⁹ is not foreseen to give rise to any effect on the integrity of any European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁵⁰. This demonstration has been made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats and/or species, for which these sites have been designated.

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

⁴⁸ Incorporating: the Draft Plan; all and any alterations; and all and any further modifications considered by the AA process. Note that non-material changes to individual Plan provisions referenced in this report may be updated during the finalisation of the Plan, including numbering, formatting and graphic design.

⁴⁹ Incorporating: the Draft Plan; all and any alterations; and all and any further modifications considered by the AA process. Note that non-material changes to individual Plan provisions referenced in this report may be updated during the finalisation of the Plan, including numbering, formatting and graphic design.

⁵⁰ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) no alternative solution available,
- b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Appendix I Background information on European sites

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

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000242	Castletaylor Complex SAC	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210], Limestone pavements [8240], Turloughs [3180], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	A10.01, H01.08, A04.01.01, X, B01, H02.06, J02.01	Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and wastewaters, intensive cattle grazing, no threats or pressures, forest planting on open ground, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general
000268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Alkaline fens [7230], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Reefs [1170], Turloughs [3180], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Limestone pavements [8240], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210], Coastal lagoons [1150], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	D03.01.01, J02.01.02, G01.01.02, E03.03, A04.02.01, D01.01, C01.01.02, D03, J02.05.01, D03.01.04, D02.02, A02.01, H01.05, J02.02.02, G02.01, H01.08, F01, I01, C01.01, F02.03.01, J02.12.01, F06, A04.02.02	Slipways, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, non-motorized nautical sports, disposal of inert materials, non-intensive cattle grazing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, removal of beach materials, shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, modification of water flow (tidal & marine currents), industrial ports, pipe lines, agricultural intensification, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, estuarine and coastal dredging, golf course, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and wastewaters, marine and freshwater aquaculture, invasive non-native species, sand and gravel extraction, bait digging or collection, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, non-intensive sheep grazing
000304	Lough Rea SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	E05, E03.03, A10.01, M01.03, A02.01, E01.01, H01.02, D01.01, B01.01, I01, H01.08, X	Storage of materials, disposal of inert materials, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, flooding and rising precipitations, agricultural intensification, continuous urbanisation, pollution to surface waters by storm overflows, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, forest planting on open ground (native trees), invasive non-native species, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and wastewaters, no threats or pressures
000318	Peterswell Turlough SAC	Rivers with muddy banks with Chenopodium rubri p.p. and Bidention p.p. vegetation [3270], Turloughs [3180]	A05.02, B01, E03.03, E03.01, J02.10, X, J02.01.03, A08, H02.06, J02.05, A02.01, J02.01, H01.08, A04	Stock feeding, forest planting on open ground, disposal of inert materials, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, no threats or pressures, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, fertilisation, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, agricultural intensification, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and wastewaters, grazing
000322	Rahasane Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]	J02.10, J02.01, F03.01, A08, E03.01, X, J02.05, E03.03, H01.08, H02.06, A02.01, A04.01.05, A10.01	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, hunting, fertilisation, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, no threats or pressures, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, disposal of inert materials, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and wastewaters, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, agricultural intensification, intensive mixed animal grazing, removal of hedges and copses or scrub
001913	Sonnagh Bog SAC	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	J01, B01, C01.03.02, A05.02, B05, A04.02, X	Fire and fire suppression, forest planting on open ground, mechanical removal of peat, stock feeding, use of fertilizers (forestry), non-intensive grazing, no threats or pressures
002117	Lough Coy SAC	Turloughs [3180]	A08, H02.06, J02.01.03, H04.01, E03.03, A10.01, J02.05, H01.08, X	Fertilisation, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, acid rain, disposal of inert materials, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and wastewaters, no threats or pressures
002244	Ardrahan Grassland SAC	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Limestone pavements [8240], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	E03.03, A04.01.03, A10.01, A08, D01, A04.03, E04, A04.02.01, A05.02	Disposal of inert materials, intensive horse grazing, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, fertilisation, roads, paths and railroads, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, structures, buildings in the landscape, non-intensive cattle grazing, stock feeding

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
002293	Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC	Turloughs [3180]	A02.01, H02.06, E06.01, E03.03, J02.01.03, D01, J02.05, E06.02, H01.08, J02.10, A10.01, A08, J02.04.01, E03.01	Agricultural intensification, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, demolition of buildings & human structures, disposal of inert materials, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, roads, paths and railroads, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and wastewaters, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, fertilisation, flooding, disposal of household or recreational facility waste
004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A674], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003], Black-throated Diver (<i>Gavia arctica</i>) [A002], Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	E01, G01.02, F02.03, A04, F01, J02.01.02, F03.01, E02, D01.02, G01.01, J02.12, A08, E03	Urbanised areas, human habitation, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, leisure fishing, grazing, marine and freshwater aquaculture, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, hunting, industrial or commercial areas, roads, motorways, nautical sports, dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, fertilisation, discharges
004089	Rahasane Turlough SPA	Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	A04, A08, F03.01	Grazing, fertilisation, hunting
004134	Lough Rea SPA	Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125]	F02.03, B, E01, A08, F03.01, G01.01	Leisure fishing, silviculture, forestry, urbanised areas, human habitation, fertilisation, hunting, nautical sports
004168	Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA	Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082], Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098]	B, E01.03, A04, C01.03, D01.02, D01.01	Silviculture, forestry, dispersed habitation, grazing, peat extraction, roads, motorways, paths, tracks, cycling tracks

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

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[1140]	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Pressures on mudflats and sandflats are partly caused by pollution from agricultural, forestry and wastewater sources, as well as impacts associated with marine aquaculture, particularly the Pacific oyster (<i>Magallana gigas</i>).	A28, F20, G16	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution)	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
[1150]	Coastal lagoons	Several high-ranking pressures were identified acting on this habitat: eutrophication, modification of hydrological flow, and drainage. Other pressures noted include erosion and silting up, accumulation of seaweed, and sedimentation from peat related to turf cutting and/or forestry.	C12, J02, K02, K04, L01, L03, N04	Extraction activities generating marine pollution, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), drainage, modification of hydrological flow, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), accumulation of organic material, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Erosion and silting up. Accumulation of seaweed. Land use management resulting in hydrological interactions.
[1160]	Large shallow inlets and bays	Pressures on the habitat include nutrient enrichment, dredging and invasive alien species.	A28, B23, F20, G01, G16, I02	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity, surface water runoff, discharge etc. On site management activities.
[1170]	Reefs	The main pressures on reefs come from fishing methods that damage the seafloor.	G01, G03	Marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
[1220]	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	The main pressures on this habitat are associated with coastal defences (which can interfere with sediment dynamics), recreation and shingle removal.	C01, E01, F07, F08, F09, I02	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), deposition and treatment of waste/garbage from household/recreational facilities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
[1230]	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change.	C01, E01, F07, F08, I02, N03, N04	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.
[1310]	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Pressures on Salicornia mud are caused by alien species and overgrazing by livestock	A09, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
[1330]	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)	The main pressures on Atlantic salt meadows are from agriculture, including ecologically unstable grazing regimes and land reclamation, and the invasive non-native species common cord-grass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>).	A09, A33, A36, F07, F08, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
[1355]	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	There are no pressures facing this species	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
					hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
[1365]	Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>)	Pressures on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as local/regional prey removal by fisheries or by-catch in fisheries, or geophysical seismic exploration; other possible impacts may occur from coastal tourism and localised human disturbance at haul-out sites.	C09, G01	Geotechnical surveying, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species	Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
[1410]	Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)	Most of the pressures on Mediterranean salt meadows are associated with agriculture, including overgrazing, under-grazing and land reclamation.	A09, A10, A33, A36	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above	Marine and groundwater dependant. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
[3140]	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of muskgrass (<i>Chara spp.</i>)	The hard-water lake habitat is under significant pressure from eutrophication, the primary sources of nutrient and organic pollution being agriculture and municipal and industrial wastewaters.	A25, A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, F12, F13, F33, I02	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, discharge of urban wastewater (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, plants, contaminated or abandoned industrial sites generating pollution to surface or ground water, abstraction of ground and surface waters (including marine) for public water supply and recreational use, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3180]	Turloughs	The main pressures associated with this habitat are related to drainage, groundwater pollution and ecologically unsuitable grazing.	A09, A26, A31	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3270]	Rivers with muddy banks with vegetation (<i>Chenopodium rubri p.p.</i> and <i>Bidenton p.p.</i>)	The only significant pressure on this habitat is a result of intensive grazing resulting in poaching.	A09, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
[4060]	Alpine and Boreal heaths	Overgrazing by livestock, tourism (hill walking) and agricultural activities that cause air pollution are considered significant pressures for this habitat.	A09, A27, F07, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, sports, tourism and leisure activities, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
[5130]	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	The pressures associated with this habitat are associated with overgrazing, erosion and scrub removal.	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6210]	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites)	The significant pressures related to this habitat are mainly associated with agricultural intensification causing loss of species-rich communities, or abandonment of farmland resulting in succession to scrub.	A02, A09, A10, C01, I02, I04	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[7130]	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	The main pressures on blanket bogs are overgrazing, burning, afforestation, peat extraction, and agricultural activities causing nitrogen deposition. Erosion, drainage and wind farm construction are also pressures relating to this habitat.	A09, A11, A27, B01, C05, D01, K02, L01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, drainage, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[7210]	Calcareous fens with species of mariscus sedge and bog cotton (<i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Caricion davallianae</i>)	Overgrazing, groundwater pollution, abandonment of grassland management and drainage are pressures associated with this habitat.	A06, A09, C05, J01, K01, K02, K04	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, peat extraction, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[7230]	Alkaline fens	The main pressures facing this habitat are land abandonment (and associated succession), overgrazing, drainage and pollution.	A06, A09, A26, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02, N02, N03	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[8240]	Limestone pavements	The main pressures facing this habitat are associated with conversion to agricultural land and housing construction, as well as scrub encroachment caused by under-grazing.	A01, A10, C01, F01, I02	Conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.

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

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A003	Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	C03, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A017	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i>	C03, F02, F03, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A050	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, I01, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, invasive non-native species, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications
A056	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07	Renewable abiotic energy use, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution, other forms of pollution
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
A098	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	A02, B01, B02, C03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, forest planting on open ground, forest and plantation management & use, renewable abiotic energy use, changes in biotic conditions
A125	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra atra</i>	C03, G01, H01	Renewable abiotic energy use, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)
A137	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</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
A140	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, grazing, forest planting on open ground, mining and quarrying, renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, fire and fire suppression, interspecific faunal relations, changes in biotic conditions
A142	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	A02, C03, F01, G01, H03	Modification of cultivation practices, renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A149	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
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
A162	Common 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	Ruddy 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
A179	Black-Headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A182	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A191	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	C03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, invasive non-native species
A193	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	C03, D01, D03, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species
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
A674	Light-Bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	A02, A11, C03, D02, F01, G01, G05, H03, H07, I01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, agriculture activities not referred to above, renewable abiotic energy use, utility and service lines, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, other human intrusions and disturbances, marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, invasive non-native species, other ecosystem modifications

Appendix II Relationship with Other Plans and Programmes

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	- Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. - 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	- Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. - Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. - Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. - Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.	- Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. - Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. - Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. - Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	- Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. - Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. - The species included in Annex I shall be the 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution.	Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include: - a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year - set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk - set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 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	The IPPC Directive is based on several principles: - an integrated approach - best available techniques, - flexibility; and	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	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.	public participation	Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC	- The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and - the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs).	- The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. - Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)	- The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. - All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.	- The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. - The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. - EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. - Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288(COD))	- Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption. - The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor. - Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.	- Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive; - Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014; - Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels; - Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)	This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport.	This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)	- Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. - Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.	- Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures - EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs - The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services - Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy - Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering - National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits - Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it - Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 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	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;	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the

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	ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.	- 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.	Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)	The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: - Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. - An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. - A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision-making. - Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package	- Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. - Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. - Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. - Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.	Four pieces of complimentary legislation: - Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. - Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. - Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. - Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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 PM_{2.5} (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.	- 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards –

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	- 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.	- 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.	in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Noise 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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 (Dangerous Substances) 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	- Protect, control and conserve groundwater. - Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. - Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.	- Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. - Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	- Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption. - Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.	- Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I. - Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a). - Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5. - Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause. - Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		- Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health. - Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial.	
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU	Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.	- Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. - Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. - Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. - 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. 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.	- Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. - 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards –

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	A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.	- Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. - Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.	in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Landscape Convention 2000	The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)	It identifies three key objectives: - to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital - to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy - to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing	Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals): - Better implementation of legislation. - Better information by improving the knowledge base. - More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. - Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme: - To make the Union's cities more sustainable. - To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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 Caucas. - 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	- 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)	Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.	The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely: - Registration, - Evaluation, - Authorisation; and - Restriction of chemicals. REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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 - 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	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ramsar Convention	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: - Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; - Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; - Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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: 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; - the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); - the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Level			
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan	- The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. - The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.	National Strategic Outcomes as follows: - Compact Growth - Enhanced Regional Accessibility - Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities - Sustainable Mobility - A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills - High-Quality International Connectivity - Enhanced Amenities and Heritage - Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society - Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources - Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation]	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:	In preparation	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; 2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, 3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.		combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.	- Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. - There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. - Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects. - Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	- The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. - These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. - Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I 296 of 2009)	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	- 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)	To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values. - Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. - Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

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		Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values. Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established.	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)	These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources	The Regulations include measures such as: - 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended	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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Climate Action Plan 2024	The National Climate Action Plan provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.	The Climate Action Plans list the actions needed to deliver on Ireland's climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated periodically to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)	- National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). - The Plan provides a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.	The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation: - Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs; - Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals; - Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and - Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)	€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.	- This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all. - It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)	These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in Natura 2000 sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).	- Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries; - Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required; - Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation;	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their

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		- Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan; - Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan; - Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment; - Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities; - Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and - Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc.	plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.	The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)	- The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers. - Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs.	This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020: - Increasing on and offshore wind, - Building a sustainable bioenergy sector, - Fostering R&D in renewables such as wave & tidal, - Growing sustainable transport; and - Building out robust and efficient networks.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017	The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives.	The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues: - 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	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]	The Clean Air Strategy will provide 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.	- Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which 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 will consider 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 and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022	EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; <i>"Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."</i>	Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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	- 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,	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards –

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	years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.	domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; - Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and - 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.	in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Water Resources Plan [in preparation]	- 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 - Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)	Vision: "Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU."	General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020): - Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development - Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability - Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.	The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)	- 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020	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 for the revised Plan period: - To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; - To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; - To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; - To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.	The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics: - Prevention - Collection - Self-sufficiency - Regulation - Legacy issues - North-south cooperation - Guidance and awareness - Implementation	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)	- Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. - Sets out five key goals: - To reduce overall travel demand. - To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. - To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. - To reduce transport emissions. - To improve accessibility to transport.	- Others lower level aims include: - reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment - ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking - improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies - strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.	The three priorities stated in SFILT are: - Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); - Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and - Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for: - Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; - Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)	- White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. - Outlines strategic Goals for: - Security of Supply - Sustainability of Energy - Competitiveness of Energy Supply	- To the extent within the Authority’ remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA. The underpinning Strategic Goals are: - Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand - Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland - Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation - Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks - Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production - Being prepared for energy supply disruptions	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Adaptation Framework 2024 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans	The Framework is mandated by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act of 2015, as amended, and aims to create a unified approach involving both government and society to adapt to climate change.	The Framework outlines how various sectors and local authorities can implement adaptation measures to minimise Ireland’s vulnerability to climate change’s adverse effects while taking advantage of any beneficial impacts. The Framework emphasises the importance of integrating adaptation strategies into all levels of policy making, infrastructure development, and local planning.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)	Sets out the Member State’s national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.	Including Ireland’s 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)	This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland.	The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.	- Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems - Give statutory protection to NHAs - Enhances wildlife species and their habitats - Includes more species for protection	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland’s National Biodiversity Plan	Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland’s biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.	- To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors. - To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. - To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services. - To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. - To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. - To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. - To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Broadband Plan (2012)	Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.	The Plan sets out: - A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband. - Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the

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		- 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.	Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003) European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)	- 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 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)	Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation.	- Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality. - Sets groundwater quality standards. - Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Services Act 2007 Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013	- 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 waste water supply. - Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.	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 in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced. - 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 waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)	This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.	Six strategic objectives as follows: - Meet Customer Expectations. - Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. - Provide Effective Management of Waste water. - Protect and Enhance the Environment. - Support Social and Economic Growth. - Invest in the Future.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas	Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs	- Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. - Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation

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		replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.	and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Harvest 2020	Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.	Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	not applicable	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Rural Development Programme	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	At a more detailed level, the programme also: - Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; - Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and - Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)	Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020.	Measures include the following: - Afforestation and Creation of Woodland - NeighbourWood Scheme - Forest Roads - Reconstitution Scheme - Woodland Improvement Scheme - Native Woodland Conservation Scheme - Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions - Producer Groups - Innovative Forest Technology - Forest Genetic Reproductive Material - Forest Management Plans	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
River Basin Management Plan	River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.	- Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. - Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. - Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. - Involve the public through consultations.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows: Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.	Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: - To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. - To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. - To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: - AFV forecasts - Electricity targets - Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets - Hydrogen targets - Biofuels targets - LPG targets - Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010	- Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland - Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed	- Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020 - Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	- This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. - By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: - Reduce overall travel demand - Maximise the efficiency of the transport network - Reduce reliance on fossil fuels - Reduce transport emissions - Improve accessibility to transport These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.	and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: - Policy Context - Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination - Enhancing the Visitor Experience - Research in the Irish Tourism Sector - Supporting Local Communities in Tourism - Wider Government Policy - International Context - Co-ordination Structures	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: - Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year - net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; 250,000 people employed in tourism; and 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE)	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála. Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: - AFV forecasts - Electricity targets - Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets - Hydrogen targets - Biofuels targets - LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024	The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association National Oversight Group, have co-ordinated the preparation of this plan which is the first National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. This Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.	The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Natura Impact Report in support of the AA for the Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc. Regional/ County/Local Level	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Northern and Western Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2020-2032	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Northern and Western Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Northern and Western Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council; Leitrim County Council; Cavan County Council; Monaghan County Council; Roscommon County Council; Mayo County Council; Sligo County Council; Galway City Council; Galway County Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024	The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: • Bus; • Light Rail; • Heavy Rai; • Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment; • Integrated Service Plan; and • Integration and Accessibility.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Galway LECP 2024-2030	• The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities	• The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Land Use Plans including those in force in County Galway (including the overarching Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028), and those in force in other adjoining planning authorities (including development plans for Galway City, County Mayo, County Roscommon, County Offaly, County Tipperary, County Clare and local plans for settlements)	• Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport and tourism objectives). • Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. • Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area.	• Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. • Protect and enhances amenities and environment. • Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. • Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. • Aim to promote sustainable development. • Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Galway Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessments in adjoining counties	• Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	• Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. • Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the

Natura Impact Report in support of the AA for the Loughrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
			Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022	The aim of the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2017- 2022 is to place heritage and biodiversity at the heart of public life in the County. This will be achieved through increasing awareness, participation, enjoyment, knowledge and understanding of our shared heritage to lead to its proper conservation, management and protection and safeguarding it for future generations.	Actions are specified under the following five themes: - community engagement; - education and training; - research and information; - Galway County Council: people, property and works; and - stakeholder engagement and pursuing opportunities with other partners.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Galway Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 and Draft Noise Action Plan 2024	Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to: Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Galway City Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029	Under the National Climate Action Plan 2023, Galway City Council is required to prepare a locally specific climate action plan for their administrative areas. The Galway City Council contributes towards addressing the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, climate change adaptation, and strengthening the alignment between national climate policy and the delivery of local climate action.	Through the development and implementation of specific, action-focused, time-bound and measurable actions, local authority climate action plans will: - Provide a strong emphasis on a place-based approach to climate action, delivering a better understanding of greenhouse gas emissions and climate-related risks at a local level, while addressing context-specific conditions and support for locally tailored policy making. - Deliver and promote evidence-based and integrated climate action by way of adaptation and mitigation measures, centred around a strong understanding of the role and remit of the local authority on climate action. - Translate and provide strategic direction at local and community levels on the delivery of the national climate objective which is seeking to curb further global warming and to transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by no later than the end of 2050.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Galway County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024	The Strategy is developed around 4 key themes/goals: 1. Critical Buildings & Infrastructure 2. Natural and Cultural Heritage 3. Water Resources & Flood Risk Management 4. Community Services	The Galway County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 seeks to: - Improve education, awareness-raising and capacity on climate change, adaptation (and mitigation), impact reduction and early warning across the Local Authority departments, businesses, communities and individuals; - Integrate climate change measures into policies, strategies and planning, as well as the identification of areas at risk to inform planning and decision making; and - Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity and develop and implement co-ordinated responses to climate risk where needed.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES)	The Strategy sets out the framework for the delivery of sustainable and renewable energies throughout the County.	The LARES outlines the potential for a range of renewable energy resources and developments and acknowledges the significant contribution that they can make to the county in terms of energy security, reduced reliance on traditional fossil fuels, enabling future energy exports, meeting assigned national targets and the transition to a low carbon economy.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the Wild Atlantic Way	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.	Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their

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		environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.	plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes	These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.	These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.