



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &
PLANNING

CARLOW LOCAL AREA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024-2029

Natura Impact Report

Prepared for:
Carlow County Council



Date: September 2023

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773, Ireland

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

CORK | DUBLIN | CARLOW

www.fehilytimoney.ie

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

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

User is responsible for Checking the Revision Status of This Document

Rev. No.	Description of Changes	Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Date:
1	For Issue	EM/NSC	AT	AT	13/09/2023

Client: Carlow County Council

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Legislative Context	1
1.3 Approach.....	1
2. DESCRIPTION OF DRAFT LOCAL AREA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN.....	4
2.1 Overview.....	4
2.2 Context setting background Carlow County Council’s Role and the LACAP	4
2.3 Carlow County Council’s Role with regard to Climate Action and the LACAP	7
2.4 Purpose and Scope of the LACAP 2024-2029.....	7
2.4.1 Need for the Plan.....	7
2.4.2 Objectives of the Draft LACAP	7
2.4.3 Themes and example actions.....	12
3. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT	14
3.1 Introduction to Screening	14
3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites	14
3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening	15
3.3.1 Is the Draft LACAP Necessary to the Management of European Sites?	15
3.3.2 Elements of the Draft LACAP with Potential to Give Rise to Effects	15
3.3.3 Screening of Sites	16
3.4 In-combination effects with Other Plans and Programmes.....	25
3.5 AA Screening Conclusion	25
4. STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT	26
4.1 Introduction	26
4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected.....	26
4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects	26
4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects.....	27
5. MITIGATION MEASURES.....	47
6. CONCLUSION	66

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Background information to European sites

Appendix 2 – Relationship with other plans and programmes

LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 2-1: Local Authority Boundary	6
Figure 3-1: European sites with connectivity pathways to the county boundary considered within the assessment process	17
Figure 3-2: Hydrological connectivity from the administrative boundary to European considered within the assessment process	18

LIST OF TABLES

	<u>Page</u>
Table 3-1: Screening of European sites which have ecological pathways for potential effects.....	19
Table 4-1: Characterisation of Potential Effects arising from the subject land area	32
Table 5-1: Recommendations integrated into the Plan	49



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

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

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

1.2 Legislative Context

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

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

1.3 Approach

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and grey literature¹ was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives (including spatial data collected for the most recent Article 17 conservation status reporting cycle, 2019).

In addition to being informed by these reports, the NIR was also informed by the Council’s new Draft County Development Plan and accompanying the SEA Environmental Report and the Council’s current County Development Plan and associated SEA Environmental Report and AA Natura Impact Report.

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



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

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

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

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

Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

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

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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

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

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



The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model², where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

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

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

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

The scope of the AA was informed by the submissions received on the scope of the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment³ (SEA) process being undertaken on the Draft LACAP, including a submission from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that provided various information and suggestions relevant to the AA.

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

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



2. DESCRIPTION OF DRAFT LOCAL AREA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2.1 Overview

The Draft Carlow LACAP 2024-2029 will be prepared over the coming months. The Plan will provide a five-year framework to:

- Actively translate national climate policy to local circumstances with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures,
- Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels,
- Identify and deliver a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) within the local authority area to act as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures in a specifically defined area. This will be done through the identification of projects and outcomes that will assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective⁴.

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

The Plan will be set within the context of the strategic framework of and be guided by the most recent approved national long term climate action strategy and sectoral adaptation plans as well as the County Development Plan.

Figure 2-1 illustrates the functional area and boundary of Carlow County Council.

2.2 Context setting background Carlow County Council's Role and the LACAP

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 provides a statutory underpinning to climate action in Ireland. It specifies the requirement to develop a national Climate Action Plan (CAP) (and update it every year), a National Adaptation Framework (NAF), a National Long Term Climate Action Strategy and Sectoral Adaptation Plans (SAPs). It also specifies a series of carbon budgets and the associated sectoral emission ceilings. It sets out actions that must be taken to ensure delivery of commitments and a target to reduce GHG by 51% by 2030 and to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2050.

Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 defines the requirement for Local Authorities to prepare individual LACAPs for their functional area. The purpose of LACAPs will be to deliver effective climate action and mitigation at local authority and community levels. Local Authority County Development Plans must also be aligned with their LACAP.

The LACAPs are statutory plans that must be subject to SEA under the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC) to determine their effect on the environment, and AA under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) to determine if their implementation is likely to have significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites.

⁴ This is known as the National 2050 Climate Objective which establishes the national objective of achieving a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.



The statutory plan making process, which commenced on February 24th 2023, is 12 months in duration so the LACAPs must be completed on February 23rd, 2024. Another 30-day timeframe is allowed after this for the publication of the LACAP.



Legend
 Local Authority Boundaries

Local Authority Boundary	
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL Local Authority Climate Action Plans	
FIGURE NO:	2.1
CLIENT:	CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE: 26/07/2023	SCALE: 1:207,500 @ A3



Mapping Reproduced Under Licence from the Ordnance Survey Ireland License No. EN 0001221 © Government of Ireland
 Wof Imagery: Earthstar Geographics
 OpenStreetMap © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA
 Path: R:\Map Production\2023\23-076\Workspaces\Longford\23_076_Fig_2_1_Local_Authority_Boundary_Longford.aprx



2.3 Carlow County Council's Role with regard to Climate Action and the LACAP

Local authorities are key drivers in advancing climate policy at the local level. The LACAP will help Carlow County Council to address, in an integrated way, the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change adaptation and strengthen the alignment between national climate policy and the delivery of effective local climate action.

Carlow County Council is free to determine their own approach to the style and structure of their climate action plans but all must demonstrate alignment with the key principles of the national Climate Action Plan and subject to compliance with all relevant guidelines ensuring that the local plan is ambitious, action-focused, evidence-based, participative and transparent.

2.4 Purpose and Scope of the LACAP 2024-2029

2.4.1 Need for the Plan

The Carlow Local Authority Climate Action Plan (2024-2029) will consider specific adaptation and mitigation measures across key themes including Governance and Leadership, Built Environment and Transport, and Sustainability and Resource Management.

2.4.2 Objectives of the Draft LACAP

Carlow County Council will show leadership by translating National Climate Policy into local actions and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030. We will support, facilitate, and advocate broader society to increase their capacity to achieve climate resilience and increase climate awareness towards a low carbon society.

The overall objectives of the Draft LACAP are:

- A 50% improvement in the council's energy efficiency by 2030;
- A 51% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 to reach net zero by 2050;
- To make Carlow a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events; and
- To actively engage and inform citizens on climate change.



2.4.3 Themes and example actions

Theme	Description	Sample Actions
Governance & Leadership	Carlow County Council will show leadership in the area of effective adaptation and mitigation against climate change by developing the appropriate structures and processes for directing and managing Climate Action throughout the organisation and by achieving our Green House Gas reduction target of 51% by 2030.	<p>Inclusion of Climate Action in the strategic objectives and supporting strategies of Carlow County Council.</p> <p>Inclusion of Climate Action in the strategic objectives and supporting strategies of Carlow County Council</p> <p>Facilitate Climate Action Training for all staff and Elected Members.</p> <p>Carlow County Council commits to provide resources to adapt against and mitigate the effects of climate change.</p> <p>This commitment includes allocating funds, personnel, and expertise to tackle the challenges posed by climate change.</p>
Built Environment & Transport	Carlow County Council will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions through internal collaboration and engagement with sectoral experts to realise effective upgrades in our public lighting, buildings, and fleet	<p>Reduce GHG emissions, energy consumption and address fuel poverty for vulnerable residents in Carlow Town and County.</p> <p>Improve air quality and reduce emissions and the associated health impacts through the establishment of a data base of all fossil fuel retail outlets in Carlow and ensure their compliance with the Air Pollution Act 1987 and the National Clean Air Strategy 2023</p> <p>Develop and implement Fleet management policy.</p>
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	To assess, develop and support an interconnected network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitats and other natural areas that support native species, maintain natural ecological processes, sustain air and water resources and contribute to the health and quality of life for all species that live within our community	<p>Meet objectives of Carlow County Council Biodiversity plan 2023-2025</p> <p>Meet objectives of Carlow County Council Heritage Plan (due for adoption at end of Q4 2024)</p> <p>To promote carbon sequestration and improve the living environment by implementing green landscaping and green infrastructure</p>

Theme	Description	Sample Actions
Sustainability & Resource Management	Carlow County Council will strive to create a culture of sustainability and circular economy within its organisation and support broader society in achieving same.	<p>Reduce the GHG emissions and energy usage in Carlow County Council Buildings in line with National Targets by Increasing energy efficiency in Council Buildings & reducing energy use in Carlow’s public lighting scheme.</p> <p>Incentivise alternatives to car use for short journeys through the expansion operation and availability of Shared transport schemes.</p> <p>Develop sustainability guidelines and terms and conditions for any events supported, facilitated or organised by Carlow County Council.</p> <p>Monitor and enforce waste regulation.</p> <p>Development of EV Strategy for Carlow Town and County</p> <p>Carry out an Area Based-Transport Assessment (ABTA) of Carlow Town, Tullow and Bagenalstown to identify suitable infrastructure measures and policy interventions to improve the current sustainable transport offering.</p> <p>Promote sustainable destination tourism training programme on a bi-annual basis in order to ensure that the principles of regenerative tourism are being practiced.</p> <p>Support Enterprises in their investment in equipment & technologies to reduce their impact on the environment.</p>

LACAP Geographic Area

The LACAP area covers Carlow County Council's entire boundary, and all actions are set to be completed within the boundary. Where actions require collaborative efforts with neighbouring County Councils, these will be considered; however, these are thought to be captured within the LACAP (and SEA/AA processes) for each of the neighbouring County Councils.

The geographic scope of the LACAP, therefore, is the County Council boundary, and the SEA study area extends to 15km beyond this to consider wider reaching environmental impacts as can be seen in Figure 2-2.



3. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

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

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

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat⁵ or species⁶ at that site have been considered.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km buffer zone to be considered. Although sites beyond this buffer zone would be considered if relevant, a review of all sites within this zone has allowed the conclusion to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of the Draft LACAP will not impose effects beyond the 15 km buffer. The assessment process also considers hydrogeological processes and possible effects to ground water with respect to ground water sensitive habitats and species.

⁵ Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

⁶ The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.



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

- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Blackstairs Mountains SAC [IE0000770] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Slaney River Valley SAC [IE0000781] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Holdenstown Bog SAC [IE0001757] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SAC [IE0002122] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for River Barrow and River Nore SAC [IE0002162] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Thomastown Quarry SAC [IE0002252] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [IE0004040] Version 9.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA [IE0004076] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for River Nore SPA [IE0004233] Version 9.

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

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

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

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

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

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

- *Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:*
 - *Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;*
 - *Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and*
 - *Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species.*



- *Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air.*
- *Adverse effects from tourism, amenity and recreation.*
- *Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.*
- *Adverse effects upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.*
- *Increase in the risk of flooding.*
- *Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity is needed to ensure the mitigation of potential conflicts).*
- *Emissions to air including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions.*

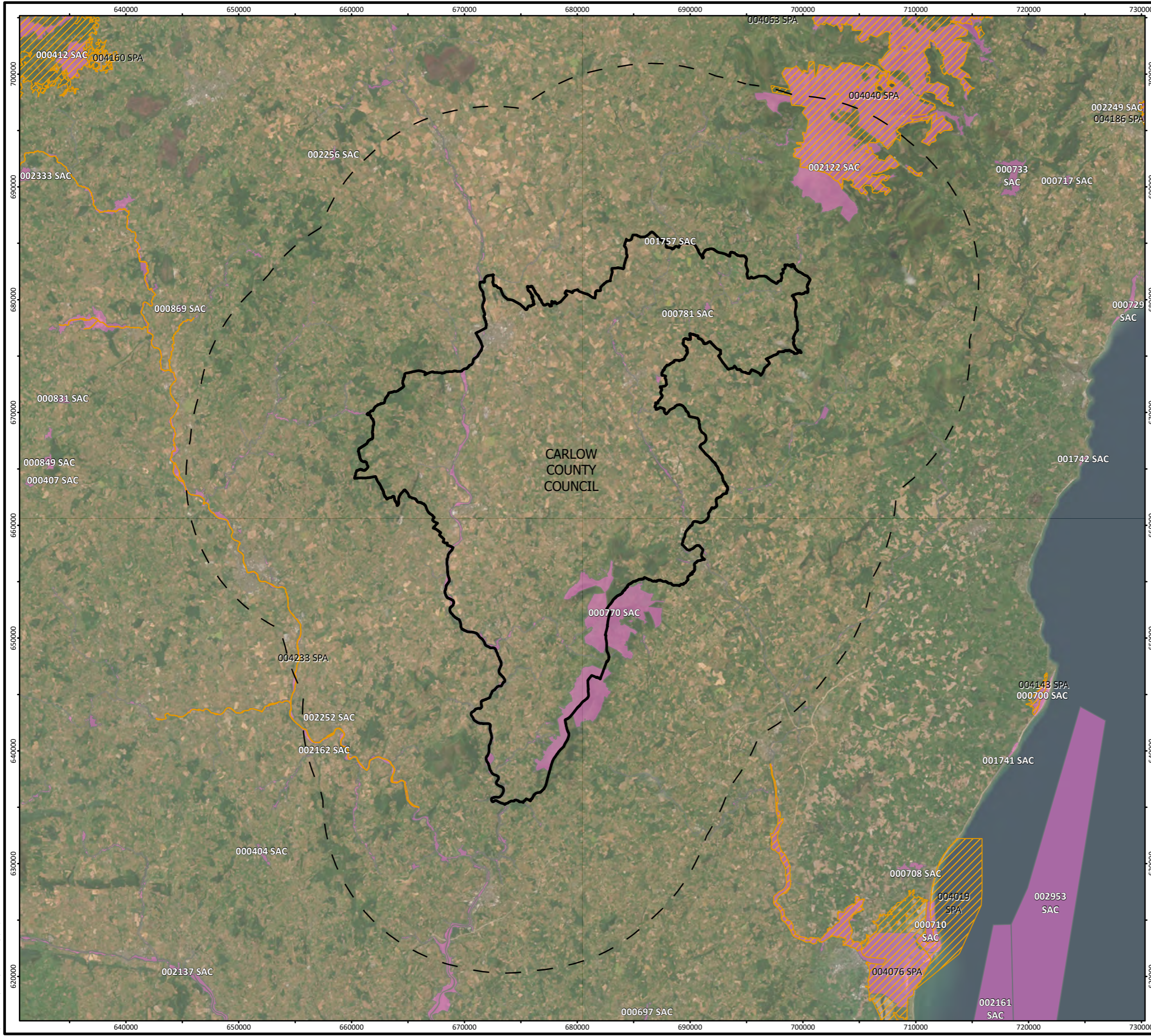
The elements of the Draft LACAP with the highest potential to give rise to the effects indicated above are associated with construction phase elements of the implementation of the Draft LACAP. The operational phase elements of the Draft LACAP are consistent with the existing condition of the area. All policies and objectives are considered in this assessment with respect to the ecological integrity of each of the European sites identified. Considering the sensitivities/vulnerabilities of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects and potential pathways for such effects. Where sources and pathways for effects are identified potential effects will be assessed in relation to the SSCOs.

3.3.3 Screening of Sites

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

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

Mapping Reproduced Under Licence from the Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. CHAL5021678 © Government of Ireland Creative and Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) Licence <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.
© Imagery: Earthstar Geographics
© OpenStreetMap (map data contributors), CC-BY-SA

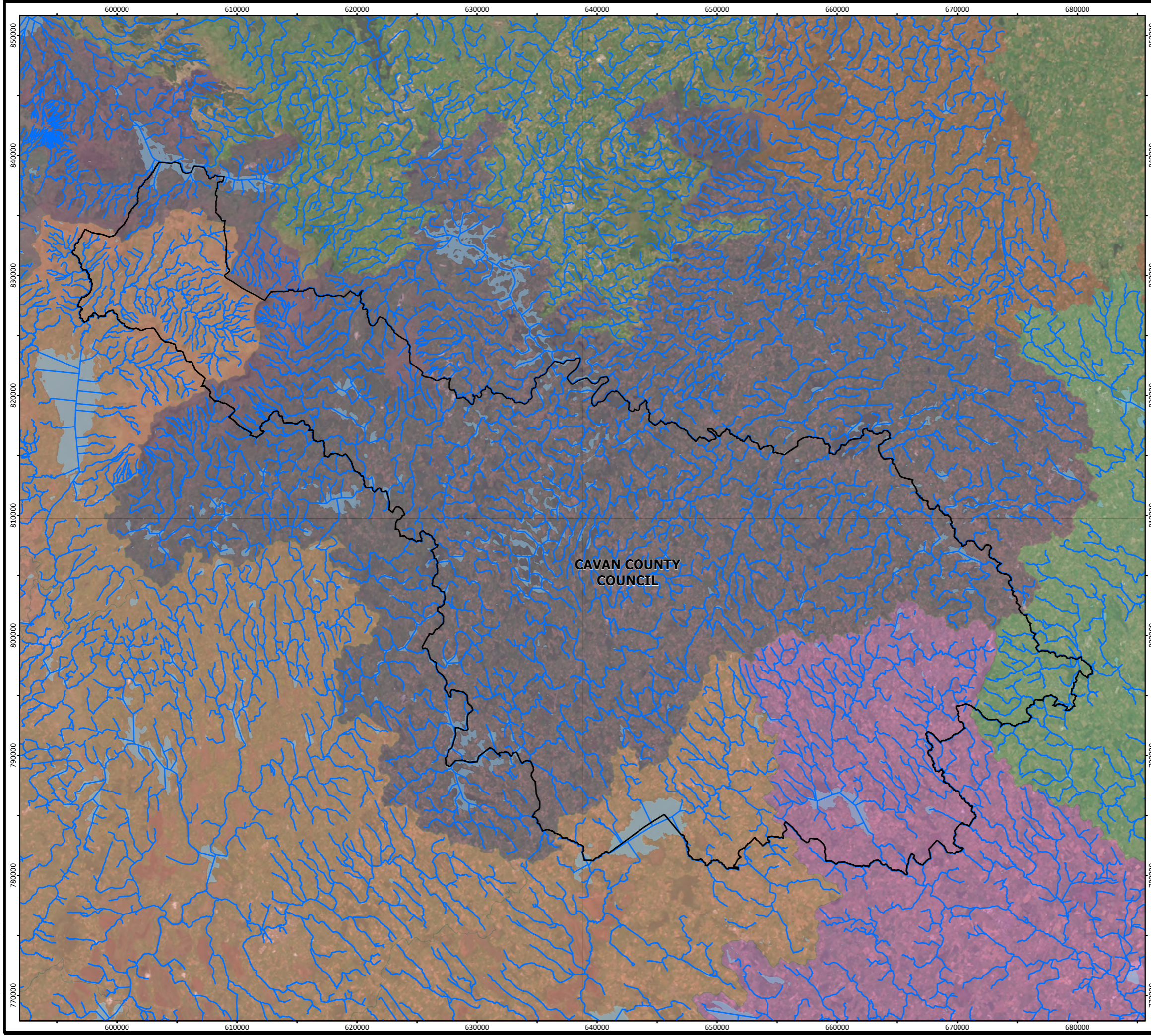


- Legend
- Local Authority Boundaries
 - Local Authority Boundary - 15km Buffer
 - Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas	
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL Local Authority Climate Action Plans	
FIGURE NO:	3.1
CLIENT:	CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	15/08/2023
SCALE:	1:332,500 @ A3

FEHILY TIMONEY Cork | Dublin | Carlow
www.fehilytimoney.ie

Mapping Reproduced Under Licence from the Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. CHAL50216758 © Government of Ireland Creative and Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) Licence <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.
© Imagery: Esri, DeLorme, GeoEye, (Geo) Intel, © OpenStreetMap (map) contributors, CC-BY-SA, © Mapbox



- Legend**
- Local Authority Boundaries
 - Rivers
 - WFD Catchments
 - Catchment Name
 - Boyne
 - Erne
 - Lough Neagh & Lower Bann
 - Newry, Fane, Glyde and Dee
 - Sligo Bay & Drowse
 - Upper Shannon

Hydrology	
CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL Local Authority Climate Action Plans	
FIGURE NO:	3.2
CLIENT:	CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	15/08/2023
SCALE:	1:312,500 @ A3





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

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	0	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], European dry heaths [4030]	<p>The European Site is within the Carlow County LACAP area.</p> <p>The Draft LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	0	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365], Estuaries [1130], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]	<p>The European Site is within the Carlow County LACAP area.</p> <p>The Draft LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	0	Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], European dry heaths [4030], Reefs [1170], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], Estuaries [1130], Nore Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>) [1990], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	<p>The European Site is within the Carlow County LACAP area.</p> <p>The Draft LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	0.15	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	<p>There is a separation distance of ca. 150 m between this European Site and the area of Carlow County LACAP and a potential groundwater connection is present.</p> <p>The Draft LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Qualifying Interest of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
002252	Thomastown Quarry SAC	12.39	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	<p>There is a separation distance of ca. 12.39 km between this European Site and the area of Carlow County LACAP and a potential groundwater connection is present.</p> <p>The Draft LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Qualifying Interest of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	5.17	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110], Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], European dry heaths [4030], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355]	<p>There is a separation distance of ca. 5.17 km between this European Site and the area of Carlow County LACAP and no hydrological connection is present. At this distance, There is a separation distance of ca. 5.17 km between this European Site and the area of Carlow County LACAP and no hydrological connection is present.</p> <p>The Draft LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	No	No
004233	River Nore SPA	6.43	Kingfisher (Alcedo atthis) [A229]	<p>This European Site is within 15km of the area of Carlow LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.</p> <p>The Draft LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p>	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interest of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	7.97	Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098]	<p>This European Site is within 15km of the area of Carlow LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.</p> <p>The Draft LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA	18.0	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195], Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395],	<p>There is a separation distance of ca. 18.0 km between this European Site and the area of Carlow County LACAP and a hydrological connection of 20.7 km (instream distance) is present.</p> <p>The Draft LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Qualifying Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037], Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062], Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]			



3.4 In-combination effects with Other Plans and Programmes

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

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

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the next 20 years. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSE for the Southern Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the Draft LACAP. As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Draft LACAP is consistent with and conforms with national and regional policies, plans and programmes, including the NPF and the RSE for the Southern Region. The County Development Plan may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions, such as the that will be subject to their own lower-tier environmental assessments.

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

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

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

3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

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

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant adverse effects on 8 (no.) European sites.

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



4. STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the Draft LACAP alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 8 European sites brought forward from screening (those considered on Table 3-1 for which there is “Potential Pathway for Significant Effects” and/or “Potential for In-Combination Effects”), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified 8 European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Draft LACAP. Appendix 1 characterises each of the qualifying features of the ALL European sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites’ vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website⁷.

4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts⁸:

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

⁷ Last accessed 17th July 2023; <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>

⁸ These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2016) “Guidelines for ecological impact assessment”; Environmental Protection Agency (2002) “Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements”; and National Roads Authority (2009) “Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes”.



- Ecologically Significant Impact - An impact (negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographic area.
- Integrity of a Site - The coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

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

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

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

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

Generic Conservation Objective for cSACs:

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

One generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:

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

4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects

Assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted utilising a standard source-pathway model (see approach referred to under Sections 1.3 and 3). The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.); and climate change. Each of these potential changes are considered below and in Table 4.1 with reference to the QIs/SCIs of all of the European sites brought forward from Stage 1 of the AA process (see Section 3).



4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

The Draft LACAP provides for action related to climate action and generally seeks to reduce CO₂ emissions through coordination, advocacy, awareness etc. Many of the actions also relate to land use change or the provision of infrastructure developments such as green energy and active travel projects. The exact spatial location of these projects is not fully developed within the plan. The development of all infrastructural have associated construction phase effects which include land take, habitat destruction, disturbance effects, light pollution, dust, hydrological interactions, airborne pollution, excessive noise etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects due to construction on the ecological integrity of any European site.

As identified above LACAP boundary has several European sites within it; therefore, there is potential for effects to European sites through urbanisation and direct habitat loss on foot of the implementation of the Draft LACAP; however, several mitigation measures have been integrated into the Draft LACAP to ensure that its implementation will not result in the loss of any habitat necessary for the ecological integrity of any European site; namely list of actions to avoid habitat loss B1.12⁹, NE1.4¹⁰, NE1.5¹¹, NE1.6¹² and NE1.8¹³ etc. Additionally, the environmental governance section of the LACAP sets out a number of measures which will ensure the protection of biodiversity throughout the implementation of the plan such as:

- Promote climate action projects that support and maximize environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.
- Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.
- Ensure all development underpinned or supported by climate action is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No climate action related development project that is likely to have a significant negative effects on the receiving environment shall be supported.
- Ensure climate action related projects are carried out in a manner that promotes climate action-cultural heritage co-benefits, and do not result in unauthorized physical damage to cultural, archaeological or architectural features, or unauthorized or inappropriate alteration of the context of sensitive cultural heritage features.
- Ensure climate action related projects are carried out in a manner that promotes climate action water quality co-benefits, and align with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and relevant River Basin Management Plan.

⁹ Prepare Carlow County Council guidelines for nature based sustainable drainage solutions, ensuring the guidelines have appropriate regard to environmental protection requirements, including requirements to protect European sites.

¹⁰ Develop and implement a policy for the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides for areas managed by Carlow County Council, ensuring these substances are only used to a degree that does not cause significant effects on the receiving environment, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European sites.

¹¹ Prepare a Hedge and Road Verge Maintenance Strategy for Carlow County Council, having due regard to hedgerow conservation requirements.

¹² Develop and implement a Heritage Plan to record, conserve, and raise awareness of all aspects of built, natural and cultural heritage in the County ensuring climate change is factored into the plans development.

¹³ Develop a Native Tree Strategy to provide the vision and direction for long-term planning, planting, protection and maintenance of native trees, hedgerows and woodlands within Carlow Town and County



- Promote climate action projects that support protected trees, hedgerows and other habitats such as wetlands, floodzones which contribute to green infrastructure.
- Support opportunities to improve ecological connectivity of non-designated habitats and sites to improve overall ecosystem resilience and functioning while supporting climate action within the county.
- Ensure all projects supported by the council have taken the necessary precautions to identify and manage invasives species, particularly with regard to Schedule III species. No climate action related development project that is likely to cause the spread of invasives species listed in Schedule III shall be supported.
- Support opportunities to support peatland restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance while achieving climate targets through the implementation of the climate actions within the plan.

These policies ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the plan.

4.3.1.2 *Habitat or species Fragmentation*

As previously stated, the Draft LACAP provides for infrastructure developments which have associated effects. These effects could result in the fragmentation of habitat and or species through light pollution, habitat loss, removal of stepping stone habitats etc. This is particularly relevant for linear projects such as active travel schemes. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects in relation to fragmentation on the ecological integrity of any European site.

The Draft LACAP recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. The Draft LACAP provides actions to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as hedgerows; mitigation measures such as NE1.5¹¹ and NE1.8¹³ (see full list of measures reproduced at Section 5 of this report). Lighting is a particular issue for biodiversity - particularly with regard to linear projects, therefore the following action was required to ensure there would be no significant impacts in this regard: B1.4¹⁴ and B1.5¹⁵.

Further to these provisions there are actions related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as waterways, wetlands and peatlands etc. These actions apply to all plans, programmes and/or projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Draft LACAP and will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation will not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the Draft LACAP.

¹⁴ Complete the National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in County Carlow to reduce the GHG emissions and energy usage of public Lighting, while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity.

¹⁵ Develop planning conditions with specifications and standards to minimise energy use and light pollution from outdoor lighting in all new developments, ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity.



4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

Disturbance effects are caused by any activity that has potential to alter the movement patterns/distribution of species. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. This is particularly relevant in relation to tourism and recreation in general, which could be influenced by the Draft LACAP due to the provision of active travel schemes and other green initiatives within the Draft LACAP; from the perspective that many of the tourism destinations or attractions in the area are in or adjacent to European sites.

The Draft LACAP accounts for noise pollution effects through its policies and objectives affording protection to European sites by ensuring any projects that arise from the implementation of the Draft LACAP avoid or minimise noise in compliance with the Environmental Noise Directive and associated National Regulations through the Carlow County Council Noise Action Plan 2019 - 2023. Actions to ensure the protection of habitat quality with respect to disturbance effects from noise and other sources have been built into the Draft LACAP; namely DZ1.4¹⁶, DZ1.5¹⁷, DZ1.8¹⁸ and SRM1.3¹⁹ etc. (further details see Section 5).

These measures are robust to ensure that any sensitive habitat features or species will be identified and only compliant applications will be granted. All of the policies related to positive effects for Biodiversity are detailed in Section 5.

4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density

Species densities are reliant on species distributions, habitat condition, connectivity of ecological resources and availability of resources such as prey/food. The Draft LACAP introduces potential sources for effects to affect these four determinant factors for species densities in the form of construction phase effects such as habitat destruction, visitor movements/access, hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat encroachment, trampling etc. However, the Draft LACAP contains provisions to enhance biodiversity, landscape and the environment within Council boundary B1.12⁹, NE1.4¹⁰, NE1.5¹¹, NE1.6¹² and NE1.8¹³ etc. Similarly, the Draft LACAP the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. Further to these provisions there are actions related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as B1.12⁹, NE1.4¹⁰, NE1.5¹¹, NE1.6¹² and NE1.8¹³ etc. These actions apply to all plans, programmes and projects that may arise due to the implementation of the plan. Measures relating to light pollution, noise pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation are addressed above (further detailed in Section 5).

In addition to this the Draft LACAP identifies actions to protect and improve water quality interactions (see below for further details) which can influence species densities. There are also a number of provisions relating to protective buffer zones, further assessment requirements as well as commitments to increasing water quality standards etc. These measures are detailed across the Draft LACAP.

¹⁶ Provide a central location, Mobility Hub, which facilitates linkages between various low carbon transport options from Carlow Town centre; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage.

¹⁷ Reduce private car dependency through the expansion of sustainable shared mobility infrastructures and schemes for Carlow Town; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage.

¹⁸ Implement and monitor a pilot anti-idling campaign to enable improvement in air quality

¹⁹ Regulate and enforce the National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) which focus on delivering positive environmental outcomes for air quality, water quality and waste management. This includes over 2,000 different environmental inspections in Carlow annually.



4.3.1.5 *Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value*

Water quality is the primary macro indicator of conservation value. The Draft LACAP contains many robust actions to ensure the protection of both surface and ground water quality. Development within the vicinity of groundwater or surface water dependant European sites will not be permitted where there is potential for a likely significant effect on the groundwater or surface water supply to the European sites. Action that specifically relate to the protection of water quality which account for potential effects to European sites include G1.12²⁰, B1.12⁹, SRM1.3¹⁹, NE1.2²¹ and NE1.4¹⁰ etc. Similarly, emissions to air have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European sites; however, the Draft LACAP contains actions – such as G1.12²⁰, SRM1.3¹⁹, DZ1.1²², DZ1.3²³, DZ1.5¹⁷ and DZ1.8¹⁸ etc – which account for this.

Additionally, the actions provide broader scope to ensure the protection of the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions; such as B1.12⁹.

4.3.1.6 *Climate change*

The Draft LACAP is specifically focused on climate action and most of the actions within the plan are aimed at reducing carbon emissions and move towards renewable energy sources; B1.1²⁴, B1.2²⁵, B1.3²⁶, B1.4¹⁴, B1.5¹⁵, B1.6²⁷, B1.7²⁸ and B1.8²⁹ etc.

Therefore, there are no sources for significant effects to climate change factors identified within the Draft LACAP having regard for the measures identified above and in Section 5 below. Therefore, there are no changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European sites considered.

²⁰ Provide match funding to enable climate, energy, biodiversity action projects - which promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.

²¹ Implement the actions set out in the County Carlow Green Infrastructure Strategy; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value.

²² Establish a Decarbonising Zone working group comprising of representation from Public Bodies/ Government Agencies, Business, Utility/ Infrastructure providers, Transport providers, Education Facilities, Private Sector.

²³ Carry out a geothermal feasibility study in Carlow Town to determine the technical, financial, planning and environmental viability of a geothermal energy project, ensuring the study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations.

²⁴ Conduct Energy Audits across Carlow County Council's Significant Energy Users (SEUs)/Facilities to create a Gap to Target (51%) analysis to inform spending on projects to reduce carbon.

²⁵ Prepare and implement a carbon savings programme of measures for Council buildings/facilities to assist in achieving a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.

²⁶ Pursue national/regional funding programmes to attain funding for emission reduction measures for Carlow County Council, e.g. Pathfinder

²⁷ Ensure all new build social housing units provided by Carlow County Council are built to meet a minimum A2 Building Energy Rating Standard to reduce GHG emissions, energy consumption and address fuel poverty for vulnerable residents.

²⁸ Upgrade existing social housing units using the worst first principal to B2 or cost optimal to reduce GHG emissions, energy consumption and contribute to alleviating of fuel poverty for vulnerable residents, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.

²⁹ Facilitate the upgrade of existing vacant & derelict residential and commercial properties in Carlow Town and County through schemes such as Towns Centre First, Croí Conaithe, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.



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

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
G1.12	Provide match funding to enable climate, energy and biodiversity action projects.	<p>This action has the potential to contribute to the creation of slight to significant positive environmental effects on climate, biodiversity, water quality and hydrology, and local air quality.</p> <p>Development supported by this action, such as renewable energy or biodiversity action projects related development could potentially have negative environmental effects.</p>	Provide match funding to enable climate, energy, biodiversity action projects - which promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
B1.2	Prepare and implement a carbon savings programme of measures for Council buildings/facilities to assist in achieving a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.	<p>This action will support the local authority reducing its organizational GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> <p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Retrofitting works may also negative effect the appropriate conservation of protected structures. Therefore there is also scope for there to be negative effects if unmitigated.</p>	Prepare and implement a carbon savings programme of measures for Council buildings/facilities to assist in achieving a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
B1.4	Complete the National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in County Carlow to reduce the GHG emissions and energy usage of public Lighting.	<p>This action will support the local authority in reducing its organizational GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> <p>The spectrum of light from LED sources has the potential to impact nocturnal species. Therefore there is also scope for there to be slight negative effects if unmitigated.</p>	Complete the National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in County Carlow to reduce the GHG emissions and energy usage of public Lighting, while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity.
B1.5	Develop planning conditions with specifications and standards to minimise energy use and light pollution from outdoor lighting in all new developments.	<p>This action will support the local authority in reducing its organizational GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> <p>The spectrum of light from LED sources has the potential to impact nocturnal species. Therefore there is also scope for there to be slight negative effects if unmitigated.</p>	Develop planning conditions with specifications and standards to minimise energy use and light pollution from outdoor lighting in all new developments, ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
B1.7	Upgrade existing social housing units using the worst first principal to B2 or cost optimal to reduce GHG emissions, energy consumption and contribute to alleviating of fuel poverty for vulnerable residents.	<p>This action will support the reduction of Residential sector GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> <p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Retrofitting works may also negative effect the appropriate conservation of protected structures. Therefore there is also scope for there to be negative effects if unmitigated.</p>	Upgrade existing social housing units using the worst first principal to B2 or cost optimal to reduce GHG emissions, energy consumption and contribute to alleviating of fuel poverty for vulnerable residents, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.
B1.8	Facilitate the upgrade of existing vacant & derelict residential and commercial properties in Carlow Town and County through schemes such as Towns Centre First, Croí Conaithe	<p>This action will support the reduction of Residential and Commercial sector GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> <p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Retrofitting works may also negative effect the appropriate conservation of protected structures. Therefore there is also scope for there to be negative effects if unmitigated.</p> <p>There is the potential for adverse ecological effects if these vacant/derelict properties are supporting protected species or habitats, e.g. old buildings supporting bat roosts.</p>	Facilitate the upgrade of existing vacant & derelict residential and commercial properties in Carlow Town and County through schemes such as Towns Centre First, Croí Conaithe, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
B1.9	<p>Identify derelict properties throughout the County and use legislative powers such as Compulsory Purchase Order and compulsory acquisition order to facilitate their reuse.</p>	<p>This action has the potential to support the use of derelict structures which could result in significant negative effects if unmitigated. Any use should ensure correct restoration of derelict structures. This action has the potential to have adverse effects on Bats which are Annex IV species, as many roosts are located within old unused buildings. This action has the potential to have significant positive effects on population and land use.</p> <p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Retrofitting works may also negative effect the appropriate conservation of protected structures. Therefore there is also scope for there to be negative effects if unmitigated.</p> <p>There is the potential for adverse ecological effects if these derelict properties are supporting protected species or habitats, e.g. old buildings supporting bat roosts.</p>	<p>Identify derelict properties throughout the County and use legislative powers such as Compulsory Purchase Order and compulsory acquisition order to facilitate their reuse; having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species.</p>



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
B1.10	Target brownfield, vacancy and dereliction as part of the housing for all programme through repair and lease, buy and renew and SHIP programmes	<p>This action has the potential to create a variety of positive environmental effects. In a climate context, this action has the potential to support the offset embodied GHG emissions associated with the construction of new residential development.</p> <p>This action has the potential to support the use of derelict structures which could result in significant negative effects if unmitigated. Any use should ensure correct restoration of derelict structures. This action has the potential to have adverse effects on Bats which are Annex IV species, as many roosts are located within old unused buildings. This action has the potential to have significant positive effects on population and land use.</p> <p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Retrofitting works may also negative effect the appropriate conservation of protected structures. Therefore there is also scope for there to be negative effects if unmitigated.</p> <p>This action may support the carrying out of significant residential development, which may result in a range of slight to significant negative environmental effects in the absence of appropriate design or mitigation, including construction related effects, or effects on traffic and transport, population and human health, land use, or biodiversity</p>	Target brownfield, vacancy and dereliction as part of the housing for all programme through repair and lease, buy and renew and SHIP programmes; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity, the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
B1.12	Prepare Carlow County Council guidelines for nature based sustainable drainage solutions	<p>This action has potential to support improving the effectiveness of nature based sustainable drainage solutions. The action will generate a positive effect for environmental receptors that are at risk of being negatively impacted by flood events - by reducing the risk of such flood events and promoting sustainable solutions for the same. The action has the potential to positively impact biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p> <p>The construction of SuDS has the potential to result in some negative environmental effects on water quality (e.g. due to the run-off of soil or cement based material) or biodiversity (due to works impacting on water quality/aquatic ecology), for example.</p>	Prepare Carlow County Council guidelines for nature based sustainable drainage solutions, ensuring the guidelines have appropriate regard to environmental protection requirements, including requirements to protect European sites.
T1.1	Appoint a fleet manager and develop a fleet management policy for Carlow County Council Fleet.	The implementation of the action will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation. The action will serve to promote organisational climate action and the development of climate-positive policies.	Appoint a fleet manager and develop a sustainable fleet management policy for Carlow County Council Fleet.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
T1.2	Investigate options for a renewable fuel alternative to diesel and the electrification of Council fleet vehicles including delivery of a pilot scheme.	<p>Increasing the level of local authority vehicles that use sustainable sources of energy/fuel will have a slight positive effect on climate.</p> <p>The scalable adoption of vehicles based on certain alternative fuels may contribute to the expansion of alternative fuel production sectors. These sectors may indirectly cause environmental effects (including uncertain and potentially negative effects) as a result of fuel sourcing, production and supply processes.</p> <p>This action has the potential to increase the uptake in Electric Vehicles and will support a modal shift and reduction in vehicle related GHG emissions.</p> <p>Electric vehicles have the potential to generate a variety of uncertain lifecycle impacts, including production related impacts and end-of-life related.</p>	Investigate options for a sustainably sourced renewable fuel alternative to diesel and the electrification of Council fleet vehicles including delivery of a pilot scheme, while ensuring sustainability criteria is appropriately considered during procurement processes and appropriate end-of-life vehicle management practices are in place.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
T1.3	Develop and Adopt Electric Vehicle Strategy to support the transition to electric vehicle use in the wider community for County Carlow and for the South East Region	<p>This action has the potential to increase the uptake in Electric Vehicles and will support a modal shift and reduction in vehicle related GHG emissions.</p> <p>The expansion of the EV and consequently EV charging network will lead to the development of multiple charging points and ancillary electrical infrastructure including grid connection routes across the extent of the local authority's functional area.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional charging point infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>The delivery of good network of charging infrastructure has the potential to promote the use of sustainable travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p>	Develop and Adopt Electric Vehicle Strategy to support the transition to electric vehicle use in the wider community for County Carlow and for the South East Region; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage etc.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
T1.4	Deliver active travel projects across the County to encourage use of active travel modes such as walking or cycling.	<p>This action supports the development of additional active travel infrastructure.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional active travel infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>The delivery of an expanded safe active travel network has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p>	Deliver active travel projects across the County to encourage use of active travel modes such as walking or cycling; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage.
T1.5	Complete Transport Plans for Carlow Town, Tullow & Muine Bheag	<p>The implementation of the action will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation (i.e. the development of the plans themselves).</p> <p>The implementation of transport plans has the potential to create a variety of slight to very significant positive and negative environmental effects in each of these settlements, including construction related impacts associated with development related action contained in the plans, including noise, dust, water quality and biodiversity.</p>	Complete Transport Plans for Carlow Town, Tullow & Muine Bheag, having due regard to the potential to create climate action co-benefits, and environmental protection requirements, including the requirement to protect European sites.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
NE1.2	Implement the actions set out in the County Carlow Green Infrastructure Strategy	<p>This action will promote the protection and further development of green infrastructure. The protection and development of green infrastructure has the potential to have wide ranging slight to very significant positive effects on biodiversity, and slight to significant positive effects on tourism and recreation amenity and water quality and hydrology.</p> <p>In absence of appropriate design and mitigation, the development of green infrastructure could potentially result in negative environmental effects, including negative construction related effects and negative effects on biodiversity.</p>	Implement the actions set out in the County Carlow Green Infrastructure Strategy; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value.
NE1.4	Develop and implement a policy for the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides for areas managed by Carlow County Council.	<p>This action has the potential to have wide ranging slight to moderate effects on local biodiversity, water quality, soil, flora, fauna, etc. Limiting and regulating the use of herbicides and pesticides would prevent to some degree the occurrence of environmental pollution incidents due to the use of these substances.</p> <p>The negative environmental effect of the continued use of such substances is potentially significant, given the hazardous properties of these substances.</p>	Develop and implement a policy for the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides for areas managed by Carlow County Council, ensuring these substances are only used to a degree that does not cause significant effects on the receiving environment, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European sites.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
NE1.5	Prepare a Hedge and Road Verge Maintenance Strategy for Carlow County Council	<p>This action has the potential to have wide ranging slight to moderate significant effects on local biodiversity, and slight to significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity. Promoting vegetative growth may result in an additional degree of carbon sequestration, marginally offsetting the effects of GHG emissions.</p> <p>Inappropriate or improper hedgerow maintenance could lead to negative environmental impacts on biodiversity and flora and fauna species present in such hedgerows.</p>	Prepare a Hedge and Road Verge Maintenance Strategy for Carlow County Council, having due regard to hedgerow conservation requirements.
NE1.8	Develop a Tree Strategy to provide the vision and direction for long-term planning, planting, protection and maintenance of trees, hedgerows and woodlands within Carlow Town and County	<p>This action has the potential to have wide ranging slight to moderate significant effects on local biodiversity, and slight to significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity. Promoting vegetative growth may result in an additional degree of carbon sequestration, marginally offsetting the effects of GHG emissions.</p>	Develop a Native Tree Strategy to provide the vision and direction for long-term planning, planting, protection and maintenance of native trees, hedgerows and woodlands within Carlow Town and County



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
C1.5	Develop a Green Festivals & Events Strategy	<p>This promotional action will underpin and support the effective delivery of climate action in the community by promoting and awareness and understanding of sustainability and climate action related issues. The adoption of this action will support the full realization of the vision and main objectives of the plan in the community.</p> <p>This action has the potential to have wide ranging slight to very significant positive effects on biodiversity.</p> <p>If unmitigated, festivals and events can have negative impacts on the water quality, waste generation, soil, noise, energy use, GHG emissions, etc.</p>	Develop a Green Festivals & Events Strategy, ensuring these are carried out in accordance with sustainability guidelines, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage etc.
SRM1.10	Carry out a feasibility study to identify the logistical, financial, and market challenges of a proposed district heating project in Carlow	<p>This is a study based action which, in isolation, will have no environmental effects. Depending on the outcome of the study, this action could potentially lead to development that has a positive effect on the climate and local air quality environments.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, development that this study could lead onto, which could include extensive pipe laying works, could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality, biodiversity, flora and fauna; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust) and the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise).</p>	Carry out a feasibility study to identify the logistical, financial, planning, environmental and market challenges of a proposed district heating project in Carlow; ensuring the study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ1.2	Prepare a register of opportunities outlining projects that will aid carbon reduction in the Decarbonising Zone	The implementation of the action will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation. The action will serve to promote organisational climate action and the development of climate-positive policies.	Prepare a register of opportunities outlining projects that will aid carbon reduction in the Decarbonising Zone, ensuring integrated environmental protection requirements are appropriately considered.
DZ1.3	Carry out a geothermal feasibility study in Carlow Town to determine the technical and financial viability of a geothermal energy project.	<p>This is a study based action. Depending on the outcome of the study, this action could potentially lead to development that has a positive effect on the climate and local air quality environments</p> <p>In the absence of good design and appropriate design such a project could lead to unintended environmental impacts, including slight to significant negative effects on water quality, soils, hydrogeology and biodiversity.</p>	Carry out a geothermal feasibility study in Carlow Town to determine the technical, financial, planning and environmental viability of a geothermal energy project, ensuring the study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations.
DZ1.4	Provide a central location, Mobility Hub, which facilitates linkages between various low carbon transport options from Carlow Town centre.	<p>The development of infrastructure associated with a transport mobility hub may result in negative construction related environmental effects, including effects on water quality, Biodiversity, European sites and local noise and dust related effects.</p> <p>The delivery of expanded sustainable/active travel networks has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p>	Provide a central location, Mobility Hub, which facilitates linkages between various low carbon transport options from Carlow Town centre; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ1.5	Reduce private car dependency through the expansion of sustainable shared mobility infrastructures and schemes for Carlow Town	<p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in developing mobility infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>The delivery of expanded sustainable/active travel networks has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p>	Reduce private car dependency through the expansion of sustainable shared mobility infrastructures and schemes for Carlow Town; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage.
DZ1.6	Provide improved pedestrian and cycle links to Carlow Bus Park and Carlow Train Station.	<p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the updating of road space have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>The delivery of expanded sustainable/active travel networks has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p>	Provide improved pedestrian and cycle links to Carlow Bus Park and Carlow Train Station; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ1.11	Advance Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) projects to achieve the Carlow 2040 plan.	<p>This action has the potential to create a variety of positive environmental effects. In a climate context, this action has the potential to support the offset embodied GHG emissions associated with the construction of new residential development.</p> <p>This action has the potential to support the use of derelict structures which could result in significant negative effects if unmitigated. Any use should ensure correct restoration of derelict structures. This action has the potential to have adverse effects on Bats which are Annex IV species, as many roosts are located within old unused buildings. This action has the potential to have significant positive effects on population and land use.</p> <p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Retrofitting works may also negative effect the appropriate conservation of protected structures. Therefore there is also scope for there to be negative effects if unmitigated.</p> <p>This action may support the carrying out of significant urban development, which may result in a range of slight to significant negative environmental effects in the absence of appropriate design or mitigation, including construction related effects, or effects on land use, or biodiversity</p>	Advance Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) projects to achieve the Carlow 2040 plan; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity, the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species.



5. MITIGATION MEASURES

This section outlines measures that have been incorporated into the Draft LACAP in order to mitigate against potential effects to European sites as identified above. The Draft LACAP was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European site from implementation of the Draft LACAP. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European sites are identified in Table 5-1 below³⁰. Some of these measures, many of which were integrated into the current Plan through the SEA and AA processes for that Plan, have been retained and/or updated.

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

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

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

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

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

³⁰ For a complete assessment of the Plan, against all environmental components (These components comprise biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors), refer to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report.



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

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



Table 5-1: Recommendations integrated into the Plan

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
G1.12	Provide match funding to enable climate, energy and biodiversity action projects.	<p>This action has the potential to contribute to the creation of slight to significant positive environmental effects on climate, biodiversity, water quality and hydrology, and local air quality</p> <p>Development supported by this action, such as renewable energy or biodiversity action projects related development could potentially have negative environmental effects.</p>	Provide match funding to enable climate, energy, biodiversity action projects - which promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
B1.2	Prepare and implement a carbon savings programme of measures for Council buildings/facilities to assist in achieving a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.	<p>This action will support the local authority reducing its organizational GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> <p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Retrofitting works may also negative effect the appropriate conservation of protected structures. Therefore there is also scope for there to be negative effects if unmitigated.</p>	Prepare and implement a carbon savings programme of measures for Council buildings/facilities to assist in achieving a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
B1.4	Complete the National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in County Carlow to reduce the GHG emissions and energy usage of public Lighting.	<p>This action will support the local authority in reducing its organizational GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements</p> <p>The spectrum of light from LED sources has the potential to impact nocturnal species. Therefore there is also scope for there to be slight negative effects if unmitigated.</p>	Complete the National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in County Carlow to reduce the GHG emissions and energy usage of public Lighting, while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity.
B1.5	Develop planning conditions with specifications and standards to minimise energy use and light pollution from outdoor lighting in all new developments.	<p>This action will support the local authority in reducing its organizational GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> <p>The spectrum of light from LED sources has the potential to impact nocturnal species. Therefore there is also scope for there to be slight negative effects if unmitigated.</p>	Develop planning conditions with specifications and standards to minimise energy use and light pollution from outdoor lighting in all new developments, ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
B1.7	Upgrade existing social housing units using the worst first principal to B2 or cost optimal to reduce GHG emissions, energy consumption and contribute to alleviating of fuel poverty for vulnerable residents.	<p>This action will support the reduction of Residential sector GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> <p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Retrofitting works may also negative effect the appropriate conservation of protected structures. Therefore there is also scope for there to be negative effects if unmitigated.</p>	Upgrade existing social housing units using the worst first principal to B2 or cost optimal to reduce GHG emissions, energy consumption and contribute to alleviating of fuel poverty for vulnerable residents, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.
B1.8	Facilitate the upgrade of existing vacant & derelict residential and commercial properties in Carlow Town and County through schemes such as Towns Centre First, Croí Conaithe	<p>This action will support the reduction of Residential and Commercial sector GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> <p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Retrofitting works may also negative effect the appropriate conservation of protected structures. Therefore there is also scope for there to be negative effects if unmitigated.</p> <p>There is the potential for adverse ecological effects if these vacant/derelict properties are supporting protected species or habitats, e.g. old buildings supporting bat roosts.</p>	Facilitate the upgrade of existing vacant & derelict residential and commercial properties in Carlow Town and County through schemes such as Towns Centre First, Croí Conaithe, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
B1.9	Identify derelict properties throughout the County and use legislative powers such as Compulsory Purchase Order and compulsory acquisition order to facilitate their reuse.	<p>This action has the potential to support the use of derelict structures which could result in significant negative effects if unmitigated. Any use should ensure correct restoration of derelict structures. This action has the potential to have adverse effects on Bats which are Annex IV species, as many roosts are located within old unused buildings. This action has the potential to have significant positive effects on population and land use.</p> <p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Retrofitting works may also negative effect the appropriate conservation of protected structures. Therefore there is also scope for there to be negative effects if unmitigated.</p> <p>There is the potential for adverse ecological effects if these derelict properties are supporting protected species or habitats, e.g. old buildings supporting bat roosts.</p>	Identify derelict properties throughout the County and use legislative powers such as Compulsory Purchase Order and compulsory acquisition order to facilitate their reuse; having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
B1.10	Target brownfield, vacancy and dereliction as part of the housing for all programme through repair and lease, buy and renew and SHIP programmes	<p>This action has the potential to create a variety of positive environmental effects. In a climate context, this action has the potential to support the offset embodied GHG emissions associated with the construction of new residential development</p> <p>This action has the potential to support the use of derelict structures which could result in significant negative effects if unmitigated. Any use should ensure correct restoration of derelict structures. This action has the potential to have adverse effects on Bats which are Annex IV species, as many roosts are located within old unused buildings. This action has the potential to have significant positive effects on population and land use.</p> <p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Retrofitting works may also negative effect the appropriate conservation of protected structures. Therefore there is also scope for there to be negative effects if unmitigated.</p> <p>This action may support the carrying out of significant residential development, which may result in a range of slight to significant negative environmental effects in the absence of appropriate design or mitigation, including construction related effects, or effects on traffic and transport, population and human health, land use, or biodiversity</p>	Target brownfield, vacancy and dereliction as part of the housing for all programme through repair and lease, buy and renew and SHIP programmes; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity, the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
B1.12	Prepare Carlow County Council guidelines for nature based sustainable drainage solutions	<p>This action has potential to support improving the effectiveness of nature based sustainable drainage solutions. The action will generate a positive effect for environmental receptors that are at risk of being negatively impacted by flood events - by reducing the risk of such flood events and promoting sustainable solutions for the same. The action has the potential to positively impact biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p> <p>The construction of SuDS has the potential to result in some negative environmental effects on water quality (e.g. due to the run-off of soil or cement based material) or biodiversity (due to works impacting on water quality/aquatic ecology), for example.</p>	Prepare Carlow County Council guidelines for nature based sustainable drainage solutions, ensuring the guidelines have appropriate regard to environmental protection requirements, including requirements to protect European sites.
T1.1	Appoint a fleet manager and develop a fleet management policy for Carlow County Council Fleet.	The implementation of the action will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation. The action will serve to promote organisational climate action and the development of climate-positive policies.	Appoint a fleet manager and develop a sustainable fleet management policy for Carlow County Council Fleet.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
T1.2	Investigate options for a renewable fuel alternative to diesel and the electrification of Council fleet vehicles including delivery of a pilot scheme.	<p>Increasing the level of local authority vehicles that use sustainable sources of energy/fuel will have a slight positive effect on climate.</p> <p>The scalable adoption of vehicles based on certain alternative fuels may contribute to the expansion of alternative fuel production sectors. These sectors may indirectly cause environmental effects (including uncertain and potentially negative effects) as a result of fuel sourcing, production and supply processes.</p> <p>This action has the potential to increase the uptake in Electric Vehicles and will support a modal shift and reduction in vehicle related GHG emissions.</p> <p>Electric vehicles have the potential to generate a variety of uncertain lifecycle impacts, including production related impacts and end-of-life related.</p>	Investigate options for a sustainably sourced renewable fuel alternative to diesel and the electrification of Council fleet vehicles including delivery of a pilot scheme, while ensuring sustainability criteria is appropriately considered during procurement processes and appropriate end-of-life vehicle management practices are in place.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
T1.3	Develop and Adopt Electric Vehicle Strategy to support the transition to electric vehicle use in the wider community for County Carlow and for the South East Region	<p>This action has the potential to increase the uptake in Electric Vehicles and will support a modal shift and reduction in vehicle related GHG emissions.</p> <p>The expansion of the EV and consequently EV charging network will lead to the development of multiple charging points and ancillary electrical infrastructure including grid connection routes across the extent of the local authority's functional area.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional charging point infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>The delivery of good network of charging infrastructure has the potential to promote the use of sustainable travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p>	Develop and Adopt Electric Vehicle Strategy to support the transition to electric vehicle use in the wider community for County Carlow and for the South East Region; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage etc.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
T1.4	Deliver active travel projects across the County to encourage use of active travel modes such as walking or cycling.	<p>This action supports the development of additional active travel infrastructure.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional active travel infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>The delivery of an expanded safe active travel network has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p>	Deliver active travel projects across the County to encourage use of active travel modes such as walking or cycling; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage.
T1.5	Complete Transport Plans for Carlow Town, Tullow & Muine Bheag	<p>The implementation of the action will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation (i.e. the development of the plans themselves).</p> <p>The implementation of transport plans has the potential to create a variety of slight to very significant positive and negative environmental effects in each of these settlements, including construction related impacts associated with development related action contained in the plans, including noise, dust, water quality and biodiversity.</p>	Complete Transport Plans for Carlow Town, Tullow & Muine Bheag, having due regard to the potential to create climate action co-benefits, and environmental protection requirements, including the requirement to protect European sites.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
NE1.2	Implement the actions set out in the County Carlow Green Infrastructure Strategy	<p>This action will promote the protection and further development of green infrastructure. The protection and development of green infrastructure has the potential to have wide ranging slight to very significant positive effects on biodiversity, and slight to significant positive effects on tourism and recreation amenity and water quality and hydrology.</p> <p>In absence of appropriate design and mitigation, the development of green infrastructure could potentially result in negative environmental effects, including negative construction related effects and negative effects on biodiversity.</p>	Implement the actions set out in the County Carlow Green Infrastructure Strategy; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value.
NE1.4	Develop and implement a policy for the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides for areas managed by Carlow County Council.	<p>This action has the potential to have wide ranging slight to moderate effects on local biodiversity, water quality, soil, flora, fauna, etc. Limiting and regulating the use of herbicides and pesticides would prevent to some degree the occurrence of environmental pollution incidents due to the use of these substances.</p> <p>The negative environmental effect of the continued use of such substances is potentially significant, given the hazardous properties of these substances.</p>	Develop and implement a policy for the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides for areas managed by Carlow County Council, ensuring these substances are only used to a degree that does not cause significant effects on the receiving environment, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European sites.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
NE1.5	Prepare a Hedge and Road Verge Maintenance Strategy for Carlow County Council	<p>This action has the potential to have wide ranging slight to moderate significant effects on local biodiversity, and slight to significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity. Promoting vegetative growth may result in an additional degree of carbon sequestration, marginally offsetting the effects of GHG emissions.</p> <p>Inappropriate or improper hedgerow maintenance could lead to negative environmental impacts on biodiversity and flora and fauna species present in such hedgerows.</p>	Prepare a Hedge and Road Verge Maintenance Strategy for Carlow County Council, having due regard to hedgerow conservation requirements.
NE1.8	Develop a Tree Strategy to provide the vision and direction for long-term planning, planting, protection and maintenance of trees, hedgerows and woodlands within Carlow Town and County	<p>This action has the potential to have wide ranging slight to moderate significant effects on local biodiversity, and slight to significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity. Promoting vegetative growth may result in an additional degree of carbon sequestration, marginally offsetting the effects of GHG emissions.</p>	Develop a Native Tree Strategy to provide the vision and direction for long-term planning, planting, protection and maintenance of native trees, hedgerows and woodlands within Carlow Town and County



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
C1.5	Develop a Green Festivals & Events Strategy	<p>This promotional action will underpin and support the effective delivery of climate action in the community by promoting and awareness and understanding of sustainability and climate action related issues. The adoption of this action will support the full realization of the vision and main objectives of the plan in the community.</p> <p>This action has the potential to have wide ranging slight to very significant positive effects on biodiversity.</p> <p>If unmitigated, festivals and events can have negative impacts on the water quality, waste generation, soil, noise, energy use, GHG emissions, etc.</p>	Develop a Green Festivals & Events Strategy, ensuring these are carried out in accordance with sustainability guidelines, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage etc.
SRM1.10	Carry out a feasibility study to identify the logistical, financial, and market challenges of a proposed district heating project in Carlow	<p>This is a study based action which, in isolation, will have no environmental effects. Depending on the outcome of the study, this action could potentially lead to development that has a positive effect on the climate and local air quality environments.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, development that this study could lead onto, which could include extensive pipe laying works, could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality, biodiversity, flora and fauna; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust) and the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise).</p>	Carry out a feasibility study to identify the logistical, financial, planning, environmental and market challenges of a proposed district heating project in Carlow; ensuring the study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ1.2	Prepare a register of opportunities outlining projects that will aid carbon reduction in the Decarbonising Zone	The implementation of the action will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation. The action will serve to promote organisational climate action and the development of climate-positive policies.	Prepare a register of opportunities outlining projects that will aid carbon reduction in the Decarbonising Zone, ensuring integrated environmental protection requirements are appropriately considered.
DZ1.3	Carry out a geothermal feasibility study in Carlow Town to determine the technical and financial viability of a geothermal energy project.	<p>This is a study based action. Depending on the outcome of the study, this action could potentially lead to development that has a positive effect on the climate and local air quality environments</p> <p>In the absence of good design and appropriate design such a project could lead to unintended environmental impacts, including slight to significant negative effects on water quality, soils, hydrogeology and biodiversity.</p>	Carry out a geothermal feasibility study in Carlow Town to determine the technical, financial, planning and environmental viability of a geothermal energy project, ensuring the study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ1.4	Provide a central location, Mobility Hub, which facilitates linkages between various low carbon transport options from Carlow Town centre.	<p>The development of infrastructure associated with a transport mobility hub may result in negative construction related environmental effects, including effects on water quality, Biodiversity, European sites and local noise and dust related effects.</p> <p>The delivery of expanded sustainable/active travel networks has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p>	Provide a central location, Mobility Hub, which facilitates linkages between various low carbon transport options from Carlow Town centre; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage.
DZ1.5	Reduce private car dependency through the expansion of sustainable shared mobility infrastructures and schemes for Carlow Town	<p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in developing mobility infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>The delivery of expanded sustainable/active travel networks has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p>	Reduce private car dependency through the expansion of sustainable shared mobility infrastructures and schemes for Carlow Town; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ1.6	Provide improved pedestrian and cycle links to Carlow Bus Park and Carlow Train Station.	<p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the updating of road space have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>The delivery of expanded sustainable/active travel networks has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p>	Provide improved pedestrian and cycle links to Carlow Bus Park and Carlow Train Station; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ1.11	Advance Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) projects to achieve the Carlow 2040 plan.	<p>This action has the potential to create a variety of positive environmental effects. In a climate context, this action has the potential to support the offset embodied GHG emissions associated with the construction of new residential development.</p> <p>This action has the potential to support the use of derelict structures which could result in significant negative effects if unmitigated. Any use should ensure correct restoration of derelict structures. This action has the potential to have adverse effects on Bats which are Annex IV species, as many roosts are located within old unused buildings. This action has the potential to have significant positive effects on population and land use.</p> <p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Retrofitting works may also negative effect the appropriate conservation of protected structures. Therefore there is also scope for there to be negative effects if unmitigated.</p> <p>This action may support the carrying out of significant urban development, which may result in a range of slight to significant negative environmental effects in the absence of appropriate design or mitigation, including construction related effects, or effects on land use, or biodiversity</p>	Advance Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) projects to achieve the Carlow 2040 plan; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity, the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species.



Table 5-3: Environmental Mitigation Measures related Environmental Governance Principles suggested for inclusion in the plan - specifically the plan implementation section

Promote climate action projects that support and maximize environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.
Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.
Ensure all development underpinned or supported by climate action is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No climate action related development project that is likely to have a significant negative effects on the receiving environment shall be supported.
Ensure climate action related projects are carried out in a manner that promotes climate action-cultural heritage co-benefits, and do not result in unauthorized physical damage to cultural, archaeological or architectural features, or unauthorized or inappropriate alteration of the context of sensitive cultural heritage features.
Ensure climate action related projects are carried out in a manner that promotes climate action water quality co-benefits, and align with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and relevant River Basin Management Plan.
Promote climate action projects that support protected trees, hedgerows and other habitats such as wetlands, floodzones which contribute to green infrastructure.
Support opportunities to improve ecological connectivity of non-designated habitats and sites to improve overall ecosystem resilience and functioning while supporting climate action within the county.
Ensure all projects supported by the council have taken the necessary precautions to identify and manage invasives species, particularly with regard to Schedule III species. No climate action related development project that is likely to cause the spread of invasives species listed in Schedule III shall be supported.
Support opportunities to support peatland restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance while achieving climate targets through the implementation of the climate actions within the plan.



6. CONCLUSION

Stage 1 AA Screening and Stage 2 AA of the Draft Carlow Local Area Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 has been carried out. Implementation of the Draft LACAP has the potential to result in effects to the integrity of any European sites, if unmitigated.

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

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Draft Carlow Local Area Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects³¹. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

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

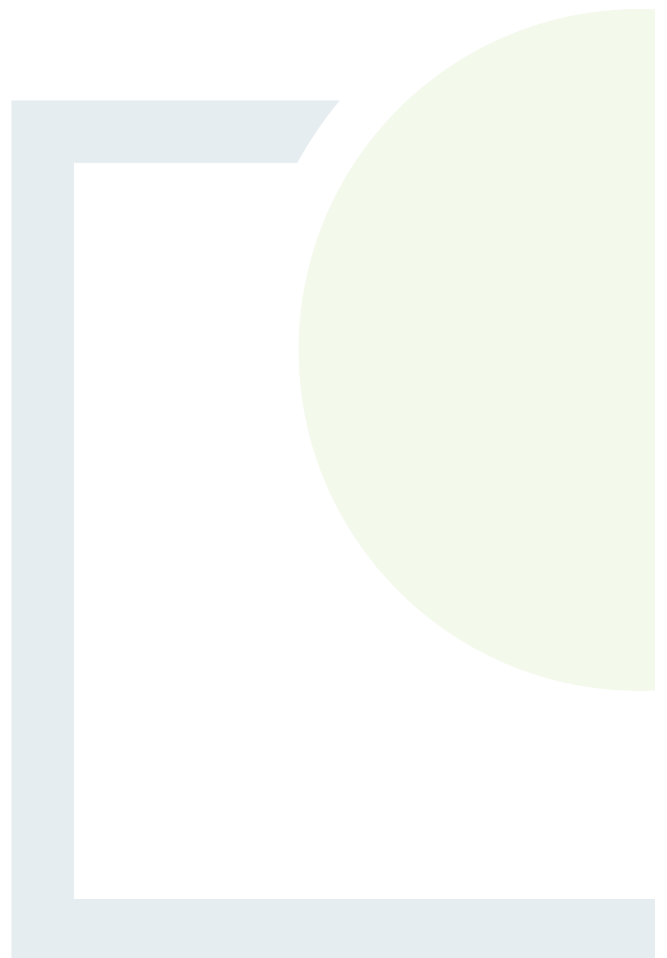
³¹ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
& PLANNING

APPENDIX 1

Background information to
European sites





Appendix 1 - Table 1 Quality and site characteristics of European sites considered in the assessment

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



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	The site supports good examples of both upland and woodland bird communities. It has breeding <i>Falco columbarius</i> and <i>Falco peregrinus</i> as well as <i>Turdus torquatus</i> and <i>Lagopus lagopus</i> both of the latter being Red-listed in Ireland. It is the only site in Ireland where <i>Mergus merganser</i> breeds regularly. It is important for rare breeding passerines of oakwoods notably <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> and <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> . It also has <i>Sylvia borin</i> and <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> .	This is an extensive upland site comprising a substantial part of the Wicklow Mountains. The underlying geology of the site is mainly of Leinster granites flanked by Ordovician schists mudstones and volcanics. The area was subject to glaciation and features fine examples of glacial lakes deep valleys and moraines. Most of site is over 300 m with much ground over 600 m and the highest peak of Lugnaquilla at 925 m. The substrate over much of site is peat with poor mineral soil occurring on the slopes and lower ground. Exposed rock and scree are features of the site. The dominant habitats present are blanket bog heaths and upland grassland. Fine examples of native Oak woodlands are found in the Glendalough area. The site which is within the Wicklow Mountains National Park is fragmented into about 20 separate parcels of land.
004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA	This site is of international importance for several species of waterfowl but also because it regularly supports well in excess of 20000 waterfowl. It is one of the top three sites in the country for numbers and diversity of wintering birds. Of particular importance is that it is one of the two most important sites in the world for <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> . It also has internationally important populations of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> <i>Cygnus columbarius bewickii</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> and is now one of the few sites in the country which supports a regular flock of <i>Cygnus columbarius bewickii</i> . There is at least a further 22 species of wintering waterfowl which occur in numbers of national importance. Several of these represent substantial proportions of the national totals especially <i>Anas penelope</i> (3.1%) <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> (3.6%) <i>Anas acuta</i> (3.3%) <i>Aythya marila</i> (4.9%) <i>Mergus serrator</i> (4.1%) <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (3.7%) <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (11.3%) <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (5.1%) and <i>Limosa limosa</i> (3.6%). Numbers of wintering birds are often swelled by hard-weather movements from Europe notably <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> .	Wexford Harbour is the lowermost part of the estuary of the River Slaney a major river that drains much of the south-east region. The site is divided between the natural estuarine habitats of Wexford Harbour and the reclaimed polders known as the north and south 'slobs'. The seaward boundary extends from the Rosslare peninsula in the south to the area just west of The Raven Point in the north while the inner boundaries of the site extend to Ferrycarrig bridge and towards Castlebridge. Shallow marine water is a principal habitat but at low tide extensive areas of intertidal flats are exposed. These vary from rippled sands in exposed areas to sandy-muds in the more sheltered areas especially at Hopeland and the inner estuary to the west of Wexford bridge. Salt marshes fringe the intertidal flats especially in the sheltered areas. The slobs are two flat areas of farmland mainly arable and pasture grassland empoldered behind 19th century sea-walls. The lands are drained by a network of channels which flow into two central channels in parts several hundred metres in width. Water from the channels is pumped into the sea with electric pumps. The channels often support swamp



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		The site is a regular location for <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> during passage and in winter and is regularly visited by a range of other passage waders most notably <i>Tringa glareola</i> <i>Tringa erythropus</i> and <i>Tringa ochropus</i> . <i>Asio flammeus</i> is a regular visitor in small numbers to the slobs during winter. A nesting colony of <i>Egretta garzetta</i> has recently become established within the site and birds are present in the area throughout the year. <i>Passer montanus</i> a Red Data Book species breeds. Part of the North Slob is a Nature Reserve and much of the slob is managed for the benefit of the wintering geese. Monitoring of the wintering birds of the slobs extends back to the 1960s and nowadays there is an ongoing monitoring and research programme. The North Slob has a wildfowl collection and an interpretative centre. The site supports <i>Puccinellia fasciculata</i> a Red Data Book species and has a good population of <i>Lepus timidus hibernicus</i> .	vegetation. Several conifer plantations are included especially on the south slob.
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	The site supports an important though small example of transition mire vegetation. Transition mires associated with raised bogs are particularly rare in the region and this is probably the most easterly example in the country. It has many of the expected plant species for the habitat including the locally rare <i>Carex limosa</i> . The site appears to be in a fairly natural state.	The site is a small wetland in a kettle hole amongst morainic deposits. It is mostly dominated by raised bog but there is some open water. Birch woodland is invading the drier areas of the bog. An area of semi-improved grassland is included for practical boundary purposes. The area surrounding site is agricultural land.
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	The site comprises the largest complex of upland habitats in eastern Ireland with important examples of blanket bog wet heath and dry heath extensive in area and mostly of good quality. Alpine heath occurs at high levels along with calcareous and siliceous rocky habitats harbouring an arctic-alpine flora. A fine series of oligotrophic lakes occur and some have <i>Salvelinus alpinus</i> . Several oakwoods of moderate quality typical of the dry acidic woods of eastern Ireland are found. Seven Red Data Book plant species occur including the rare <i>Alchemilla alpina</i> and <i>Nitella gracilis</i> at its only Irish station. The site supports significant populations of breeding <i>Falco columbarius</i> and <i>Falco peregrinus</i> .	An extensive upland site comprising much of the Wicklow Mountains and extending into Co. Dublin. The solid geology is mainly Leinster granites flanked by Ordovician schists mudstones and volcanics. The area has been glaciated and features fine examples of high corrie lakes deep valleys and moraines. Most of the site is over 300m with much ground over 600m and the highest peak of Lugnaquilla at 925m. The site includes the headwaters of several major rivers including the Liffey the Dargle and the Slaney. The substrate over much of the site is peat with poor mineral soil on the slopes and lower ground. Exposed rock and scree is a feature. The dominant habitats on the site are blanket bog heaths and upland grassland.



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		The site is important for rare breeding passerines of oakwoods notably <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> and <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> . The site also has breeding <i>Turdus torquatus</i> and <i>Lagopus lagopus</i> . <i>Lutra lutra</i> occurs on several of the riverine systems.	
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	The importance of the site lies primarily in the extensive areas of high quality dry heath that occur. Limited peat accumulation on the site has allowed the development of this habitat. Wet heath also occurs in the areas where deeper peat has developed. Those areas that have not been afforested are largely undisturbed and relatively intact. The site is home to several scarce plant species including the Red Data Book species <i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i> .	The Blackstairs Mountains are situated at the southern end of the Leinster Mountain Chain. They are composed primarily of granite but also include especially on their eastern side some overlying Ordovician slates and sandstones. The range forms a roughly north-south orientated ridge some 22km long which includes six peaks over 520m. The dominant vegetation of the site is dry heath; this occurs throughout the site but predominantly on the higher sections of the range. Bare rock and scree is found in the highest and steepest sections of the site. <i>Molinia</i> -dominated wet heath/bog vegetation is found in very small amounts at lower levels and by streams. The valley of the Urrin River on the north-east side of the site supports some deciduous woodland and incipient bog. Much of the site is flanked by coniferous forest; this is not confined to the lowlands being found at over 640m north of Mount Leinster.
002252	Thomastown Quarry SAC	The site supports a good example of petrifying springs with several diagnostic bryophyte species. The site is also of note for its general diversity of calcareous habitats over a small area. <i>Erigeron acer</i> a Red Data Book species has been recorded. A limited survey of aquatic invertebrates recorded the presence of two rare species for Ireland <i>Halipus variegatus</i> and <i>Hesperocorixa moesta</i> . The site also supports <i>Rana temporaria</i> and <i>Triturus vulgaris</i> .	The site comprises a disused limestone quarry just north of the village of Thomastown. Bare rock still accounts for a significant area of the site but most of it now supports wetland and grassland habitats. Water appears to flow eastwards through the site and there are several permanent ponds. Alkaline fen occurs in association with the springs and ponds as does some wet grassland. These wetland habitats are rich in bryophytes. Dry calcareous grassland generally species-rich is fairly widespread.



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
004233	River Nore SPA	The River Nore support nationally important numbers of Alcedo atthis. Other species which occur within the site include Cygnus olor Anas platyrhynchos Phalacrocorax carbo Ardea cinerea Gallinula chloropus Gallinago gallinago and Riparia riparia.	The River Nore SPA is a long linear site that includes the following river sections: the River Nore from the bridge at Townparks (north-west of Borris in Ossory) to Coolnamuck (approximately 3 km south of Inistioge) in Co. Kilkenny; the Delour River from its junction with the River Nore to Derrynaseera bridge (west of Castletown) in Co Laois; the Erkina River from its junction with the River Nore at Durrow Mills to Boston Bridge in Co. Laois; a 1.5 km stretch of the River Goul upstream of its junction with the Erkina River; the Kings River from its junction with the River Nore to a bridge at Mill Island Co. Kilkenny. The site includes the river channel and marginal vegetation.
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	The site supports many Annexed habitats including the priority habitats of alluvial woodland and petrifying springs. Quality of habitat is generally good. The site also supports a number of Annex II animal species - Salmo salar Margaritifera margaritifera M.m. durrovensis Alosa fallax fallax Austropotamobius pallipes Petromyzon marinus Lutra lutra Lampetra fluviatilis and L. planeri. Annex I Bird species include Anser albifrons flavirostris Falco peregrinus Cygnus cygnus Cygnus columbianus bewickii Limosa lapponica Pluvialis apricaria and Alcedo atthis. A range of rare plants and invertebrates are found in the woods along these rivers and rare plants are also associated with the saltmarsh.	This site consists of most of the freshwater stretches of the Barrow/Nore River catchments. The Barrow is tidal as far upriver as Graiguenamanagh while the Nore is tidal as far upriver as Inishtioge. The site also includes the extreme lower reaches of the River Suir and all of the estuarine component of Waterford Harbour extending to Creadan Head. The larger of the many tributaries include the Lerr Fushoge Mountain Aughavaud Owenass Boherbaun and Stradbally Rivers of the Barrow and the Delour Dinin Erkina Owveg Munster Arrigle and King's Rivers on the Nore. Both rivers rise in the Old Red Sandstone of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. They traverse limestone bedrock for a good proportion of their routes though the middle reaches of the Barrow and many of the eastern tributaries run through Leinster Granite. A wide range of habitats associated with the rivers are included within the site including substantial areas of woodland (deciduous mixed) dry heath wet grassland swamp and marsh vegetation salt marshes a small dune system biogenic reefs and intertidal sand and mud flats. Areas of improved grassland arable land and coniferous plantations are included in the site for water quality reasons.



Appendix 1 - Table 2 Background data for European sites considered in the assessment; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and the known threats and pressures as recorded by the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], European dry heaths [4030]	A04.02, K01.01, G01.03.02, G01.02, E03, K02.01, B02, J01.01, A04.01.02	Non intensive grazing, Erosion, Off-road motorized driving, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Discharges, Species composition change (succession), Forest and Plantation management & use, Burning down, Intensive sheep grazing
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Estuaries [1130], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	H01.05, B02, H01.01, D03.01.03, H01, F02.03.01, A01, A08, J02.06, D01.01, J02.12.02, J02.11, A10.01, F01.03, F03.02.04, J02.06.01, E03, K01.01, C01.01, I01, D01.05, J02.05.02, H01.08, J02, A09, E05	Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Forest and Plantation management & use, Pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, Fishing harbours, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Bait digging or collection, Cultivation, Fertilisation, Water abstractions from surface waters, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Bottom culture, Predator control, Surface water abstractions for agriculture, Discharges, Erosion, Sand and gravel extraction, Invasive non-native species, Bridge, viaduct, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Irrigation, Storage of materials
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	A04, J02.01.03, J02, A01, B01, D02.01.01, X	Grazing, Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Cultivation, Forest planting on open ground, Suspended electricity and phone lines, No threats or pressures



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], European dry heaths [4030], Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]	D01.01, G01.02, E01, G04.01, B06, G05.06, G01.03.02, A05.02, G02.09, C01.03, E03.01, I01, J01.01, G01, A04, G05.07, F03, G01.04, G05.01, F03.02.02, B02.05, F04.02, L05, G05.04, G05.09, K01.01, K04.05	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Military manouvres, Grazing in forests or woodland, Tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, Off-road motorized driving, Stock feeding, Wildlife watching, Peat extraction, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Invasive non-native species, Burning down, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Grazing, Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, Trampling, overuse, Taking from nest (e.g. falcons), Non-intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched), Collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), Collapse of terrain, landslide, Vandalism, Fences, fencing, Erosion, Damage by herbivores (including game species)
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], Desmoulin`s whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016], Estuaries [1130], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Reefs [1170], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], European dry heaths [4030], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Nore Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>) [1990], <i>Salicornia</i> and	H01, C01.03, A02.01, K01.01, F02.01.02, F02.03, A10.01, J02.12.02, J02.05.02, J03.02.01, I01, B02.01.01, A04.01.01, B05, M01, D03.01, E02, C01.01.01, F02, F01.01, J02.02.01, J02, B02, J02.06, B07	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Peat extraction, Agricultural intensification, Erosion, Netting, Leisure fishing, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Reduction in migration or migration barriers, Invasive non-native species, Forest replanting (native trees), Intensive cattle grazing, Use of fertilizers (forestry), Changes in abiotic conditions, Port areas, Industrial or commercial areas, Sand and gravel quarries, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Intensive fish farming, intensification, Dredging or removal of limnic sediments, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Forest and Plantation management & use, Water abstractions from surface waters, Forestry activities not referred to above



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]		



Appendix 1 - Table 3 Known threats and pressures related to the qualifying interests from each Special Area of Conservation as per article 17 reporting from the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)	[1016]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)	[1029]	In stream works, hydrological and morphological alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due urbanisation etc. Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)	[1092]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)	[1095]	Barriers to upstream migration (e.g. weirs), which limit access to spawning beds and juvenile habitat are main threats to this species.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity.
Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)	[1096]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.



Appendix 1 - Table 4 Known threats and pressures related to the special conservation interests from each Special protection Area as per article 17 reporting from the National Parks and Wildlife Services

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A004	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A005	Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A017	Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo carbo	D01	Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A028	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea cinerea	H01, Xxp/Xxt	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A037	Bewick's Swan	Cygnus columbianus bewickii	A02, B01, C03, D02, G01, H07, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other forms of pollution, Changes in biotic conditions
A038	Whooper Swan	Cygnus cygnus	A02, A11, C03, D02, G01, H07	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other forms of pollution
A046	Light-Bellied Brent Goose	Branta bernicla hrota	A02, A11, C03, D02, F01, G01, G05, H03, H07, I01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other Human intrusions and disturbances, Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Other Ecosystem Modifications



Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A048	Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	F01, F02, G01, H03, M01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions
A050	Eurasian Wigeon	Anas penelope	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, I01, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A052	Teal	Anas crecca	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A053	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A054	Northern Pintail	Anas acuta	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A062	Greater Scaup	Aythya marila	C03, F01, F02, F03, G01, H01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution



Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A067	Common Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, M02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Changes in biotic conditions
A069	Red-Breasted Merganser	Mergus serrator	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A082	Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus	A02, B01, B02, C01, C03, F03, G01, I01, J01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Forest and Plantation management & use, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species, Fire and Fire suppression, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A098	Merlin	Falco columbarius	A02, B01, B02, C03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Forest and Plantation management & use, Renewable abiotic energy use, Changes in biotic conditions
A103	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus peregrinus	C03, F03, J03, M02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in biotic conditions
A125	Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra atra	C03, G01, H01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)



Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A130	Eurasian Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A140	European Golden Plover	Pluvialis apricaria	A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Forest planting on open ground, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Fire and Fire suppression, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions
A141	Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A142	Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	A02, C03, F01, G01, H03	Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A143	Red Knot	Calidris canutus	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions



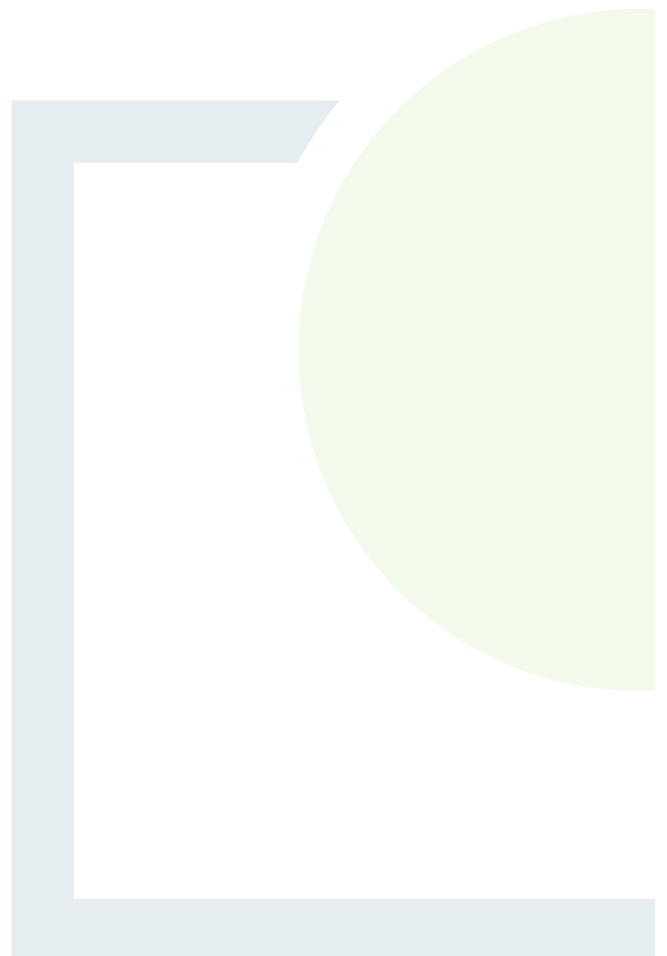
Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A144	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	C03, F01, G01, H03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions
A149	Dunlin	<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
A156	Black-Tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	A02, C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
& PLANNING

APPENDIX 2

Relationship with other plans
and programmes





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

Appendix 2 - Table 1: Other Plans and Programmes

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	<p>Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission.</p> <p>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects.</p> <p>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme.</p> <p>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive.</p> <p>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as	Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are	All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
amended by 2014/52/EU)	likely to have significant effects on the environment. Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.	For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. 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.	legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	<p>Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats.</p> <p>Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.</p> <p>Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Bathing Water Directive (revised) 2006 [2006/7/EC]	The purpose of this Directive is to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing Directive 2000/60/EC	This Directive lays down provisions for: the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; the management of bathing water quality; and the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		<p>third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)	<p>The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.</p>	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an integrated approach best available techniques, flexibility; and public participation 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC	<p>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).</p>	<p>The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc.t</p> <p>The achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)	<p>The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.</p>	<p>The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets.</p> <p>The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288(COD))	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.		
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)	This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport.	This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refueling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refueling points, and user information requirements.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		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.	
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.	The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas: Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU)	This Directive establishes a framework for maritime spatial planning aimed at promoting the sustainable growth of maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources.	Each Member State shall establish and implement maritime spatial planning. In doing so, Member States shall take into account land-sea interactions. The resulting plan or plans shall be developed and produced in accordance with the institutional and governance levels determined by Member States. This Directive shall not interfere with Member States' Competence to design and determine the format and content of that plan or those plans.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		<p>Maritime spatial planning shall aim to contribute to the objectives listed in Article 5 and fulfil the requirements laid down in Articles 6 and 8.</p> <p>When establishing maritime spatial planning, Member States shall have due regard to the particularities of the marine regions, relevant existing and future activities and uses and their impacts on the environment, as well as to natural resources, and shall also take into account land-sea interactions.</p> <p>Member States may include or build on existing national policies, regulations or mechanisms that have been or are being established before the entry into force of this Directive, provided they are in conformity with the requirements of this Directive.</p>	
UK Marine Policy Statement	<p>Achieving a sustainable marine economy</p> <p>Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society</p> <p>Living within environmental limits</p> <p>Promoting good governance</p> <p>Using sound science responsibly</p>	<p>The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby:</p> <p>Promote sustainable economic development;</p> <p>Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects;</p> <p>Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and heritage assets; and</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues	
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	Aims to provide the legal mechanism to help ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas by putting in place a new system for improved management and protection of the marine and coastal environment.	The Marine Act comprises eight key elements: Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Strategic Marine Planning System Streamlined Marine Licensing System Marine Nature Conservation Fisheries Management and Marine Enforcement Migratory and Freshwater Fisheries Coastal Access Coastal and Estuarine Management	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Marine (Northern Ireland) Act 2013	Aims to provide for marine plans in relation to the Northern Ireland inshore region; to provide for marine conservation zones in that region; to make further provision in relation to marine licensing for certain electricity works in that region; and for connected purposes.	The Marine Act sets out a new framework for Northern Ireland’s seas based on: a system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resource needs; improved management for marine nature conservation and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects. The main provisions of the Act are outlined below: Marine Planning Nature Conservation Marine Licensing	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020	Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy.	Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services. The six targets cover:	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible.	<p>Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity</p> <p>Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure</p> <p>Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry</p> <p>Sustainable management of fish stocks</p> <p>Reducing invasive alien species</p> <p>Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss</p>	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.	<p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level		<p>better respecting nature in public and business decision making.</p> <p>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.</p>	
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	<p>Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.</p> <p>Supporting EU-level GI projects.</p> <p>Improving access to finance for GI projects.</p> <p>Improving information and promoting innovation.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.	<p>sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them;</p> <p>each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage;</p> <p>encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			The achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	The Convention has three main goals: the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change	It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.	The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
			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)	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p>	<p>The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II).</p> <p>EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP.</p> <p>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.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	<p>Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020.</p> <p>Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels.</p>	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <p>Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps.</p> <p>Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	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.	Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.	To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030: A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM10) or up to five years (NO2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on	Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	<p>conditions and the assessment by the European Commission.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases.</p> <p>Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.</p>	
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	<p>The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.</p>	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and</p> <p>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.</p> <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	<p>Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks</p> <p>Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community</p>	<p>Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		<p>Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above.</p> <p>Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.</p>	environmental protection and management.
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	<p>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.</p> <p>Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies.</p> <p>Promote sustainable water usage.</p> <p>The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives:</p> <p>The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive Sampling Drinking Water Directive Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive Shellfish Directive Freshwater Fish Directive Groundwater Directive Dangerous Substances Directive</p>	<p>Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive.</p> <p>Achieve "good status" for all waters.</p> <p>Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts.</p> <p>Involve the public and streamline legislation.</p> <p>Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas.</p> <p>Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas.</p> <p>Recover costs for water services.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	<p>Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	<p>Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption.</p> <p>Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.</p>	<p>Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause.</p> <p>Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		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.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		<p>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.</p> <p>The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive.</p> <p>The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator.</p> <p>The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met.</p> <p>The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the Guidelines. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.</p>	
Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC), as amended	The aim of the European Union's ambitious Marine Strategy Framework Directive is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe.	<p>The Directive provides various requirements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of an initial assessment of Irish marine waters; Establishment of establish environmental targets and indicators; Establishment of a monitoring programme; Establishment of a programme of measures; and 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		<p>Implementation of the programme of measures and monitoring programme.</p> <p>Implementation of the Directive is contributed towards by a set of detailed criteria and methodological standards that were revised in 2017 leading to a Commission Decision on “laying down criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters and specifications and standardised methods for monitoring and assessment, and repealing Decision 2010/477/EU”. Annex III “Indicative lists of characteristics, pressures and impacts” of the Directive was amended in 2017.</p>	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.	<p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage.</p> <p>It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the	The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	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 affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.	legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.	(I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and (IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, 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	Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and	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.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.</p> <p>Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</p>	<p>cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European Landscape Convention 2000	<p>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.</p>	<p>Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.</p> <p>Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)	<p>It identifies three key objectives: to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital</p>	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <p>Better implementation of legislation.</p> <p>Better information by improving the knowledge base.</p> <p>More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	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	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.	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)	The convention has three main aims: to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats to promote cooperation between states to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species	The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also: Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucus. Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood 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.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks: mitigation adaptation	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	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.	technology financing	combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Cancun Agreements (2010)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover: Mitigation Transparency of actions Technology Finance Adaptation Forests Capacity building	Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference: Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); 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	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.	
EU Common Agricultural Policy	To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.	ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level		<p>Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention</p> <p>Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner</p> <p>To target additional POPs</p> <p>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</p>	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”.	<p>Under the “three pillars” of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <p>Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;</p> <p>Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the “Ramsar List”) and ensure their effective management;</p> <p>Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
OSPAR Convention	The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.	<p>OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies:</p> <p>Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy</p> <p>Eutrophication Strategy</p> <p>Hazardous Substances Strategy</p> <p>Offshore Industry Strategy</p> <p>Radioactive Substances Strategy</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.	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.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people’s quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.	It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
			environmental protection and management.
EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Level			
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan (2021 - 2030)	The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between.	The National Planning Framework published alongside the National Development Plan yields ten 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	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	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.	High-Quality International Connectivity Enhanced Amenity 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	
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [In Preparation]	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will: Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.	In preparation.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2022 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.	Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		<p>afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission.</p> <p>Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
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.	<p>The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
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.	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		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.	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009 (S.I 296 of 2009)	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	<p>Actions:</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.</p> <p>Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater)	The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2016 (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)	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.	S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values. Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established	legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)	These Regulations, which give effect to Irelands 3rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources	The Regulations include measures such as: Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited Limits on the land application of fertilisers Storage requirements for livestock manure; and Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (S.I. 79 of 2008)	These Regulations provide for transposition of the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (Directive 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006) which aims:	The Regulations establish a new classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications “poor”, “sufficient”, “good” and “excellent” and generally require that a	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level	<p>To improve health protection for bathers</p> <p>To establish a more pro-active approach to management of bathing waters, and</p> <p>To promote increased public involvement and dissemination of information to the public.</p>	<p>classification of at least “sufficient” be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters.</p> <p>Local authorities must take appropriate measures with a view to improving waters which are classified as “poor” and increasing the number of bathing waters classified as “good” or “excellent”.</p> <p>A permanent advice against bathing must be issued in a case where a bathing water is classified as “poor” for five consecutive years.</p> <p>Local authorities are required annually to identify bathing waters, establish a monitoring calendar, carry out the specified monitoring, report the results to the EPA, carry out appropriate management measures where necessary and provide information to the public.</p> <p>There must be public participation in the identification of waters and the general implementation of the Regulations.</p> <p>The EPA is required by the Regulations to classify bathing waters, generally on the basis of the monitoring results for the four preceding bathing seasons, and to publish an annual report in relation to bathing water quality.</p> <p>Monitoring by local authorities is to commence not later than 2011 with a view to ensuring that a classification is assigned to bathing waters not later than 2015.</p> <p>Private controllers of access lands may be required to contribute towards the costs incurred by a local authority or the EPA.</p>	<p>combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I 351 of 2011)	This Regulation defines further the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment.	Further defines the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021	An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <p>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,</p> <p>The policy of the Government on climate change, Climate justice,</p> <p>Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and</p> <p>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Climate Action Plan 2023	The Climate Action Plan 2023 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.	The Plan lists the actions needed to deliver on our climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated annually, to ensure alignment with Ireland’s legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland’s Second National Implementation Plan	National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-	The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation:	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024)	<p>of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>The first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also included a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.</p>	<p>To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development;</p> <p>To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs;</p> <p>Greater partnerships for the Goals;</p> <p>To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and</p> <p>Strong reporting mechanisms</p>	<p>cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)	<p>€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.</p>	<p>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			environmental protection and management.
Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)	<p>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.</p> <p>Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy s activity as part of the Government’s action plan for jobs sector plays in job creation and economic</p>	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	<p>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.</p>	<p>The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)	<p>The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050.</p>	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity; Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future; 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.	Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Clean Air Strategy for Ireland (2023)	The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	Through this document Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people’s health is paramount, this is a strong theme of the Strategy.	Implementation of the Guidelines need to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EirGrid’s Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017 - 2022	EirGrid’s mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland. “Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way.”	Grid25, EirGrid’s roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
All Island Grid Study 2008	The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the	Key conclusions of the study:	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc.,



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level	<p>transmission network (“the grid”) on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources.</p> <p>The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system.</p>	<p>The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study.</p> <p>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO2 emissions compared to portfolio 1</p> <p>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports.</p> <p>The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact.</p> <p>Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered.</p> <p>Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security.</p>	<p>individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	<p>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.</p> <p>It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.</p>	<p>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;</p> <p>Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity;</p> <p>Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and</p> <p>Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and</p> <p>Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Water Resources Plan (2021)	<p>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.</p>	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <p>Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions</p> <p>Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry</p> <p>Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland’s water resources</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.	<p>Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events</p> <p>Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water</p> <p>Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies</p> <p>Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</p>	
Draft National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development 2030 [Awaiting publication]	“This multi-annual National Strategic Plan Sustainable Aquaculture Development (2022 – 2030) (NSPSA) overlaps with the EU’s new ‘Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030’, as well as the programming period (2021 to 2027) of the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF). As such, this plan provides the strategic vision and framework for funding under EMFAF, as well as other EU and national initiatives.”	<p>Develop ‘Designated Marine Area Plans’ (DMAPs) for aquaculture to ensure that the sector is championed in Ireland’s Marine Spatial Plan to facilitate investment in different forms of sustainable aquaculture.</p> <p>More vigilant and responsive monitoring if aquatic diseases and food safety risks.</p> <p>Develop a comprehensive human capacity plan for Irish aquaculture to promote the sector as an attractive career option, develop leadership, management and business capacity in the sector and provide the necessary skills required over the strategy time period.</p> <p>Provide coordinated messaging on the sustainable, low carbon nature of Irish aquaculture production, supported by independent certification and open dialogue.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	<p>Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	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.	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.	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.	The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and 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	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;	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level	<p>planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions.</p> <p>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.”</p>	<p>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;</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2021 - 2027	<p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>The revised Plan makes 20 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy and Regulation Prevention Collection and Treatment Implementation 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
National Ports Policy 2013	The core objective of National Ports Policy is to facilitate a competitive and effective market for maritime transport services.	National Ports Policy introduces clear categorisation of the ports sector into Ports of National Significance (Tier 1), Ports of National Significance (Tier 2) and Ports of Regional Significance.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Aviation Policy 2015	Specifically, the principal goals of this National Aviation Policy are: To enhance Ireland’s connectivity by ensuring safe, secure and competitive access responsive to the needs of business, tourism and consumers; To foster the growth of aviation enterprise in Ireland to support job creation and position Ireland as a recognised global leader in aviation; and To maximise the contribution of the aviation sector to Ireland’s economic growth and development.	The National Aviation Policy commits to: Maintaining safety as the number one priority in Irish aviation and ensuring that safety regulation is robust, effective and efficient; Creating conditions to encourage the development of new routes and services, particularly to new and emerging markets; Ensuring a high level of competition among airlines operating in the Irish market; Optimising the operation of the Irish airport network to ensure maximum connectivity to the rest of the world; Ensuring that the regulatory framework for aviation reflects best international practice and that economic regulation facilitates continued investment in aviation infrastructure at Irish airports to support traffic growth; Supporting the aircraft leasing and aviation finance sectors to maintain Ireland’s leading global position in these spheres; and Maintaining a safe and innovative general aviation sector to support Ireland’s broader aviation industry	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	The vision is: “A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.”	These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive: Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Marine Planning Framework 2021	The NMPF is a key consideration for decision makers on all marine authorisations. The NMPF creates the overarching framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence based, and secures a sustainable future for the maritime area.	The National Marine Planning Framework is a succinct strategic document that will deal with, inter alia, the following environmental, social and economic issues: Key marine activities such as fisheries, tourism, transport, offshore renewable energy generation, oil and gas exploration and production, aquaculture, and how they interact; Climate change and related impacts; Communities and health;	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		Cultural heritage; Marine environment and biodiversity; Transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions.	environmental protection and management.
Tourism Action Plan 2019 - 2021	Includes a total of 27 actions to be addressed in the period between now and 2018 aimed at securing continued growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment.	23 actions address a range of key issues, including the marketing of Ireland as a visitor destination overseas, visitor access to and within Ireland, the effective presentation of Irish culture, sport, and events to visitors, the role of Local Authorities in supporting tourism, visitor accommodation capacity, and skills development in the tourism sector. The actions are directed at specific tourism stakeholders in the public and private sectors, all of whom are expected to proactively work towards completion of each action within the specified timeframe.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – 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.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Tourism 2020: Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	<p>Northern Ireland's Tourism Strategy until 2020</p> <p>Vision is to "Create the new Northern Ireland experience and get it on everyone's destination wish list"</p> <p>Details an Action Plan to achieving targets for People, Products and Places, Promotion and Partnership</p>	<p>Sets targets for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing visitor numbers Increasing tourism earnings Accelerating visitor spend Targeting specific markets and segments Supporting indigenous high quality businesses Being visitor inspired <p>Plan provides for development of at least 22 key sites on Causeway Coastal Route</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)	<p>Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved.</p> <p>Sets out five key goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce overall travel demand. To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. 	<p>Others lower level aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	To reduce transport emissions. To improve accessibility to transport.	improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets	environmental protection and management.
National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) 2021	NIFTI is the Department of Transport’s framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network to support the delivery of the National Strategic Outcomes. The NIFTI will guide transport investment in the years ahead to enable the National Planning Framework, support the Climate Action Plan, and promote social, environmental and economic outcomes throughout Ireland.	The four investment priorities stated in NIFTI are: Mobility of people and goods in urban areas. Protection and renewal. Enhanced regional and rural connectivity. Decarbonisation.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (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	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	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans (including transport)	NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur	Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance based actions. Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning: Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and



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



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
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.	<p>To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors.</p> <p>To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity.</p> <p>To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services.</p> <p>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside.</p> <p>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment.</p> <p>To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species.</p> <p>To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	<p>The Plan sets out:</p> <p>A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband.</p> <p>Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.</p> <p>The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.</p> <p>A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for	Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process.	<p>Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding.</p> <p>Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Planning Authorities (2009)	<p>Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications.</p> <p>Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels.</p> <p>Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts.</p>	<p>Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains.</p> <p>Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth.</p> <p>Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management.</p> <p>The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW</p> <p>flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.</p>	<p>combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)	<p>Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation.</p> <p>Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water.</p>	<p>Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans.</p> <p>Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)	<p>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.</p>	<p>Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies.</p> <p>Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body.</p> <p>Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances.</p>	
European Communities Environmental		<p>Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater.</p>	



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)		<p>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies.</p> <p>Outlines surface water quality standards.</p> <p>Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.</p>	
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.	<p>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality.</p> <p>Sets groundwater quality standards.</p> <p>Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 to 1990	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <p>Prosecute for water pollution offences.</p> <p>Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.</p> <p>Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution.</p> <p>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;</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		<p>Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.</p> <p>Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.</p>	
<p>Water Services Act 2007</p> <p>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</p> <p>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</p>	<p>Provides the water services infrastructure.</p> <p>Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services.</p> <p>Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply.</p> <p>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.</p>	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <p>Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.</p> <p>Promoting water conservation through Irish Water’s Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures.</p> <p>Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems.</p> <p>Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Guidelines need to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.	
Irish Water's (now known as Uisce Eireann) Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2020 - 2024)	This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.	Six strategic objectives as follows: Meet Customer Expectations. Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. Provide Effective Management of Wastewater. Protect and Enhance the Environment. Support Social and Economic Growth. Invest in the Future.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas 2017 - 2022	Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs	Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Food Harvest 2020	Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.	Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	not applicable	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection.	Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri- environment Scheme (GLAS)	GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.	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.	combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Rural Development Programme	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	At a more detailed level, the programme also: Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
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 Neighbour Wood 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	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
River Basin Management Plan	River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.	Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. Involve the public through consultations.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands	Objectives of the Strategy: To give direction to Ireland’s approach to peatland	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	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.	<p>management.</p> <p>To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To ensure that Ireland’s peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsible.</p> <p>To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use.</p> <p>To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required.</p> <p>To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs.</p> <p>To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</p>	legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. The achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <p>To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs.</p> <p>To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy.</p> <p>To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	<p>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</p>	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <p>AFV forecasts</p> <p>Electricity targets</p> <p>Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</p> <p>Hydrogen targets</p> <p>Biofuels targets</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high end value added product development.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. The achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) NI	The SPPS consolidates some twenty separate policy publications into one document and sets out strategic subject planning policy for a wide	The overall objective of the planning system is to further sustainable development and improve well-being for the people of the North.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	range of planning matters. It also provides the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development.		cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Framework For Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce overall travel demand Maximise the efficiency of the transport network Reduce reliance on fossil fuels Reduce transport emissions Improve accessibility to transport <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional/ County/Local Level			
Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		<p>Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.</p> <p>The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Waterford City and County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Tipperary County Council, Wexford County Council, Kerry County Council, Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council.</p> <p>The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its eight constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council, Leitrim County Council, Sligo County Council, Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council; and Galway County Council.</p>	<p>achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Northern Ireland)	<p>Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors.</p>	<p>Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Guidelines need to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2016-2035)	<p>It sets out how transport will be developed across the region, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare, over the period of the strategy and has been approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in accordance with the relevant legislation.</p> <p>The Vision Statement: “The GDA by 2022 is an economically vibrant, active and sustainable international Gateway Region, with strong connectivity across the GDA Region, nationally and worldwide; a region which fosters communities living in attractive, accessible places well supported by community infrastructure and enjoying high quality leisure facilities; and promotes and protects across the GDA green corridors, active agricultural lands and protected natural areas.”</p> <p>Full SEA and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken on this Strategy</p>	<p>They set out a number of core principles deriving from the strategic vision, which are:</p> <p>Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, national, regional and local needs.</p> <p>The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country.</p> <p>The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance.</p> <p>Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form.</p> <p>Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form</p> <p>Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Transport Strategy for the Cork Metropolitan Area 2040	<p>The Strategy addresses all transport modes and its objective will be to provide a long-term strategic planning framework for the integrated</p>	<p>It will be used to inform transport investment levels and investment prioritisation over both the longer and shorter terms and will be able to inform sustainable integrated land use</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	development of transport infrastructure and services in the Cork Metropolitan Area, over the next two decades	and transport policy formulation at the strategic (Metropolitan Area) level and at the local level.	cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan	<p>Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow</p> <p>Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically</p> <p>The Plan refers to the EuroVelo International Cycle Route Network of the European Cyclists Federation is a network of 15 long distance cycle routes connecting and uniting the whole European continent. Two of these routes are in Ireland</p> <p>including EV2 from Galway through Dublin to London, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow.</p>	<p>Aims to identify and determine:</p> <p>The Urban Cycle Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level</p> <p>The Inter-Urban Cycle Network linking the relevant sections of the Urban Network including the elements of the National Cycle Network within the Greater Dublin Area including linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and ports</p> <p>The Green Route Network being cycle routes for development of tourist, recreational and leisure purposes.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Dublin to Galway Greenway Plan	<p>Develop a segregated cycling and walking trail to international standards, extending from Dublin City to Galway which is of a scale that will allow Ireland to harness the potential of an identified growing tourism market for cycling.</p> <p>This route forms part of an interconnected National Cycle Network of high quality, traffic free, inter urban</p>	<p>To provide a segregated, substantially off road cycle route from Dublin City to Clifden via Galway City, maximising the use of – where feasible – existing and approved routes and disused railway line corridors and to also use existing plans and/or permitted projects where these have been subject to a consent process that has previously included the carrying out or screening for SEA, EIA and AA.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
	routes, which will establish Ireland as a quality international tourism destination for a broad range of associated recreational activities and pursuits.		
Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Northern Ireland)	Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland. Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors.	Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Quality Management Plans	Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained. Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope.	Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards. Outlines management programmes for water catchments. Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Port Masterplans (such as Dublin Port)	The Masterplan sets out a vision for the operations of the port and land utilisation.	Not applicable	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Masterplan 2012-2040 and 2017 Review)	The Masterplan is a non-statutory plan which has nonetheless been framed within the context of EU, national, regional and local development plan policies.		legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>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.</p> <p>These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc.</p> <p>The achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Groundwater Protection Schemes	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for



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



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Biodiversity Action Plans	Aims to protect, conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services across all spectrums.	Outlines the status of biodiversity and identifies species of importance. Outlines objectives and targets to be met to maintain and improve biodiversity. Aims to increase awareness.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Heritage Plans	Aims to highlight the importance of heritage at a strategic level.	Manage and promote heritage as well as increase awareness. Aim to conserve and protect heritage.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Landscape Character Assessments	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub- Basin Management Plans	Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline. Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status.	Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland. Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. The achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans	Produced by Local Authorities. Outlines areas local flood risk. Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level.	not applicable	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes	Aims to improve water quality and ensure the protection or improvement of designated shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth and contribute to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man.	Identifies key and secondary pressures on water quality in designated shellfish areas. Outlines specific measures to address identified key and secondary pressures on water quality. Addresses the specific pressures acting on water quality in each area.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional Waste Management Plans	These plans (for the Connacht-Ulster, Southern, and Eastern-Midlands regions) give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards In combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Climate Change Action Plans 2019 - 2024	Dublin’s four local authorities have joined together to develop Climate Change Action Plans as a collaborative response to the impact that climate change is having, and will continue to have, on the Dublin Region and its citizens. While each plan is unique to its functional area, they are unified in their approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and their commitment to lead by example in tackling this global issue.	The Climate Change Action Plan features a range of actions across five key areas - Energy and Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature-Based Solutions and Resource Management - that collectively address the four targets of this plan: A 33% improvement in the Council’s energy efficiency by 2020 A 40% reduction in the Council’s greenhouse gas emissions by 2030	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.



Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
		<p>To make Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change - related events</p> <p>To actively engage and inform citizens on climate change</p>	
Noise Action Plans	<p>The Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.</p>	<p>The main purpose of the Noise Action Plan is to:</p> <p>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems</p> <p>Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects</p> <p>Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>



**CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
& PLANNING**

www.fehilytimoney.ie

 **Cork**

 **Dublin**

 **Carlow**

