

NATURA IMPACT REPORT

IN SUPPORT OF THE **APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

FOR **PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS** TO THE **DRAFT LOUTH** **COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027**

for: Louth County Council

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 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") and the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

This report is part of the ongoing and overall AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, when Louth County Council finalises the AA at adoption of the Plan. All Plan and AA related documentation will be considered by the planning authority in advance of the adoption of the Plan and a final AA Determination will be undertaken by the planning authority at adoption. An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared following adoption, which will detail the AA process undertaken for the Plan.

1.2 Legislative Context

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

AA is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse 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 existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects¹. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Some of these submissions resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan.

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 literature² 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.

¹ 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.

² 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.

The ecological desktop study completed for the AA of the Plan and Proposed Material Alterations comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European Sites within 15 km of the Plan boundary with identification of potential pathway links for specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15 km from the Plan boundary;
- Review of the NPWS site synopsis and conservation objectives for European Sites with identification of potential pathways from the Plan 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 impacts on European Sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making process and avoiding such impacts. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If potential impacts on European Sites remain, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan/project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect(s).

The assessment of potential effects on European Sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor³ model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

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

Furthermore, the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is proposed is also taken into account.

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

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

³ 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.

Section 2 Description of the Draft Plan and associated Proposed Material Alterations

The Draft Louth County Development Plan is a land use plan and overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area of County Louth over the six-year period 2021-2027. Not later than four years after the adoption of the Plan, the Council is required to review it and commence the preparation of a new Plan.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁴.

The Plan includes a Written Statement, that provides the development policies, Core Strategy and mandatory and discretionary objectives for different policy areas addressed by the Development Plan.

The Plan is set out over five volumes as follow:

- Volume One: The Written Statement which sets out the overall strategy alongside the policies and objectives of the Draft Plan to ensure the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.
- Volume One A: Strategic maps and zoning maps providing a graphic representation of the proposals of the Draft Plan indicating land use and other objectives of the Council including for the County, the Regional Growth Centres of Drogheda and Dundalk, and the Self-Sustaining Growth Towns of Ardee and Dunleer.
- Volume Two: Strategic maps and zoning maps providing a graphic representation of the proposals of the Draft Plan indicating land use and other objectives of the Council for the Level 3 - Self-Sustaining Towns, Level 4 - Small Towns and Villages and Level 5 - Rural Villages.
- Volume Three: The Appendices which include the Housing and Retail Strategies, Green Infrastructure Strategy, ACA's and ZAP's etc.
- Volume Four: The Record of Protected Structures
- Volume Five: The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report, the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Report

The Written Statement is divided into 14 separate chapters setting out various policies and objectives under the headings of:

1. Introduction
2. Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy
3. Housing
4. Social and Community
5. Economy and Employment
6. Tourism
7. Movement
8. Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure
9. Built Heritage and Culture
10. Infrastructure and Public Utilities
11. Environment, Natural Resources and the Coast
12. Climate Action
13. Development Management Guidelines
14. Implementation and Monitoring

The Plan's Strategic Vision is to:

Promote County Louth, in particularly the regional growth centres of Drogheda and Dundalk, as uniquely attractive places in which to live, work, visit, and do business and where the quality of employment and educational opportunities, natural and built environment, cultural experiences and provision of inclusive communities are to the highest standards.

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

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

The Vision for County Louth will be achieved through realisation of the following Strategic Objectives:

- SO 1 Realise the potential and promote the development and growth of County Louth through harnessing the economic and employment potential of the competitive advantages of the County. This includes its strategic location, connectivity and accessibility to external markets and having regard in particular to the role of Drogheda and Dundalk as Regional Growth Centres located on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor.
- SO 2 Support and promote the role of Drogheda and Dundalk as key designated Regional Growth Towns with high levels of self-sustaining employment and services, to act as regional economic drivers, playing a significant role for a wide catchment area and to help achieve a more coordinated and sustainable settlement and travel pattern across the region.
- SO 3 Direct new development in accordance with the Core and Settlement Strategies, which will provide for the sustainable development of the County for the period 2021-2027 and beyond and in accordance with the principles of compact growth, consolidation and regeneration.
- SO 4 Transition to a low carbon and climate resilient County supporting energy efficiency and reducing energy demand, through a combination of mitigation and adaptation responses to climate change. This includes for increased usage of renewable energy through developing indigenous energy resources supporting the transition to a low carbon economy by 2050 and ensuring flood risk management.
- SO 5 Ensure a more sustainable and integrated concept of development with regard to land use, transportation, water services, energy supply and waste management over the lifetime of the Plan.
- SO 6 Conserve and enhance the County's Green Infrastructure and ecosystem services supporting the sustainable management of natural assets and the biodiversity of the County's protected habitats and species to provide a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits to communities.
- SO 7 Protect and enhance the built, cultural and natural heritage assets of Louth, the intrinsic value of which helps to define the character of both urban and rural areas, contributes to the attractiveness, vibrancy and sense of place for residents, tourists and visitors, including improved access to the countryside through the development of greenways, walking trails and blueways in support of and advancing sustainable communities.
- SO 8 Develop and support vibrant, inclusive, sustainable and healthy communities in Louth where people can live, work, invest and visit, enjoying access to a wide range of community, health and educational facilities and amenities, suitable for all ages and needs, in both urban and rural areas, thereby supporting a high quality of life for all to enjoy.
- SO 9 Protect and enhance the unique character and identity of Louth's towns and villages and improve quality of life and well-being through the application of Healthy Place-making, underpinned by good urban design with the creation of attractive public spaces that are vibrant, distinctive, safe and accessible and which promote and facilitate positive social interaction.
- SO 10 Support implementation of the objectives and actions for strengthening economic and community development in the County in accordance with the Louth Local Economic and Community Plan.
- SO 11 Support the further development of a resilient economic base in Louth and promote both enterprise and entrepreneurship, underpinned by innovation and talent resulting in the delivery of sustainable jobs and economic growth.
- SO 12 Support improvements in and access to education and training as central to skills, knowledge, innovation and quality job creation which will underpin future prosperity for all and aid in achieving a more sustainable, balanced and inclusive society.
- SO 13 Support the sustainable development of rural areas that are under strong urban influence to avoid over-development, while sustaining vibrant rural communities.
- SO 14 Reverse rural decline in small towns and villages through sustainable, targeted measures addressing vacancy and delivering sustainable reuse and regeneration outcomes.
- SO 15 Ensure the proper integration of transportation and land use planning through the increased use of sustainable transport modes and the minimisation of travel demand to achieve a sustainable, integrated and low carbon transport system with excellent connectivity both within and beyond the County.
- SO 16 Ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water and waste water service infrastructure throughout the County in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development and a cleaner environment.
- SO 17 Facilitate the development of infrastructural projects, which will underpin sustainable development throughout the County during the period of the Plan.
- SO 18 Afford suitable protection to the environment and natural resources of the County and ensure the fulfilment of environmental responsibilities.
- SO 19 Provide a framework for the management and regulation of development and use of land that will guide day to day planning decisions, thus ensuring a more sustainable and integrated concept of development with regard to all forms of land use.

The Proposed Material Alterations are outlined in detail in the accompanying Proposed Material Alteration document.

The Material Alterations propose a number of text and map-based changes to the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027.

Section 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.

Furthermore, the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is proposed is also taken into account.

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. A review of all sites within this zone has allowed a determination to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological links, the characteristics of the Proposed Material Alterations will not impose effects beyond the 15 km buffer.

Details of European Sites that occur within 15 km of the Plan is listed in Table 3.1. European Sites and Rivers and Catchments are also mapped in Figure 3.1 below. Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) has 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 (NPWS) and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) documents:

- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Carlingford Mountain SAC [IE0000453] Version 6.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Dundalk Bay SAC [IE0000455] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Clogher Head SAC [IE0001459] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC [IE0001957] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC [IE0002299] Version 6.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Carlingford Shore SAC [IE0002306] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Dundalk Bay SPA [IE0004026] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Carlingford Lough SPA [IE0004078] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Boyne Estuary SPA [IE0004080] Version 1.

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

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

- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Stabannan-Braganstown SPA [IE0004091] Version 6.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA [IE0004158] Version 6.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [IE0004232] Version 6.
- JNCC (2017) Conservation Objectives for Eastern Mourne SAC [UK0016615] Version 2.
- JNCC (2015) Conservation Objectives for Derryleckagh SAC [UK0016620] Version 2.
- JNCC (2015) Conservation Objectives for Rostrevor Wood SAC [UK0030268] Version 2.
- JNCC (2015) Conservation Objectives for Slieve Gullion SAC [UK0030277] Version 2.1.
- JNCC (2015) Conservation Objectives for Carlingford Lough SPA [UK9020161] Version 3.

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 Proposed Material Alterations against the QIs/SCIs of each site. The conservation objectives for each site were consulted throughout the assessment process.

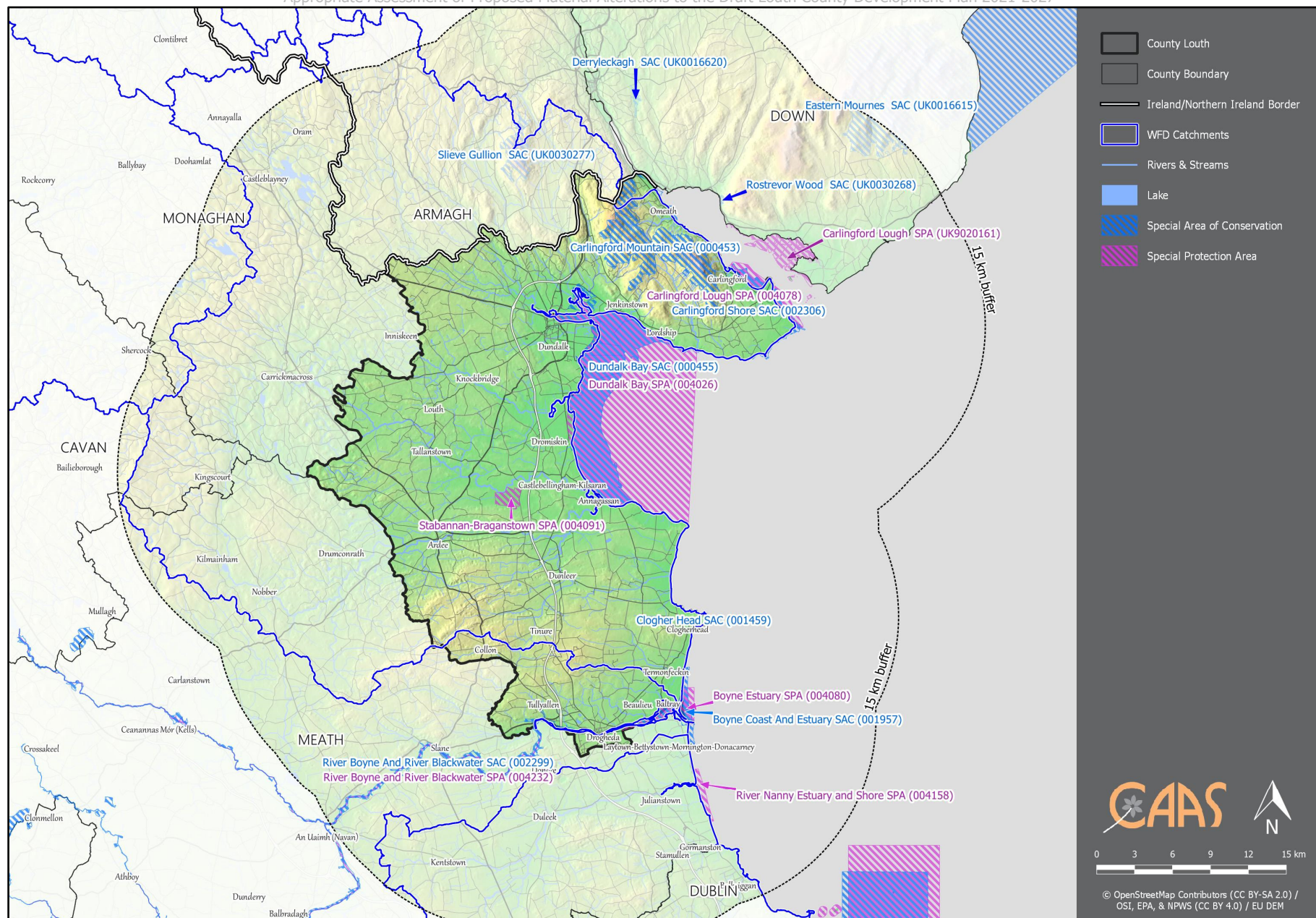


Figure 3.1 European Sites within 15 km of the County and Rivers and Catchments

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

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

The overarching objective of the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to coordinate and plan the future development of County Louth. Therefore, the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites.

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

The Plan provides a framework for the sustainable development of the Louth area. Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European Sites include:

- Provisions for sectors such as transport, urbanisation, streetscape works, community facilities, utilities, natural resource, coastal, tourism and recreation development that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and/habitat fragmentation.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁷.

The potential for Proposed Material Alterations to result in effects on designated European sites is examined on Table 3.1.

3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 examines whether there is potential for effects on European Sites considering information provided above. Furthermore, the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is proposed is also taken into account. Detailed information on European sites is provided at Appendix I.

⁷ 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.

Table 3.1 Screening of Proposed Material Alterations

Ref	Screening Consideration
1	This alteration would further contribute towards provisions related to this sector/topic that are already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is advised that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required. Refer also to Section 5.
2	A future future assessment/feasibility study/ investigation of potential would not result in different environmental outcomes or effects. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required. Was such an investigation to be followed by action such actions would have to be subject to AA screening and other requirements as appropriate.
3	The update to terminology/language/wording/numbering/mapping would not change the effects arising from the Plan. As such, this alteration would not be considered as having the potential to affect the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.
4	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for, summarises and/or provides clarification to Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have the potential to affect the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.
5	This amendment adds more detail but would not have the potential to affect the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.
6	This Proposed Alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and/or with the wider planning and policy framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have the potential to affect the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.
7	Removal of this provision would remove the potential for environmental effects from this provision; however, removal of the provision would not have the potential to affect the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.
8	These alterations generally relate to land use zoning/settlement boundaries. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is advised that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required. Refer also to Section 5.
9	As this alteration could potentially impact upon the protection of a European site, Stage 2 AA is required.
10	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites detailed as Section 5 of this report), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. However, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As this alteration could be considered mitigation, in relation to the Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites under the Plan (see Section 3.3.2), further to that already included in the Draft Plan (see Section 5), with the objective of protecting the integrity of European Sites brought to Stage 2 under the ongoing AA being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan, it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA.

Alteration Ref.	Screening Consideration Ref.	Alteration Ref.	Screening Consideration Ref.	Alteration Ref.	Screening Consideration Ref.	Alteration Ref.	Screening Consideration Ref.	Alteration Ref.	Screening Consideration Ref.	Alteration Ref.	Screening Consideration Ref.	Alteration Ref.	Screening Consideration Ref.
1	1	48	1	95	1	142	1,4,2	189	1	DROG6	8	ARD6	8
2	1	49	4,5,6	96	1	143	1	190	1	DROG7	8	ARD7	8
3	1	50	4,6	97	1	144	1,4,2	191	1	DROG8	8	DLR1	8
4	4	51	1	98	1	145	1	192	1	DROG9	8	DLR2	8
5	1	52	1	99	1	146	1,4	193	1	DLK1	8	DLR3	8
6	1	53	1	100	1	147	1	194	1	DLK2	8	L3-1	8
7	1	54	1	101	1	148	1	195	1	DLK3	8	L3-2	8
8	4	55	1	102	1	149	1	196	1	DLK4	8	L3-3	8
9	1	56	4	103	1	150	1	197	1	DLK5	8	L3-4	8
10	1	57	4	104	4	151	1	198	1	DLK6	8	L3-5	8
11	1	58	4	105	3	152	1	199	1	DLK7	8	L3-6	8
12	1	59	4	106	3	153	1	200	1	DLK8	8	L3-7	8
13	3,4,6	60	4	107	1	154	1	201	1	DLK9	8	L3-8	8
14	1	61	4	108	1	155	1	202	1	DLK10	8	L3-9	8
15	4,5	62	1	109	3	156	1	203	1	DLK11	8	L3-10	8
16	1	63	4,5	110	3	157	1	204	1	DLK12	8	L3-11	8
17	4,6	64	1	111	1	158	1	205	1	DLK13	8	L4-1	8
18	1	65	1	112	4,6	159	1,2	206	1	DLK14	8	L4-2	8
19	3	66	1	113	4,6	160	1	207	1	DLK15	8	L4-3	8
20	5	67	1	114	4	161	1	208	1	DLK16	8	L4-4	8
21	1	68	4	115	4	162	4	209	1	DLK17	8	L4-5	8
22	1	69	1	116	4,6	163	1,4	210	1	DLK18	8	L4-6	8
23	10	70	4	117	4,6	164	1	211	1	DLK19	8	L4-7	8
24	1	71	4	118	1,4	165	1	212	1	DLK20	8	L4-8	8

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

Alteration Ref.	Screening Consideration Ref.	Alteration Ref.	Screening Consideration Ref.	Alteration Ref.	Screening Consideration Ref.	Alteration Ref.	Screening Consideration Ref.	Alteration Ref.	Screening Consideration Ref.	Alteration Ref.	Screening Consideration Ref.	Alteration Ref.	Screening Consideration Ref.
25	1,9,10	72	4	119	4	166	1	213	1	DLK21	8	L4-9	8
26	1	73	3	120	1	167	3	214	1	DLK22	8	L4-10	8
27	1	74	1	121	1	168	7	215	1	DLK23	8	L5-1	8
28	1	75	4,6	122	1,6	169	4,5	216	1	DLK24	8	L5-2	8
29	1	76	1	123	1,6	170	4,6	217	1	DLK25	8	L5-3	8
30	1	77	4,6	124	1	171	4	Vol 2 - 1	1	DLK26	8	L5-4	8
31	2	78	1	125	1	172	1	Vol 2 - 2	1	DLK27	8	L5-5	8
32	4	79	4	126	1	173	7	Vol 2 - 3	1	DLK28	8	L5-6	8
33	1,6	80	1	127	1	174	1	Vol 2 - 4	1	DLK29	8	L5-7	8
34	1	81	4	128	1	175	1	Vol 3 - 1	4	DLK30	8	L5-8	8
35	4	82	4	129	1	176	1	Vol 3 - 2	4	DLK31	8	L5-9	8
36	1	83	4	130	1,6	177	1	Vol 3 - 3	4	DLK32	8	L5-10	8
37	1	84	1	131	4	178	1	Vol 3 - 4	4	DLK33	8	L5-11	8
38	1	85	4	132	4,6	179	1	Vol 5 - 1	1	DLK34	8	L5-12	8
39	1	86	4	133	4	180	1	Vol 5 - 2	4	DLK35	8	L5-13	8
40	1	87	4,6	134	1	181	1	Vol 5 - 3	4	DLK36	8	Mapping Errors	1,3
41	1	88	1,6	135	4,6	182	1	Vol 5 - 4	4	DLK37	8	Miscellaneous	1,3,4
42	1	89	1,6	136	1	183	1	Vol 5 - 5	4	DLK38	8		
43	4	90	1,6	137	1	184	1	DROG1	8	ARD1	8		
44	8	91	1	138	1,6	185	1	DROG2	8	ARD2	8		
45	1	92	1	139	4	186	1	DROG3	8	ARD3	8		
46	1	93	1	140	1,4,2	187	1	DROG4	8	ARD4	8		
47	3	94	1	141	1,4,2	188	1	DROG5	8	ARD5	8		

3.4 Other Plans and Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely affect European Sites. Appendix II outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, to cause in-combination effects to European Sites, such as Louth Tourism and Heritage Action Plan 2016-2021, Louth Noise Action Plan 2018-2023, Louth Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and Louth Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022. These plans, programmes, strategies etc. were considered throughout the assessment.

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

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

3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. As part of that AA, it was identified that the Plan may, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 13 (no.) European sites. Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites include:

- Provisions for sectors such as transport, urbanisation, streetscape works, community facilities, utilities, natural resource, coastal, tourism and recreation development that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and/habitat fragmentation.

Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁸. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Some of these submissions resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan.

Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, the AA process identified that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site as a result of all Proposed Material Alterations apart from Proposed Material Alteration Reference No. 25⁹, which has the potential, if unmitigated, to impact upon the Dundalk Bay SAC and SPA.

Furthermore, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As certain Proposed Material Alterations (Proposed Material Alteration Reference No. 23¹⁰ and 25) could be considered to be mitigation in relation to Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites, further to the mitigation already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA.

⁸ 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.

⁹ This Proposed Material Alteration is to insert additional text into Policy Objective SS 32 as follows (new text in bold): To develop a network of green areas throughout the town, building on existing green infrastructure, and advancing the delivery of the Great Eastern Greenway along the coast **incorporating the delivery of greenway and pedestrian infrastructure on both sides of the Castletown River, while maintaining the integrity of the Dundalk Bay Natura 2000 sites.**

¹⁰ This Proposed Material Alteration is to insert additional text into Policy Objective SS 18 as follows (new text in bold): To develop a network of green areas throughout the town including the delivery of a greenway along the northern and southern banks of the River Boyne stretching from Townley Hall to Balrath and Oldbridge to Mornington in County Meath **while maintaining the integrity of the Boyne Natura 2000 sites.**

It is therefore advised that pursuant to Section 12 (7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that Stage 2 AA is required for certain Proposed Material Alterations.

An AA Screening Determination accompanies the Proposed Material Alterations document.

Section 4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

4.1 Introduction

Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, the AA process identified that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site as a result of all Proposed Material Alterations apart from Proposed Material Alteration Reference No. 25¹¹, which has the potential, if unmitigated, to impact upon the Dundalk Bay SAC and SPA. The Stage 2 AA includes consideration of this Proposed Material Alteration.

Furthermore, the AA screening process took into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As certain Proposed Material Alterations (Proposed Material Alteration Reference No. 23¹² and 25) could be considered to be mitigation in relation to Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites, further to the mitigation already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA. The Stage 2 AA also assesses potential adverse impacts on the integrity of the 13 European Sites brought forward from screening under the overall AA for the Plan, that may be mitigated by Proposed Material Alterations.

4.2 Characterisation of European Sites Potentially Affected

The overall AA Screening for the Draft Plan identified 13 European Sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Plan. Appendix I characterises each of the qualifying features of the 13 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 and the JNCC websites¹³.

4.3 Identifying, Characterising and Mitigating Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts¹⁴:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹¹ This Proposed Material Alteration is to insert additional text into Policy Objective SS 32 as follows (new text in bold): To develop a network of green areas throughout the town, building on existing green infrastructure, and advancing the delivery of the Great Eastern Greenway along the coast **incorporating the delivery of greenway and pedestrian infrastructure on both sides of the Castletown River, while maintaining the integrity of the Dundalk Bay Natura 2000 sites.**

¹² This Proposed Material Alteration is to insert additional text into Policy Objective SS 18 as follows (new text in bold): To develop a network of green areas throughout the town including the delivery of a greenway along the northern and southern banks of the River Boyne stretching from Townley Hall to Balray and Oldbridge to Mornington in County Meath **while maintaining the integrity of the Boyne Natura 2000 sites.**

¹³ Last accessed 5 August 2020 <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> and <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-protected-areas>

¹⁴ 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".

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 SACs:

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

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 impacts 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 Plan provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2) for the whole County. Potential effects arising from developments and activities include land take, habitat destruction, disturbance effects, light pollution, dust, hydrological interactions, airborne pollution and excessive noise. All 11 sites occurring within or partially within the County have the potential to be impacted.

Various measures have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of ensuring that there are no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site (see Section 5; for example, NBG 3, NBG 4, NBG 5 and NBG 6) as a result of loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 23¹⁵ and 25¹⁶, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of European sites.

4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

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

The Plan includes measures to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as riparian zones, planting of native tree species, management of habitats such as woodlands and minimising inappropriate lighting (see Section 5; for example, NBG 9, NBG 10, NBG 33, ENV 8, ENV 9 and ENV 11).

Further to the provisions referred to above, there are provisions related to non-designated sites and specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as waterways, wetlands and peatlands that will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation does not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 23 and 25, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of European sites.

4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

The Plan provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2). Disturbance effects are caused by any activity or development that has potential to alter the movement patterns or distribution of species, for example direct disturbance through human activity/movement as a result of recreation/tourism or noise pollution. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TOU 18, TOU 19, TOU 20, TOU 34, TOU 35, ENV 59, ENV 60, ENV 61, ENV 63 and ENV 64.

Noise and light will be managed through provisions such as ENV 3, ENV 6, ENV 7, ENV 8, ENV 9 and ENV 11. Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality for species. Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the plan as identified above (see also Section 5).

Proposed Material Alterations No. 23 and 25, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of European sites.

4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density

Species densities are reliant on species distributions, habitat condition, connectivity of ecological resources and availability of resources such as prey/food. The Plan introduces potential sources for effects to affect these four determinant factors for species densities in the form of construction phase effects such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat encroachment and trampling. However, the Plan contains provisions to enhance biodiversity, landscape and the environment within Louth (for example NBG 1, NBG 9, NBG 23, NBG 25, NBG 36 and NBG 37).

The Plan includes provisions related to non-designated sites and specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as waterways, wetlands and peatlands that will ensure that habitat or species

¹⁵ This Proposed Material Alteration is to insert additional text into Policy Objective SS 18 as follows (new text in bold): To develop a network of green areas throughout the town including the delivery of a greenway along the northern and southern banks of the River Boyne stretching from Townley Hall to Balray and Oldbridge to Mornington in County Meath **while maintaining the integrity of the Boyne Natura 2000 sites.**

¹⁶ This Proposed Material Alteration is to insert additional text into Policy Objective SS 32 as follows (new text in bold): To develop a network of green areas throughout the town, building on existing green infrastructure, and advancing the delivery of the Great Eastern Greenway along the coast **incorporating the delivery of greenway and pedestrian infrastructure on both sides of the Castletown River, while maintaining the integrity of the Dundalk Bay Natura 2000 sites.**

fragmentation does not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites. Measures relating to light pollution, noise pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation are addressed above (and are detailed further in Section 5). Measures are also included that will help protect and improve water quality interactions, which can influence species densities, including those relating to water services infrastructure, protective buffer zones and water quality standards.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 23 and 25, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of European sites.

4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

Indicators of conservation value are identified as key ecological resources such as water quality, air quality, habitat quality, population health of ecosystem engineers or 'keystone species' etc. The protection of these resources is a key focus of the Plan including provisions contained within Chapters 8 "Natural Heritage, Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity" and 11 "Environment, Natural Resources and the Coast".

The Plan contains many robust policies and objectives to ensure the protection of both ground and surface water quality. Development within the vicinity of groundwater or surface water dependent European Sites will not be permitted where there is potential for a significant impact upon the groundwater or surface water supply to the European Sites. Plan mitigation relating to water status and the provision of water services includes ENV 15, ENV 16, ENV 17, ENV 18, ENV 19, ENV 20, ENV 21, ENV 22, ENV 23, IU 2, IU 3, IU 4, IU 5, IU 6, IU 7, IU 8, IU 9, IU 10, NBG 18, NBG 19 and NBG 20. Additionally, various other policies provide broader scope to ensure the protection of the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions.

Emissions to air have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European Sites. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of protecting air quality (for example ENV 3).

Proposed Material Alterations No. 23 and 25, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of European sites.

4.3.1.6 Climate change

The Plan includes provisions that potentially conflict with climate mitigation and provisions that will help to contribute towards climate mitigation. NBG 5 states that it is Council policy '*To ensure that no plan, programme, or project giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, **emissions (disposal to land, water or air)**, transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan, either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects*¹⁷. Greenhouse gas emissions arising from the Plan will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European Sites considered.

¹⁷ 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 project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Table 4.1 Characterisation of Potential Effects arising

Site Code	Site Name ¹⁸	Distance (Km)	Characterisation of Potential Effects on European Sites as a result of the Plan
000453	Carlingford Mountain SAC	0 - within	Proposed Material Alterations No. 23 and 25, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of European sites. The known threats to this site are infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, forest replanting, genetic pollution (animals), fire and fire suppression, sport and leisure structures, anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity, problematic native species, competition (flora), communication masts and antennas, invasive non-native species, forestry clearance, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, non-intensive grazing, other human intrusions and disturbances, reduction or loss of specific habitat features, other outdoor sports and leisure activities, off-road motorized driving, trampling, overuse. These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, forestry, direct land use management, habitat connectivity and successional processes as well as invasive species. Various measures have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of ensuring that there are no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site (see Section 5; for example, NBG 3, NBG 4, NBG 5 and NBG 6) as a result of loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites. The Plan has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water include ENV 15, ENV 16, ENV 17, ENV 18, ENV 19, ENV 20, ENV 21, ENV 22, ENV 23, IU 2, IU 3, IU 4, IU 5, IU 6, IU 7, IU 8, IU 9, IU 10, NBG 18, NBG 19 and NBG 20. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of NBG 10 and NBG 11. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry, through ENV 31, ENV 34 and ENV 35. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
000455	Dundalk Bay SAC	0 - within	The known threats to this site are wildlife watching, invasive non-native species, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, flooding modifications, reduction or loss of specific habitat features, nitrogen-input, migration of species (natural newcomers), infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, sport and leisure structures, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges), disposal of inert materials, bait digging or collection, competition (flora), flooding, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, illegal taking or removal of marine fauna, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to transport and infrastructure without connection to canalization or sweepers, erosion, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, shallow surface abrasion or mechanical damage to seabed surface, garbage and solid waste, biocenotic evolution, succession, motorized nautical sports, anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity. These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, ground water pollutions, tourism/amenity, coastal defences, waste management, forestry, direct land use management, habitat connectivity and successional processes as well as invasive species. Various measures have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of ensuring that there are no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site (see Section 5; for example, NBG 3, NBG 4, NBG 5 and NBG 6) as a result of loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites. The Plan has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water include ENV 15, ENV 16, ENV 17, ENV 18, ENV 19, ENV 20, ENV 21, ENV 22, ENV 23, IU 2, IU 3, IU 4, IU 5, IU 6, IU 7, IU 8, IU 9, IU 10, NBG 18, NBG 19 and NBG 20. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of NBG 10 and NBG 11. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry, through ENV 31, ENV 34 and ENV 35. Waste management policies such as ENV 24, ENV 25 and IU 3 will ensure that adequate and appropriate waste management facilities are in place during the implementation of the Plan. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TOU 18, TOU 19, TOU 20, TOU 34, TOU 35, ENV 59, ENV 60, ENV 61, ENV 63 and ENV 64. Policies related to coastal defence works (including ENV 50, ENV 51 and ENV 53) require the protection of sensitive habitats and the coast, therefore no erosion measure will be put in place that will add to the existing threats. Proposed Material Alteration Reference No. 25¹⁹, which has the potential, if unmitigated, to impact upon the Dundalk Bay SAC and SPA. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
001459	Clogher Head SAC	0 - within	The known threats to this site are reduction or loss of specific habitat features, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, fishing harbours, storage of materials, port areas, non-intensive grazing, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, invasive non-native species, sport and leisure structures, professional passive fishing, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers. These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, ground water pollutions, tourism/amenity, coastal defences, waste management, forestry, direct land use management, habitat connectivity and successional processes as well as invasive species. Various measures have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of ensuring that there are no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site (see Section 5; for example, NBG 3, NBG 4, NBG 5 and NBG 6) as a result of loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites. The Plan has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water include ENV 15, ENV 16, ENV 17, ENV 18, ENV 19, ENV 20, ENV 21, ENV 22, ENV 23, IU 2, IU 3, IU 4, IU 5, IU 6, IU 7, IU 8, IU 9, IU 10, NBG 18, NBG 19 and NBG 20. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of NBG 10 and NBG 11. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry, through ENV 31, ENV 34 and ENV 35. Waste management policies such as ENV 24, ENV 25 and IU 3 will ensure that adequate

¹⁸ For qualifying features for each European Site (QIs and SCIs), please refer to Table 3.1¹⁹ This Proposed Material Alteration is to insert additional text into Policy Objective SS 32 as follows (new text in bold): To develop a network of green areas throughout the town, building on existing green infrastructure, and advancing the delivery of the Great Eastern Greenway along the coast **incorporating the delivery of greenway and pedestrian infrastructure on both sides of the Castletown River, while maintaining the integrity of the Dundalk Bay Natura 2000 sites.**

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

Site Code	Site Name ¹⁸	Distance (Km)	Characterisation of Potential Effects on European Sites as a result of the Plan
			Proposed Material Alterations No. 23 and 25, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of European sites. and appropriate waste management facilities are in place during the implementation of the Plan. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TOU 18, TOU 19, TOU 20, TOU 34, TOU 35, ENV 59, ENV 60, ENV 61, ENV 63 and ENV 64. Policies related to coastal defence works (including ENV 50, ENV 51 and ENV 53) require the protection of sensitive habitats and the coast, therefore no erosion measure will be put in place that will add to the existing threats. Provisions (ENV20, ENV 21, ENV 22 and ENV 23) have been included to contribute towards the control of nitrates. With regard to aquaculture and other types of marine sector related development, ENV 62 is to ensure that proposals for economic development associated with the marine sector reflect the environmental sensitivities of the Louth coastline and are considered accordingly. Leisure fishing is controlled and managed by Inland Fisheries Ireland through a strict licencing process which is monitoring and controlled centrally and each region is assigned annual licence quotas. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
001957	Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC	0 - within	The known threats to this site are other human intrusions and disturbances, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, reduction, lack or prevention of erosion, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, removal of sediments (mud...), sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, storm, cyclone, disposal of inert materials, interpretative centres, urbanised areas, human habitation, biocenotic evolution, succession, off-road motorized driving, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, vandalism, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, storage of materials, invasive non-native species, bridge, viaduct, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions. These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, ground water pollutions, tourism/amenity, coastal defences, waste management, forestry, direct land use management, alteration to physical structure of habitats, succession processes and as well as invasive species. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan. Provisions (ENV20, ENV 21, ENV 22 and ENV 23) have been included to contribute towards the control of nitrates. European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to provisions such as NBG 9, NBG 10, NBG 33, ENV 8, ENV 9 and ENV 11. The Plan has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water include ENV 15, ENV 16, ENV 17, ENV 18, ENV 19, ENV 20, ENV 21, ENV 22, ENV 23, IU 2, IU 3, IU 4, IU 5, IU 6, IU 7, IU 8, IU 9, IU 10, NBG 18, NBG 19 and NBG 20. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of NBG 10 and NBG 11. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; ENV 31, ENV 34 and ENV 35. Waste management policies such as ENV 24, ENV 25 and IU 3 will ensure that adequate and appropriate waste management facilities are in place during the implementation of the Plan. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TOU 18, TOU 19, TOU 20, TOU 34, TOU 35, ENV 59, ENV 60, ENV 61, ENV 63 and ENV 64. Policies related to coastal defence works (including ENV 50, ENV 51 and ENV 53) require the protection of sensitive habitats and the coast, therefore no erosion measure will be put in place that will add to the existing threats. Provisions (ENV20, ENV 21, ENV 22 and ENV 23) have been included to contribute towards the control of nitrates. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
002299	River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	0 - within	The known threats to this site are cultivation, other patterns of habitation, stock feeding, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, industrial or commercial areas, mowing or cutting of grassland, roads, motorways, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), disposal of industrial waste, other human intrusions and disturbances, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, other sport or leisure complexes, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, sand and gravel extraction, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), fertilisation, modifying structures of inland water courses, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, storage of materials, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, invasive non-native species, bridge, viaduct, other discharges. These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, ground water pollutions, tourism/amenity, coastal defences, waste management, land use management, habitat connectivity and successional processes as well as invasive species. Various measures have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of ensuring that there are no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site (see Section 5; for example, NBG 3, NBG 4, NBG 5 and NBG 6) as a result of loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites. The Plan has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water include ENV 15, ENV 16, ENV 17, ENV 18, ENV 19, ENV 20, ENV 21, ENV 22, ENV 23, IU 2, IU 3, IU 4, IU 5, IU 6, IU 7, IU 8, IU 9, IU 10, NBG 18, NBG 19 and NBG 20. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of NBG 10 and NBG 11. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; ENV 31, ENV 34 and ENV 35. Waste management policies such as ENV 24, ENV 25 and IU 3 will ensure that adequate and appropriate waste management facilities are in place during the implementation of the Plan. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TOU 18, TOU 19, TOU 20, TOU 34, TOU 35, ENV 59, ENV 60, ENV 61, ENV 63 and ENV 64. Policies related to coastal defence works (including ENV 50, ENV 51 and ENV 53) require the protection of sensitive habitats and the coast, therefore no erosion measure will be put in place that will add to the existing threats. Provisions (ENV20, ENV 21, ENV 22 and ENV 23) have been included to contribute towards the control of nitrates. With regard to aquaculture and other types of marine sector related development, ENV 62 is to ensure that proposals for economic development associated with the marine sector reflect the environmental sensitivities of the Louth coastline and are considered accordingly. Leisure fishing is controlled and managed by Inland Fisheries Ireland through a strict licencing process which is monitoring and controlled centrally and each region is assigned annual licence quotas. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
002306	Carlingford Shore SAC	0 - within	The known threats to this site are illegal taking or removal of marine fauna, other human intrusions and disturbances, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, hand raking, suspension culture, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), other (i.e. drift nets), hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, bottom culture, motorised vehicles, leisure fishing, nautical sports, marine and freshwater aquaculture, hunting, pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, regular motorized driving.

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

Site Code	Site Name ¹⁸	Distance (Km)	Characterisation of Potential Effects on European Sites as a result of the Plan
			Proposed Material Alterations No. 23 and 25, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of European sites. These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, tourism/amenity, direct interaction with species and populations through fishing/hunting, waste management, direct land use management and invasive species. Various measures have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of ensuring that there are no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site (see Section 5; for example, NBG 3, NBG 4, NBG 5 and NBG 6) as a result of loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites. The Plan has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water include ENV 15, ENV 16, ENV 17, ENV 18, ENV 19, ENV 20, ENV 21, ENV 22, ENV 23, IU 2, IU 3, IU 4, IU 5, IU 6, IU 7, IU 8, IU 9, IU 10, NBG 18, NBG 19 and NBG 20. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of NBG 10 and NBG 11. Forestry processes within the county will be controlled to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in additional pressures relating to forestry; ENV 31, ENV 34 and ENV 35. Waste management policies such as ENV 24, ENV 25 and IU 3 will ensure that adequate and appropriate waste management facilities are in place during the implementation of the Plan. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TOU 18, TOU 19, TOU 20, TOU 34, TOU 35, ENV 59, ENV 60, ENV 61, ENV 63 and ENV 64. With regard to aquaculture and other types of marine sector related development, ENV 62 is to ensure that proposals for economic development associated with the marine sector reflect the environmental sensitivities of the Louth coastline and are considered accordingly. Leisure fishing is controlled and managed by Inland Fisheries Ireland through a strict licencing process which is monitoring and controlled centrally and each region is assigned annual licence quotas. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	0 - within	The known threats to this site are leisure fishing, urbanised areas, human habitation, dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, industrial or commercial areas, grazing, shipping lanes, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, dispersed habitation, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, invasive non-native species, discharges, nautical sports, roads, motorways, fertilisation. These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, tourism/amenity, waste management, direct land use management, fertilisation and invasive species. Various measures have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of ensuring that there are no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site (see Section 5; for example, NBG 3, NBG 4, NBG 5 and NBG 6) as a result of loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites. The Plan has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water include ENV 15, ENV 16, ENV 17, ENV 18, ENV 19, ENV 20, ENV 21, ENV 22, ENV 23, IU 2, IU 3, IU 4, IU 5, IU 6, IU 7, IU 8, IU 9, IU 10, NBG 18, NBG 19 and NBG 20. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of NBG 10 and NBG 11. Waste management policies such as ENV 24, ENV 25 and IU 3 will ensure that adequate and appropriate waste management facilities are in place during the implementation of the Plan. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TOU 18, TOU 19, TOU 20, TOU 34, TOU 35, ENV 59, ENV 60, ENV 61, ENV 63 and ENV 64. Provisions (ENV20, ENV 21, ENV 22 and ENV 23) have been included to contribute towards the control of nitrates. With regard to aquaculture and other types of marine sector related development, ENV 62 is to ensure that proposals for economic development associated with the marine sector reflect the environmental sensitivities of the Louth coastline and are considered accordingly. Leisure fishing is controlled and managed by Inland Fisheries Ireland through a strict licencing process which is monitoring and controlled centrally and each region is assigned annual licence quotas. In addition, the SCIs for the site are sensitive to disturbance effects through noise pollution which are accounted for through the following policies; ENV 3, ENV 6, ENV 7, ENV 8, ENV 9 and ENV 11. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
004078	Carlingford Lough SPA	0 - within	The known threats to this site are marine and freshwater aquaculture. With regard to aquaculture and other types of marine sector related development, ENV 62 is to ensure that proposals for economic development associated with the marine sector reflect the environmental sensitivities of the Louth coastline and are considered accordingly. In addition, the SCIs for the site are sensitive to disturbance effects through noise pollution which are accounted for through the following policies; ENV 3, ENV 6, ENV 7, ENV 8, ENV 9 and ENV 11. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
004080	Boyne Estuary SPA	0 - within	The known threats to this site are invasive non-native species, golf course, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, urbanised areas, human habitation, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, leisure fishing, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, marine and freshwater aquaculture. These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, tourism/amenity, direct physical interaction with land characterisation, direct land use management and invasive species. Various measures have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of ensuring that there are no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site (see Section 5; for example, NBG 3, NBG 4, NBG 5 and NBG 6) as a result of loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites. The Plan has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water include ENV 15, ENV 16, ENV 17, ENV 18, ENV 19, ENV 20, ENV 21, ENV 22, ENV 23, IU 2, IU 3, IU 4, IU 5, IU 6, IU 7, IU 8, IU 9, IU 10, NBG 18, NBG 19 and NBG 20. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of NBG 10 and NBG 11. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TOU 18, TOU 19, TOU 20, TOU 34, TOU 35, ENV 59, ENV 60, ENV 61, ENV 63 and ENV 64. With regard to aquaculture and other types of marine sector related development, ENV 62 is to ensure that proposals for economic development associated with the marine sector reflect the environmental sensitivities of the Louth coastline and are considered accordingly. Leisure fishing is controlled and managed by Inland Fisheries Ireland through a strict licencing process which is monitoring and controlled centrally and each region is assigned annual licence quotas. In addition, the SCIs for the site are sensitive to disturbance effects through noise pollution which are accounted for through the following policies; ENV 3, ENV 6, ENV 7, ENV 8, ENV 9 and ENV 11. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
004091	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA	0 - within	The known threats to this site are grazing, fertilisation, modification of cultivation practices, cultivation, roads and motorways.

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Site Code	Site Name ¹⁸	Distance (Km)	Characterisation of Potential Effects on European Sites as a result of the Plan
			Proposed Material Alterations No. 23 and 25, if adopted as part of the Plan, could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects, with the objective of protecting the integrity of European sites.
			Provisions (ENV20, ENV 21, ENV 22 and ENV 23) have been included to contribute towards the control of nitrates. Various measures have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of ensuring that there are no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site (see Section 5; for example, NBG 3, NBG 4, NBG 5 and NBG 6) as a result of loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites. In addition, the SCIs for the site are sensitive to disturbance effects through noise pollution which are accounted for through the following policies; ENV 3, ENV 6, ENV 7, ENV 8, ENV 9 and ENV 11. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	0 - within	The known threats to this site are roads, motorways, urbanised areas, human habitation, dispersed habitation, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions. These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, tourism/amenity, infrastructure development. Various measures have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of ensuring that there are no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site (see Section 5; for example, NBG 3, NBG 4, NBG 5 and NBG 6) as a result of loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites. The Plan has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water include ENV 15, ENV 16, ENV 17, ENV 18, ENV 19, ENV 20, ENV 21, ENV 22, ENV 23, IU 2, IU 3, IU 4, IU 5, IU 6, IU 7, IU 8, IU 9, IU 10, NBG 18, NBG 19 and NBG 20. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TOU 18, TOU 19, TOU 20, TOU 34, TOU 35, ENV 59, ENV 60, ENV 61, ENV 63 and ENV 64. In addition, the SCIs for the site are sensitive to disturbance effects through noise pollution which are accounted for through the following policies; ENV 3, ENV 6, ENV 7, ENV 8, ENV 9 and ENV 11. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
UK9020161	Carlingford Lough	1.19	The known threats to this site air pollution, air-borne pollutants, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, fire and fire suppression, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species, problematic native species, cultivation and changes in abiotic conditions. These pressures relate to hydrologic interactions, tourism/amenity, infrastructure development, invasive species, cultivation etc. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to policies such as NBG 9, NBG 10, NBG 33, ENV 8, ENV 9 and ENV 11. The CDP has policies and objectives to ensure the implementation of the plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; include ENV 15, ENV 16, ENV 17, ENV 18, ENV 19, ENV 20, ENV 21, ENV 22, ENV 23, IU 2, IU 3, IU 4, IU 5, IU 6, IU 7, IU 8, IU 9, IU 10, NBG 18, NBG 19 and NBG 20. The spread of invasive species will be controlled through the implementation of NBG 10 and NBG 11. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TOU 18, TOU 19, TOU 20, TOU 34, TOU 35, ENV 59, ENV 60, ENV 61, ENV 63 and ENV 64. In addition, the SCIs for the site are sensitive to disturbance effects through noise pollution which are accounted for through the following policies; ENV 3, ENV 6, ENV 7, ENV 8, ENV 9 and ENV 11. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
004158	River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA	3.85	The known threats to this site are walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles and continuous urbanisation. Recreational/tourism activities will be managed through provisions such as TOU 18, TOU 19, TOU 20, TOU 34, TOU 35, ENV 59, ENV 60, ENV 61, ENV 63 and ENV 64. Various measures have been integrated into the Plan with the objective of ensuring that there are no significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site (see Section 5; for example, NBG 3, NBG 4, NBG 5 and NBG 6) as a result of loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites. In addition, the SCIs for the site are sensitive to disturbance effects through noise pollution which are accounted for through the following policies; ENV 3, ENV 6, ENV 7, ENV 8, ENV 9 and ENV 11. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.

Section 5 Mitigation Measures

This section outlines measures that have been incorporated into the Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, in order to mitigate against potential effects to European Sites as identified above.

The Draft Plan was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. The mitigation measures also consider submissions made during the SEA Scoping process and the public consultation process for the Draft Plan.

These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European Site from implementation of the Plan. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European Sites are identified in Table 5.1 below.

Table 5.1 Measures most relevant to the protection of European Sites

Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: (this text will be updated at adoption of the Plan to take account of any Alterations/Modifications made)	
1.7.5 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION The development objectives in the development plan are consistent, as far as practicable, with the conservation and protection of the environment. The accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) processes have informed the preparation of the Draft Plan (Volume 5 of the Draft plan provides associated documents detailing the findings). All recommendations made by these processes have been integrated into this Draft Plan and this will contribute towards environmental conservation and protection within the County and beyond. Ecosystems Services Approach and Natural Capital In preparing the Draft Plan and developing policy objectives, the Council have followed these Ecosystem Services ²⁰ Approach principles: a) Consideration of natural systems - by using knowledge of interactions in nature and how ecosystems function (including at Plan Chapters 8 and 11); b) Taking into account of the services that ecosystems provide - including those that underpin social and economic well-being, such as flood and climate regulation (including at Plan Chapters 8, 10 and 12), resources for food, fibre or fuel (including at Chapters 5 and 11), or for recreation, culture and quality of life (including at Plan Chapters 4, 6, 9 and 11); c) Involving people - those who benefit from the ecosystem services and those managing them need to be involved in decisions that affect them. Public consultation has informed the preparation of the Draft Plan which will be further refined before adoption, taking into account submissions/observations made on the Draft Plan during public display. The Council shall promote an Ecosystem Services Approach, following the above principles, in its decision-making processes, including those relating to the preparation of statutory land use plans. In recognition of the need to manage natural capital ²¹ , provisions have been integrated into the Plan that will contribute towards management of air quality, noise pollution, light pollution, water quality and integrated catchment management.	
Designated and Non-Designated Sites NBG 1 To promote the implementation of the Draft Louth Heritage Plan 2020-2025 and any Louth Heritage Plan subsequently adopted during the lifetime of this Plan. NBG2 To promote and implement the objectives of the Draft Louth Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2025 and any subsequent Biodiversity Action Plan adopted during the lifetime of this Plan. NBG 3 To protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives. NBG 4 To ensure that all proposed developments comply with the requirements set out in the DECLG "Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities 2010" NBG 5 To ensure that no plan, programme, or project giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan, either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects ²² NBG 6 To ensure a screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) on all plans and projects and or Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (NIR/NIS) where appropriate, is undertaken to make a determination. European Sites located outside of the County but within 15 km of the proposed development site shall be included in such screenings as should those to which there are pathways, for example, hydrological links for potential effects. NBG 7 To co-operate with the Regional Planning Assembly and adjoining local authorities, public agencies and community interests to protect regionally significant heritage assets, environmental quality, and to identify threats to existing environmental quality in a transboundary context throughout the region including Northern Ireland. NBG 8 To consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, taking account of their views and any licensing requirements, when undertaking, approving or authorising development, which is likely to affect plant, bird or other animal species protected by law. NBG 9 To ensure that proposals for development, where appropriate, protect and conserve biodiversity sites outside designated sites and require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professionals to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such sites. NBG 10 To ensure that development proposals, where relevant, improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 Network of European Sites and encourage the retention and management of landscape features as per Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. NBG 11 Where feasible, ensure that no ecological networks, or parts thereof, which provide significant connectivity between areas of local biodiversity, are lost without remediation as a result of implementation of this Plan. NBG 12 Prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species within the County. NBG 13 Development sites must be investigated for the presence of invasive species, which if present must be treated and/or eradicated in accordance with best practice. Where appropriate, Invasive Species Management Plans will be prepared for such development proposals. NBG 14 To protect from inappropriate development and maintain the character, integrity and conservation value of those features or areas of ecological interest listed as pNHA or that may be designated as NHA, during the lifetime of this Plan. NBG 15 To ensure that any development within or adjacent to a NHA or pNHA is designed and sited to minimise its impact on the ecological value of the site and to resist development that would result in a significant deterioration of habitats or a disturbance of species. ENV 36 To consider the preservation of any tree, trees or groups of trees or woodland of special amenity or environmental value by use of Tree Preservation Orders. ENV 37 To retain and protect significant stands of existing trees/ hedgerows/woodlands, and seek increased planting of native trees, where appropriate, in new developments ENV 38 Protect and preserve existing hedgerows in new developments, particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows, and where their removal is necessary during the course of road works or other works seek their replacement with new hedgerows of native species indigenous to the area. ENV 31 To encourage the development of a well-managed sustainable forestry sector, which is compatible with the protection of the environment including the avoidance of likely significant effects on European sites (SACs and SPAs) and is planted, managed and harvested in accordance with the Forest Service Guidelines for Landscape, Forest Harvesting and Environmental, Archaeology, Biodiversity and Water Quality.	
Peatlands, Wetlands, Watercourses NBG 19 To ensure that an appropriate level of ecological assessment is carried out for proposals involving drainage, infill or reclamation of wetland habitats.	

²⁰ Ecosystems are multifunctional communities of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment. Ecosystems provide a series of services for human well-being (ecosystem services) either directly or indirectly contributing towards human wellbeing

²¹ Renewable and non-renewable resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals)

²² 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 project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: (this text will be updated at adoption of the Plan to take account of any Alterations/Modifications made)	
NBG 20	To protect and enhance wetland sites that have been rated A (International), B (National), C+ (County), C and D importance in the Louth Wetland Surveys and any subsequent versions thereof.
NBG 21	To support the implementation of recommendations included in the Louth Wetland Survey and any subsequent versions thereof.
NBG 22	To support the implementation of recommendations contained in the National Peatlands Strategy in 2015
NBG 44	To protect, maintain, and enhance the natural and organic character of the watercourses in the County, including opening up to daylight where safe and feasible. The creation and/or enhancement of riparian buffer zones will be required where possible. All proposed coastal walkways will be required to comply with the Habitats, EIA and SEA Directives
NBG 57	To ensure that no development, including clearing or storage of materials, takes place within a minimum distance of 10m measured from each bank of any river, stream or watercourse.
Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows	
NBG 29	To protect trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders and seek to designate additional Tree Preservations Orders (TPO), where appropriate.
NBG 30	To protect trees and woodlands of special amenity value. Review and where appropriate, make Tree Preservation Order(s), in relation to trees of special amenity value.
NBG 31	Where in exceptional circumstances, trees and or hedgerows are required to be removed in order to facilitate development, this shall be done outside nesting season and there shall be a requirement that each tree felled is replaced at a ratio of 10:1 with native species and each hedgerow removed is to be replaced with a native species. In Drogheda and Dundalk, replacement trees will be required at a ratio of 4:1 where the removal of trees is required in order to facilitate development.
NBG 32	To investigate the identification and addition of suitable trees and woodlands of special amenity value for inclusion in Tables 8.7, 8.8, 8.9 and 8.10 where appropriate, during the lifetime of the Plan.
NBG 33	To assess the implications of proposed development on significant trees and hedgerows located on lands that are being considered for development, seeking their incorporation into design proposals where appropriate, and in compliance with procedures detailed in Appendix 5.
NBG 34	To increase native tree coverage in the County to also act as carbon sinks by promoting the planting of suitable native trees and hedgerows along public roads, residential streets, parks and other areas of open space.
NBG 35	To encourage initiatives supporting private and community driven native tree and woodland planting schemes throughout the County, utilising available funding schemes.
Green Infrastructure	
NBG 41	To support the green infrastructure network of County Louth and ensure its implementation in the assessment of all development proposals to prevent adverse impact on the ecological connectivity of County Louth's Core Areas.
NBG 42	To require the use of and develop the green infrastructure network to ensure the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and as a supplementary guide for the protection and conservation of the European Sites in County Louth.
NBG 45	To prepare specific Green Infrastructure Strategies for the Regional Growth Centres of Drogheda and Dundalk and integrate into the local area plan for each settlement.
NBG 46	To develop linear parks, particularly along waterways, and to link existing parks and open spaces in order to provide green chains that promote permeability for pedestrians and cyclists in the Regional Growth Centres of Drogheda and Dundalk.
NBG 47	To support the existing features of interest in the Level 3 and 4 Settlements of County Louth and promote and facilitate any areas identified for green infrastructure enhancement.
NBG 48	All future development proposals shall require, within the overall design scheme, the integration of environmental assets and existing biodiversity features including those identified in Table 9 of the Green Infrastructure Strategy Appendix 8, Volume 3, to enhance the quality, character and design of the proposal.
NBG 49	To require the integration of green infrastructure and inclusion of native planting schemes in all development proposals in landscaped areas, open spaces and areas of public space.
Invasive Species	
NBG 12	Prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species within the County.
NBG 13	Development sites must be investigated for the presence of invasive species, which if present must be treated and/or eradicated in accordance with best practice. Where appropriate, Invasive Species Management Plans will be prepared for such development proposals.
Light Pollution	
ENV 8	To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.
ENV 9	To require all details of on-site lighting associated with all future development are submitted to and agreed with the planning authority.
ENV 10	To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting in support of Climate Action.
ENV 11	To implement a hierarchy of light intensity zone as required in development schemes to ensure that environmental impact is minimised as far as possible particularly in areas proximate to ecological corridors.
Increases in visitor numbers	
TOU 18	To enable, facilitate and encourage the growth and sustainability of the tourism sector through the provision of tourism enterprise developments in rural areas subject to the provision of adequate infrastructure and compliance with normal planning considerations.
TOU 19	To co-operate with the relevant authorities and government agencies north and south of the Border in the provision of Narrow Water Bridge.
TOU 20	To promote the sustainable development of County Louth as a quality tourist destination in partnership with Fáilte Ireland and associated agencies themed on heritage, culture and an unspoilt natural environment and support innovative tourism projects that would boost employment and promote County Louth as a tourism destination subject to compliance with the requirements of the Development Zones as detailed in Chapter 3.
TOU 34	To seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance and ensuring that new any projects, such as greenways, are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities, such as riparian zones.
Soil Protection and Contamination	
ENV 14	To ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed.
Geology and Quarries	
NBG 16	Support the designation of qualifying sites of geological interest listed in Table 8.4 as Natural Heritage Areas.
NBG 17	In consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland, protect from inappropriate development and maintain the character, integrity and conservation value of those features or areas of geological interest listed in Table 8.4 of the Plan.
NBG 18	To promote awareness, where appropriate, of areas of geological interest, including the provision of access and interpretation where desirable and feasible.
ENV 40	To ensure that all existing and proposed quarries comply with the requirements of the document Quarry and Ancillary Facilities – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (DECLG) 2004 or any replacement document and to promote a whole of life plan for an extractive location, including a post-closure remediation plan.

Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:

(this text will be updated at adoption of the Plan to take account of any Alterations/Modifications made)

ENV 42 To prevent development that would hinder the efficient or effective recovery of the County's aggregate resources.

ENV 44 To ensure that the extraction of stone and mineral materials is carried out in a manner that is sustainable and does not significantly impact on the following areas;

- Existing and proposed European Sites;
- Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna;
- Areas of significant archaeological potential;
- In the vicinity of a recorded monument;
- Sensitive Landscapes
- World Heritage Sites
- Tentative World Heritage Sites

ENV 46 To refer any application for development to the Geological Survey of Ireland, where it relates to mineral extraction, quarrying developments/extensions and any development involving excavations greater than 50,000m³ in volume or one hectare in area.

Coastal and Riverbank Erosion

ENV 49 To require that all proposed developments within 100m of the coastline of Louth, outside the main settlements submit a Coastal Erosion Assessment Report. New developments will be prohibited, unless it can be objectively established based on the best scientific information at the time of the application, that the likelihood of erosion at a specific location is minimal taking into account, inter alia, any impacts.

ENV 50 To recognise the concept of coastal evolution and fluvial flooding as part of our dynamic physical environment, and adopt an adaptive approach to working with these natural processes. The focus of a flood management strategy should not solely be driven by conservation of existing lands. It should recognise that marshes, mud flats and other associated eco-systems evolve and degenerate and appropriate consideration should be given to the realignment of defences and use of managed retreat and sacrificial flood protection lands to maintain such habitats as part of an overall strategy.

ENV 51 To ensure the County's natural coastal defences (beaches, sand dunes, salt marshes and estuary lands) are protected and to ensure they are not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.

ENV 52 To explore, where coastal erosion is considered a threat to existing properties, the technical, environmental and economic feasibility of coastal adaptation and coastal retreat management options.

ENV 53 To employ soft engineering techniques as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever possible.

ENV 54 To identify, prioritise and implement necessary coastal protection works subject to the availability of resources, whilst ensuring a high level of protection for natural habitats and features, and ensure due regard is paid to visual and other environmental considerations in the design of any such coastal protection works.

IU 23 To ensure that no development including clearing or storage of materials takes place within a minimum distance of 10m measured from each bank of any river, stream or watercourse.

Water Quality/Status

ENV 15 To implement the recommendations contained in the River Basin District Management Plans for Ireland 2018-2021 or any subsequent plan adopted during the lifetime of the Plan. Proposed plans, programmes and projects shall not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands. Also, to have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

ENV 16 To increase awareness through educational and other means so as to inform the public of the need and importance of maintaining the highest possible water quality standards.

ENV 17 To implement the recommendations contained in any Groundwater Protection Scheme prepared under EU Ground Water Directives and to protect ground water resources in County Louth, nutrient sensitive areas and the designated shellfish growing areas within Carlingford Lough and Dundalk Bay.

ENV 18 To protect fisheries in all rivers in the County, where appropriate, including relevant species as contained in Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

ENV 19 To implement the requirements of the Groundwater Protection Scheme to protect known and potential ground water reserves.

ENV 20 To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.

ENV 21 To assess agricultural developments and associated agricultural waste matters within the County in accordance with the European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2017 for the purpose of preventing or eliminating the entry of polluting matters to waters.

ENV 22 To encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan.

ENV 23 To implement the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2011, and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations 2011, which require planning permission be sought where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares, or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment.

ENV 32 To encourage forestry and forestry related development, as a means of diversifying from traditional agriculture activity with a preference for native species.

ENV 33 To encourage access to forestry and woodlands, including private forestry, in cooperation with stakeholders for walking routes, bridle paths, mountain biking, nature walks, orienteering, hiking, recreational areas and other similar facilities.

ENV 34 To promote the avoidance of deforestation or commercial afforestation within European sites unless directly relating to the management of the site for its qualifying interests.

ENV 35 To support the development of appropriate and sustainable tourism development within forestry locations, while retaining adequate tree cover in the general area.

ENV 36 To consider the preservation of any tree, trees or groups of trees or woodland of special amenity or environmental value by use of Tree Preservation Orders.

ENV 37 To retain and protect significant stands of existing trees/ hedgerows/woodlands, and seek increased planting of native trees, where appropriate, in new developments

ENV 38 Protect and preserve existing hedgerows in new developments, particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows, and where their removal is necessary during the course of road works or other works seek their replacement with new hedgerows of native species indigenous to the area.

ENV 39 In accordance with the National Climate Action Plan 2019 (or any subsequent Plan) Louth County Council shall promote sustainable forestry development of appropriate scale within the County in order to address climate action directly through carbon sequestration and indirectly through the displacement of fossil fuel.

ENV 40 To ensure that all existing and proposed quarries comply with the requirements of the document Quarry and Ancillary Facilities – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (DECLG) 2004 or any replacement document and to promote a whole of life plan for an extractive location, including a post-closure remediation plan.

ENV 41 To facilitate adequate supplies of aggregate resources to meet the future growth needs of the County and the wider region while addressing key environmental, traffic and social impacts and details of rehabilitation.

ENV 42 To prevent development that would hinder the efficient or effective recovery of the County's aggregate resources.

ENV 43 To ensure that extractive developments do not adversely impact on environmental quality, including water quality, tourism value, existing infrastructure, residential amenity or the amenity value of neighbouring lands.

ENV 44 To ensure that the extraction of stone and mineral materials is carried out in a manner that is sustainable and does not significantly impact on the following areas;

- Existing and proposed European Sites;

Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: (this text will be updated at adoption of the Plan to take account of any Alterations/Modifications made)	
	• Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna; • Areas of significant archaeological potential; • In the vicinity of a recorded monument; • Sensitive Landscapes • World Heritage Sites • Tentative World Heritage Sites
ENV 45	To ensure that developments associated with the extractive industry minimise adverse impacts on the road network in the area and that the full cost of road improvements, including during operations and at time of closure which were necessary to facilitate such development are borne by the extractive industry.
ENV 46	To refer any application for development to the Geological Survey of Ireland, where it relates to mineral extraction, quarrying developments/extensions and any development involving excavations greater than 50,000m ³ in volume or one hectare in area.
ENV 47	To implement the policies and objectives as set out within the National Maritime Spatial Plan to support the effective management of marine activities and more sustainable use of our marine resources.
ENV 48	To support and accommodate any change to the marine spatial planning system which is proposed under the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill 2019 (or any subsequent Bill) once enacted into law.
ENV 49	To require that all proposed developments within 100m of the coastline of Louth, outside the main settlements submit a Coastal Erosion Assessment Report. New developments will be prohibited, unless it can be objectively established based on the best scientific information at the time of the application, that the likelihood of erosion at a specific location is minimal taking into account, inter alia, any impacts.
ENV 50	To recognise the concept of coastal evolution and fluvial flooding as part of our dynamic physical environment, and adopt an adaptive approach to working with these natural processes. The focus of a flood management strategy should not solely be driven by conservation of existing lands. It should recognise that marshes, mud flats and other associated eco-systems evolve and degenerate and appropriate consideration should be given to the realignment of defences and use of managed retreat and sacrificial flood protection lands to maintain such habitats as part of an overall strategy.
ENV 51	To ensure the County's natural coastal defences (beaches, sand dunes, salt marshes and estuary lands) are protected and to ensure they are not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.
ENV 52	To explore, where coastal erosion is considered a threat to existing properties, the technical, environmental and economic feasibility of coastal adaptation and coastal retreat management options.
ENV 53	To employ soft engineering techniques as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever possible.
ENV 54	To identify, prioritise and implement necessary coastal protection works subject to the availability of resources, whilst ensuring a high level of protection for natural habitats and features, and ensure due regard is paid to visual and other environmental considerations in the design of any such coastal protection works.
ENV 55	To protect the special character of the coast by preventing inappropriate development, particularly on the seaward side of coastal roads. New development, wherever possible, shall be accommodated within existing developed areas and be climate resilient in their design.
ENV 56	To strictly control the nature and pattern of development within coastal areas and ensure that it is designed and landscaped to the highest standards, and sited appropriately so as not to detract from the visual amenity of the area. Development shall be prohibited where the development poses a significant or potential threat to coastal habitats or features, and/or where the development is likely to result in altered patterns of erosion or deposition elsewhere along the coast.
ENV 57	To prohibit development along the coast outside existing urban areas where such development is not adequately safeguarded over the lifetime of the development without the need to construct additional coastal defences.
ENV 58	To protect the excellent status classification of identified bathing water areas within County Louth.
ENV 59	To encourage proposals that promote sustainable development of water-based sports and marine recreation in coastal areas and on river systems across the County providing there is no cause of significant adverse impacts on the environment, visual amenity and heritage.
ENV 60	To support proposals that improve access to marine and coastal resources for tourism activities and sport and recreation, where appropriate, at the applicable scale.
ENV 61	To facilitate sustainable tourism and recreation activities where appropriate, particularly where this creates diversification or additional utilisation of related facilities beyond typical usage patterns.
ENV 62	To require that new developments take into account the potential for impact on tourism in the area and demonstrate how potential negative impacts to tourism in communities have been minimised. This must include assessment of how the benefits of what is proposed are not outweighed by potential negative impacts identified.
ENV 63	To support proposals for sustainable tourism development that seek to optimise facilities and use space whilst minimising environmental impact by taking a cross-sectoral development approach that provides for multiple activities.
ENV 64	To resist development along the coast which would detract from its visual appearance or conflict with its recreational and leisure functions.
ENV 65	To continue to work with local communities, relevant stakeholders and with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive along County Louth's coastline.
Sustainable urban drainage systems and Surface Water	
IU 18	To require the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of SuDS measures be incorporated in all new development (including extensions to existing developments). All development proposals shall be accompanied by a comprehensive SuDS assessment including run-off quantity, run off quality and impacts on habitat and water quality.
IU 19	To require all development proposals meet the design criteria, (adjusted to reflect local conditions), and material designs contained in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GDSDS) and demonstrate how runoff is captured as close to source as possible with subsequent slow release to the drainage system and watercourse.
IU 20	To ensure all new development incorporates appropriate measures to protect existing water bodies, through appropriate treatment of runoff. In particular, discharges from car parks shall be appropriately treated so as to remove pollutant materials.
IU 21	To ensure all new developments provide for separated drainage systems.
IU 22	To encourage particularly in buildings of increased height the provision of green roofs and green walls as an integrated part of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and which provide benefits for biodiversity, wherever possible.
IU 23	To ensure that no development including clearing or storage of materials takes place within a minimum distance of 10m measured from each bank of any river, stream or watercourse.
Flood Risk Management	
IU 24	To reduce the risk of new development being affected by possible future flooding by: • Avoiding development in areas at risk of flooding and • Where development in floodplains cannot be avoided, taking a sequential approach to flood risk management based on avoidance, reduction and adaptation to the risk.

Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: (this text will be updated at adoption of the Plan to take account of any Alterations/Modifications made)	
IU 25	To ensure all proposals for development falling within Flood Zones A or B are consistent with the "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities" 2009. Proposals for development identified as being vulnerable to flooding must be supported by a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment and demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that the development, and its infrastructure, will avoid significant risks of flooding and not exacerbate flooding elsewhere.
IU 26	Where a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment demonstrates that there are significant residual flood risks to a proposed development or its occupiers in conflict with "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities" 2009, planning permission will normally not be granted unless the requirements of Section 5.28 can be satisfied.
IU 27	To implement the Flood Risk Management Measures as detailed in the Neagh Bann Flood Risk Management Plan, the Eastern Flood Risk Management Plan and the Dunleer Flood Risk Management Plan.
IU 28	To work with the Office for Public Works in the development and implementation of catchment-based strategies for the management of flood risk – including those relating to storage and conveyance.
IU 29	To contribute towards the improvement and/or restoration of the natural flood risk management functions of flood plains subject to compliance with the environmental legislation and availability of resources.
Air Quality	
ENV 3	To seek to achieve European and National standards in relation to air, noise and water quality in the County and apply BAT standard (Best Available Techniques)
ENV 12	To promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).
Noise	
ENV 3	To seek to achieve European and National standards in relation to air, noise and water quality in the County and apply BAT standard (Best Available Techniques)
ENV 6	To implement the Louth County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure.
ENV 7	To require that where new development is proposed within the limits of the noise maps for the designated sections of roads in the County, appropriate mitigation measures are undertaken so as to prevent harmful effects from environmental noise.
Water Services and Surface Water	
IU 1	To liaise and work in conjunction with Irish Water in identifying, prioritising and progressing the implementation of water and wastewater projects throughout County Louth over the lifetime of the Plan, in accordance with the Core and Settlement Strategies.
IU 2	To work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect and make climate resilient existing water and wastewater infrastructure, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new water and wastewater services infrastructure, to facilitate existing and future growth.
IU 3	To support the provision, extension and upgrade of high quality water and wastewater services infrastructure for both existing and future developments within County Louth, consistent with the principles of sustainability, prioritising those centres where serious deficiencies are in evidence or where further sustainable development can be reasonably anticipated.
IU 4	To support the extension or upgrading of existing water services infrastructure within the county (including those listed in the IW Investment Programme) and the provision of water services infrastructure in unserved settlements to assist in the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.
IU 5	To require all new developments connect to the public supply where public water and wastewater infrastructure is available or likely to be available and which has sufficient capacity.
IU 6	To support the development and proper management of Group Water Schemes subject to appropriate level of treatment being provided and suitable robust arrangements being put in place.
IU 7	To discourage the use of pump stations for conveyance of sewage unless the proposed pump station will cater for a significant catchment of zoned development lands that otherwise cannot be serviced. Where deemed appropriate, in consultation with Irish Water, temporary pumping arrangements may be considered as an interim measure, pending the provision of more permanent arrangements within a reasonable timeframe. All arrangements for same will be as per the requirements and agreement of Irish Water.
IU 8	To support the commitment to water conservation and leakage reduction in accordance with best practice, and through the implementation of the National Leakage Reduction Programme in order to conserve valuable resources and reduce wastage.
IU 9	To support Irish Water in promoting public awareness and involvement in water conservation measures by households, business and industry.
IU 10	To encourage new developments incorporate water conservation measures such as rain water harvesting to minimise wastage of water supply.
IU 11	To promote and support the development and proper management of Group Water Schemes in the County, subject to an appropriate level of treatment being provided and suitable robust operational arrangements being put in place.
IU 12	To require that all development taking place within an area served by a public wastewater treatment system connects to that system.
IU 13	To require that on lands identified for non-domestic development where no public waste water facility exists or is proposed, that the wastewater be adequately treated and discharged to suitable receiving water, subject to a discharge licence.
IU 14	To promote rain water harvesting and grey water use in all developments and in particular for larger developments, as an alternative to attenuation.
IU 15	To require that proper supervision, installation and commissioning of on-site wastewater treatment system by requiring site characterisation procedures and geotechnical assessments, be carried out by competent professionally indemnified and suitably qualified persons.
IU 16	To require that the construction and installation of all wastewater treatment systems are supervised and certified by a suitably qualified competent person as fit for the intended purpose and complies with the Council's requirements.
IU 17	To require that private wastewater treatment systems for individual houses, where permitted, comply with the recommendations contained within the EPA Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems (2009) Serving Single Houses (population equivalent less than or equal to 10).
Waste Management	
ENV 24	To implement and support the provisions of the Eastern-Midlands Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 or any subsequent plan and EU Directives/Policies.
ENV 25	To support the development of an additional recycling centre in the Mid – Louth Area.
10.11.12	Waste Management and Disposal: All future developments should seek to minimise waste through reduction, re-use and recycling. Waste management and disposal should be considered as part of the construction process and in the operation of the development when completed.
10.11.13	Construction Waste: Construction related waste accounts for a significant proportion of total land filled waste in Ireland. Therefore, developers and builders should minimise construction waste generated in development projects. During the construction process measures should be implemented to minimise soil removal (as part of the scheme design process), properly manage construction waste and encourage off-site prefabrication where feasible.

Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: (this text will be updated at adoption of the Plan to take account of any Alterations/Modifications made)	
10.11.14	Domestic Waste: Everyday domestic waste produced by future residents and businesses shall be minimised through reduction, reuse and recycling. All new developments should provide for occupants to comply with the Louth County Council Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-laws, 2019, whereby people must segregate their waste into dry recyclables, food waste and residual domestic waste. New developments should facilitate a three bin system in each unit.
Agriculture and Nitrates	
ENV 20	To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.
ENV 21	To assess agricultural developments and associated agricultural waste matters within the County in accordance with the European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2017 for the purpose of preventing or eliminating the entry of polluting matters to waters.
ENV 22	To encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan.
ENV 23	To implement the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2011, and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations 2011, which require planning permission be sought where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares, or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment.
Tourism and Infrastructure Capacity	
TOU 35	To consider the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.
Landscape Features	
NBG 24	To ensure development reflects and, where possible, reinforces the distinctiveness and sense of place of the landscape character types including the retention of important features or characteristics, taking into account the various elements, which contribute to their distinctiveness such as scenic quality, habitats, settlement pattern, historic heritage and land use.
NBG 26	To explore the designation of Landscape Conservation Areas as appropriate, in conjunction with the relevant Government Department and stakeholders to protect specific important landscapes and particularly in respect of Carlingford Mountain SAC.
NBG 37	To protect the unspoiled rural landscapes of the Areas of High Scenic Quality (AHSQ) from inappropriate development for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations.
NBG 38	Protect and sustain the established appearance and character of views listed in this plan that contribute to the distinctive quality of the landscape from inappropriate development.

Section 6 Conclusion

Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, the AA process identified that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site as a result of all Proposed Material Alterations apart from Proposed Material Alteration Reference No. 25²³, which has the potential, if unmitigated, to impact upon the Dundalk Bay SAC and SPA.

Furthermore, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As certain Proposed Material Alterations (Proposed Material Alteration Reference No. 23²⁴ and 25) could be considered to be mitigation in relation to Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites, further to the mitigation already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA.

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 Plan will themselves be subject to AA/screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.

In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects 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 effects as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.

Taking into account the mitigation measures that have already been integrated into the Draft Plan, it is concluded that the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 are not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on the integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects²⁵. 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.

²³ This Proposed Material Alteration is to insert additional text into Policy Objective SS 32 as follows (new text in bold): To develop a network of green areas throughout the town, building on existing green infrastructure, and advancing the delivery of the Great Eastern Greenway along the coast **incorporating the delivery of greenway and pedestrian infrastructure on both sides of the Castletown River, while maintaining the integrity of the Dundalk Bay Natura 2000 sites.**

²⁴ This Proposed Material Alteration is to insert additional text into Policy Objective SS 18 as follows (new text in bold): To develop a network of green areas throughout the town including the delivery of a greenway along the northern and southern banks of the River Boyne stretching from Townley Hall to Baltray and Oldbridge to Mornington in County Meath **while maintaining the integrity of the Boyne Natura 2000 sites.**

²⁵ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

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

Appendix I Background information on European Sites

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

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000453	Carlingford Mountain SAC	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (<i>and submountain areas in Continental Europe</i>) [6230], European dry heaths [4030], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Alkaline fens [7230], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	J02.01.03, B02.01, I03.01, J01, G02, J03.02, I02, K04.01, D02.03, I01, B02.02, A04.03, X, A04.02, G05, J03.01, G01.08, G01.03.02, G05.01	Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, Forest replanting, Genetic pollution (<i>animals</i>), Fire and fire suppression, Sport and leisure structures, Anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity, Problematic native species, Competition (<i>flora</i>), Communication masts and antennas, Invasive non-native species, Forestry clearance, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, No threats or pressures, Non intensive grazing, Other human intrusions and disturbances, Reduction or loss of specific habitat features, Other outdoor sports and leisure activities, Off-road motorized driving, Trampling, overuse
000455	Dundalk Bay SAC	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Estuaries [1130]	G02.09, I01, J02.12.01, H01, H02.06, J02.04, J03.01, H04.02, M02.04, J02.01.03, G02, J02.01.02, H05, E03.03, F02.03.01, K04.01, J02.04.01, E03.01, F05, H01.06, K01.01, G01, G05.02, H05.01, K02, G01.01.01, J03.02	Wildlife watching, Invasive non-native species, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Pollution to surface waters (<i>limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish</i>), Diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, Flooding modifications, Reduction or loss of specific habitat features, Nitrogen-input, Migration of species (<i>natural newcomers</i>), Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, Sport and leisure structures, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Soil pollution and solid waste (<i>excluding discharges</i>), Disposal of inert materials, Bait digging or collection, Competition (<i>flora</i>), Flooding, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Illegal taking or removal of marine fauna, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to transport and infrastructure without connection to canalization or sweepers, Erosion, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Shallow surface abrasion or mechanical damage to seabed surface, Garbage and solid waste, Biocenotic evolution, succession, Motorized nautical sports, Anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity
001459	Clogher Head SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	J03.01, J02.12.01, E06.02, D01.01, D03.01.03, E05, X, D03.01, A04.02, E03.01, I01, G02, F02.01, A04.03, D03.01.02	Reduction or loss of specific habitat features, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Reconstruction, renovation of buildings, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Fishing harbours, Storage of materials, No threats or pressures, Port areas, Non intensive grazing, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Invasive non-native species, Sport and leisure structures, Professional passive fishing, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers
001957	Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)</i>) [1330], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Shifting dunes (<i>Embryonic shifting dunes</i>) [2110], Estuaries [1130], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	G05, E03.01, J03.03, H01, J02.12, J02.02, J02.12.01, J02.01.03, L07, E03.03, G03, E01, K02, G01.03.02, D01.01, G05.04, G01.02, E05, I01, D01.05, J02	Other human intrusions and disturbances, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Reduction, lack or prevention of erosion, Pollution to surface waters (<i>limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish</i>), Dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, Removal of sediments (<i>mud...</i>), Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, Storm, cyclone, Disposal of inert materials, Interpretative centres, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Biocenotic evolution, succession, Off-road motorized driving, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Vandalism, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Storage of materials, Invasive non-native species, Bridge, viaduct, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
002299	River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Alkaline fens [7230], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099]	A01, E01.04, A05.02, G05.06, E02, A03, D01.02, H01, E03.02, G05, A10.01, G01, G02.10, J02.11, C01.01, A07, B01.02, A08, J02.05.02, J02.10, E05, J02, J02.15, I01, D01.05, E03.04	Cultivation, Other patterns of habitation, Stock feeding, Tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, Industrial or commercial areas, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Roads, motorways, Pollution to surface waters (<i>limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish</i>), Disposal of industrial waste, Other human intrusions and disturbances, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other sport or leisure complexes, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Sand and gravel extraction, Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, Artificial planting on open ground (<i>non-native trees</i>), Fertilisation, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, Storage of materials, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Invasive non-native species, Bridge, viaduct, Other discharges
002306	Carlingford Shore SAC	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	F05, G05, F02, F04.02.01, F01.02, H01, F05.07, F06, F01.03, G01.03, F02.03, G01.01, F01, F03.01, X, H01.01, G01.03.01	Illegal taking or removal of marine fauna, Other human intrusions and disturbances, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Hand raking, Suspension culture, Pollution to surface waters (<i>limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish</i>), Other (<i>i.e. drift nets</i>), Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, Bottom culture, Motorised vehicles, Leisure fishing, Nautical sports, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting, No threats or pressures, Pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, Regular motorized driving
004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Common greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164], Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Northern pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Ruff (<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>) [A151], Great northern diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003], Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001], Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Common shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Eurasian oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus</i>	F02.03, E01, J02.12, E02, A04, D03.02, G01.02, E01.03, J02.11, I01, E03, G01.01, D01.02, A08	Leisure fishing, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, Industrial or commercial areas, Grazing, Shipping lanes, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Dispersed habitation, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Invasive non-native species, Discharges, Nautical sports, Roads, motorways, Fertilisation

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		<i>ostralegus</i>) [A130], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]		
004078	Carlingford Lough SPA	Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Eurasian oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069]	F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture
004080	Boyne Estuary SPA	Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Little tern (<i>Sterna albigifrons</i>) [A195], Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Common shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Eurasian oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Common greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]	I01, G02.01, G01.02, E01, J02.05, F02.03, J02.01.02, J02.11, F01	Invasive non-native species, Golf course, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, Leisure fishing, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture
004091	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA	European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Tundra swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037], Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]	A04, A08, A02, A01, D01.02	Grazing, Fertilisation, Modification of cultivation practices, Cultivation, Roads, motorways
004158	River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA	Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Eurasian curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Eurasian oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179]	G01.02, E01.01	Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Continuous urbanisation
004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053]	D01.02, E01, X, E01.03, J02	Roads, motorways, Urbanised areas, human habitation, No threats or pressures, Dispersed habitation, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
UK0016615	Eastern Mournes	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], European dry heaths [4030]	H04, J02, J01, G01, I01, I02, A04, M01	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Fire and fire suppression, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species, Problematic native species, Cultivation, Changes in abiotic conditions
UK0016620	Derryleckagh	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	I01, H04, K02, B06, A04, H01, J02	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants, Invasive non-native species, Biocentric evolution, succession, Grazing in forests/ woodland, Grazing, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
UK0030268	Rostrevor Wood	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	I01, H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants, Invasive non-native species
UK0030277	Slieve Gullion	European dry heaths [4030]	G01, J01, A02, H04, A04, I01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Fire and fire suppression, Modification of cultivation practices, Air pollution, air-borne pollutants, Grazing, Invasive non-native species
UK9020161	Carlingford Lough	Brent Goose (<i>Branta berniciahrota</i>) [A674], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191]	I01, D02, H03, D03, F02, M02, F01, M01, G01, J03, K03	Invasive non-native species, Utility and service lines, Marine water pollution, Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Changes in biotic conditions, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Changes in abiotic conditions, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other ecosystem modifications, Interspecific faunal relations

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

Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Alkaline fens [7230]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	Abandonment; overgrazing; burning; outdoor recreation; quarries; communication networks; and wind farm developments.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	Grazing; sand and gravel extraction; recreational activities; coastal protection works.	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	Natural erosion processes exacerbated by recreation and sand extraction. Coastal protection interfering with natural processes.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Estuaries [1130]	Pollution, fishing/aquaculture and habitat quality.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
European dry heaths [4030]	Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (<i>grey dunes</i>) [2130]	Recreation; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing: non-native plant species, particularly sea buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>).	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change.
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isle [91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (<i>including lobster pots and fyke nets</i>); unting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.

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Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]	Reclamation, afforestation and burning; overstocking; invasion by non-heath species; exposure of peat to severe erosion.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106]	Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations.	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]	Recreation and coastal defences, which may interfere with local sediment dynamics.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]	Pressures associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb (<i>Epilobium brunnescens</i>).	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110]	Overgrazing, undergrazing and succession were recorded as medium-importance pressures in this reporting period, and Structure and functions were again assessed as Inadequate, the trend is considered to be stable rather than improving. This change is due to improved knowledge and the habitat is considered to have been stable since before the last assessment.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (<i>and submountain areas, in Continental Europe</i>) [6230]	Bracken encroachment, succession, inappropriate grazing, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes.
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change. There have been no significant losses in sea cliff habitat since the Directive came into force.	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.

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

Common Name	Scientific Name	Species Code	Vulnerabilities of Special Conservation Interests
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	[A001]	- Bird species are particularly vulnerable to direct disturbance due to noise and/or vibration. These effects are localised, and disturbance effects are foreseen to be low at distances beyond 2km. - Direct habitat loss is a serious concern for bird species, as well as the reduction in habitat quality. Habitat degradation could occur through effects such as local enrichment due to agricultural practices or damage to habitat through activities such as trampling. - Prey species diversity and availability is a key element of species conservation. Community dynamics and ecosystem functionality are complex concepts and require site specific information. The site synopsis and conservation objectives for the SPAs identified within the ZOI were used to identify any specific prey sensitivities. - Availability of nesting/roosting habitat. - Vegetation composition, structure and functionality.
Great northern diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	[A003]	
Great crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	[A005]	
Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	[A017]	
Tundra swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	[A037]	
Whooper swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	[A038]	
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	[A043]	
Common shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	[A048]	
Eurasian wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	[A050]	
Eurasian teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	[A052]	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	[A053]	
Northern pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	[A054]	
Common goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	[A067]	
Red-breasted merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	[A069]	
Eurasian oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	[A130]	
Ringed plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	[A137]	
European golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	[A140]	
Grey plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	[A141]	
Northern lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	[A142]	
Red knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	[A143]	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	[A144]	
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	[A151]	
Bar-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	[A157]	
Eurasian curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	[A160]	
Common redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	[A162]	
Common greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	[A164]	
Ruddy turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	[A169]	
Black-headed gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	[A179]	
Mew gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	[A182]	
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	[A184]	
Little tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	[A195]	
Greenland white-fronted goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	[A395]	
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			Direct land take is a common vulnerability to all sites; as well as significant water quality effects. The conservation objective of all SPAs designated for Wetland and Waterbirds is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds using it.

Appendix II Relationship Other Plans and Programmes

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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	- Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. - Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.	- Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. - Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. - Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. - Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. - Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. - Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. - Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	- Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. - Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.	- All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. - For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. - The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. - Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	- Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. - Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. - Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. - Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.	- Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. - Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. - Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. - Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	- Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. - Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. - The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.	- Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. - Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). - Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. - Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution.	Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include: - a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year - set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk - set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)	The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.	The IPPC Directive is based on several principles: - an integrated approach - best available techniques, - flexibility; and - public participation	framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC	- The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and - the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest - Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs).	- The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. - Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)	- The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. - It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. - All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.	- The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. - The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. - EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. - Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))	- Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption. - The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor. - Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.	- Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive; - Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014; - Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels; - Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)	This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport.	This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)	- Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. - Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.	- Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures - EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs - The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		• Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy • Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering • National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits • Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it • Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	• This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU)	• This Directive establishes a framework for maritime spatial planning aimed at promoting the sustainable growth of maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources.	• Each Member State shall establish and implement maritime spatial planning. • In doing so, Member States shall take into account land-sea interactions. • The resulting plan or plans shall be developed and produced in accordance with the institutional and governance levels determined by Member States. This Directive shall not interfere with Member States' competence to design and determine the format and content of that plan or those plans. • Maritime spatial planning shall aim to contribute to the objectives listed in Article 5 and fulfil the requirements laid down in Articles 6 and 8. • When establishing maritime spatial planning, Member States shall have due regard to the particularities of the marine regions, relevant existing and future activities and uses and their impacts on the environment, as well as to natural resources, and shall also take into account land-sea interactions. • Member States may include or build on existing national policies, regulations or mechanisms that 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
UK Marine Policy Statement	• Achieving a sustainable marine economy • Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society • Living within environmental limits • Promoting good governance • Using sound science responsibly	The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high-level marine objectives and thereby: • Promote sustainable economic development; • Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of • climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; • Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and heritage assets; and • Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
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	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
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	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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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. - Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible.	- Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services. - The six targets cover: - Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity - Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure - Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry - Sustainable management of fish stocks - Reducing invasive alien species - Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	- Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. - Supporting EU-level GI projects. - Improving access to finance for GI projects. - Improving information and promoting innovation.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol. At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.	- The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). - EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. - Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package	- Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. - Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. - Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. - Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.	Four pieces of complimentary legislation: - Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. - Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. - Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. - Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	- A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. - Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.	To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030: - A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). - New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. - First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	- The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). - Sets new air quality objectives for PM_{2.5} (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. - Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. - Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM₁₀) or up to five years (NO₂, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. - The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium,	- 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 to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. - Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. - Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. - Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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	mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.		
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to: • Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; • Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	• Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks • Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community	• Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment • Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. • Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. • Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	• Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. • Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain “good status” of water bodies. • Promote sustainable water usage. • The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: ◦ The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive ◦ Sampling Drinking Water Directive ◦ Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive ◦ Shellfish Directive ◦ Freshwater Fish Directive ◦ Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive ◦ Dangerous Substances Directive	• Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. • Achieve “good status” for all waters. • Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. • Involve the public and streamline legislation. • Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. • Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. • Recover costs for water services.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	• Protect, control and conserve groundwater. • Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. • Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.	• Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. • Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	• Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption. • Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.	• Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I. • Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a). • Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5. • Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause. • Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action. • Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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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.	- 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 entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. - Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. - Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU	Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.	- Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. - Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. - Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. - The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. - The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. - The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. - The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC), as amended	The aim of the European Union's ambitious Marine Strategy Framework Directive is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe.	The Directive provides various requirements, including: - Completion of an <u>initial assessment</u> of Irish marine waters; - Establishment of establish environmental targets and indicators; - Establishment of a monitoring programme; - Establishment of a programme of measures; and - Implementation of the programme of measures and monitoring programme. Implementation of the Directive is contributed towards by a set of detailed criteria and methodological standards that were revised in 2017 leading to a Commission Decision on "laying down criteria and 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)	The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.	The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	- The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. - The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	- Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. - A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.	- Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. - Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. - Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. - Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. - Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Landscape Convention 2000	The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.	- Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. - Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)	It identifies three key objectives: - to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital - to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy - to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing	Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals): - Better implementation of legislation. - Better information by improving the knowledge base. - More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. - Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme: - To make the Union's cities more sustainable. - To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)	The convention has three main aims: - to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats - to promote cooperation between states - to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species	The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also: - Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. - Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. - Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. - Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. - Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. - Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bali Road Map (2007)	The overall goals of the project are twofold: - To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and - To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.	The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks: - mitigation - adaptation - technology - financing	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Cancun Agreements (2010)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover: • Mitigation • Transparency of actions • Technology • Finance • Adaptation • Forests • Capacity building	Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	• Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); • Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; • Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; • Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and • Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Common Agricultural Policy	• To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and • To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.	• ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; • Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; • Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)	• Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.	The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely: • Registration, • Evaluation, • Authorisation; and • Restriction of chemicals. REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Stockholm Convention	• The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	• Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention • Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention • Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention • Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner • To target additional POPs • Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ramsar Convention	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: • Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; • Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; • Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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

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OSPAR Convention	The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.	OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies: - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy - Eutrophication Strategy - Hazardous Substances Strategy - Offshore Industry Strategy - Radioactive Substances Strategy - Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.	framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European 2020 Strategy for Growth	Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: - Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; - Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; - Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; - the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); - the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The 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 (see Section 4.3.1) 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, (replacing the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020) and the National Development Plan (2018-2027)	- The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. - The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.	National Strategic Outcomes as follows: - Compact Growth - Enhanced Regional Accessibility - Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities - Sustainable Mobility - A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills - High-Quality International Connectivity - Enhanced 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	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation]	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will: - 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	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.	- Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. - There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. - Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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

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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.	- Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. - The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. - These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. - Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).	framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)	These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.	- They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. - The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	- Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). - Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. - Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)	To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values. - Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. - Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)	These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources	The Regulations include measures such as: - Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited - Limits on the land application of fertilisers - Storage requirements for livestock manure; and - Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and

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			cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015	An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.	When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to: - The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, - The policy of the Government on climate change, - Climate justice, - Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and - The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)	- National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). - The Plan provides a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.	The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation: - Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs; - Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals; - Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and - Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)	€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.	- This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all. - It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)	These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in Natura 2000 sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).	- Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries; - Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required; - Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation; - Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan; - Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan; - Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment; - Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities; - Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and - Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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 National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.	The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)	- The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers. - Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs.	This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020: - Increasing on and offshore wind, - Building a sustainable bioenergy sector, - Fostering R&D in renewables such as wave & tidal, - Growing sustainable transport; and - Building out robust and efficient networks.	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017	The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives.	The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues: - Climate Action Policy Framework - Decarbonising Electricity Generation - Decarbonising the Built Environment - Decarbonising Transport An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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 Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)	- 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. - Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.	National climate policy in Ireland: - 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; - 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]	The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	- Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. - The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. - The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. - In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022	EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; <i>"Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."</i>	Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (ORED) 2014	- The OREDP sets out key principles, policy actions and enablers for delivery of Ireland's significant potential in the area of the offshore renewable energy - The overarching objective of the Government's energy policy is to ensure secure and sustainable supplies of competitively priced energy to all consumers. - The OREDP sets out a vision: "Our offshore renewable energy resource contributing to our economic development and sustainable growth,	Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development have been identified for the OREDP: - Ireland harnesses the market opportunities presented by offshore renewable energy to achieve economic development, growth and jobs - Increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing offshore renewable energy - Offshore renewable energy developments do not adversely impact the rich marine environment and its living and non-living resources	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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

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All Island Grid Study 2008	- generating jobs for our citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner". - The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network ("the grid") on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. - The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system.	Key conclusions of the study: - The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study. - All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO2 emissions compared to portfolio 1 - All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports. - The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact. - Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered. - Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security.	framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	- The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. - It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.	- A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; - Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; - Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and - Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and - Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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 Water Resources Plan [in preparation]	- The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. - The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.	The key objectives of the plan are to: - Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions - Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry - Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources - Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events - Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water - Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies - Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)	Vision: "Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU."	General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020): - Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development - Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability - Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
Seafood Operation Programme 2014	- The Operational Programme (OP) supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in Ireland aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the EU's "Europe 2020" objectives. - The OP will support the general reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the development of its Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) in Ireland.	The OP strategy is designed around the Irish national priorities in the agri-food sector: 'Act Smart' by encouraging knowledge and innovation, 'Think Green' through a responsible and sustainable use of resources, 'Achieve Growth' in order to maintain and create jobs. Funding aims at increasing the competitiveness of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors through innovation and skills, while promoting a more efficient and sustainable use of resources. Funding will also help local coastal communities to improve their livelihood by supporting small-scale fisheries and through significantly increased support for Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs).	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	- Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. - The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.	This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: - A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; - Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; - The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; - Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; - Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; - Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and - Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.	The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)	- The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. - Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>“Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning.”</i>	The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: - Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; - Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; - Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; - Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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 Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020	This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published. Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period: - To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; - To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; - To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; - To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.	The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics: - Prevention - Collection - Self-sufficiency - Regulation - Legacy issues - North-south cooperation - Guidance and awareness - Implementation	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
Marine Spatial Plan for Ireland (in/pending preparation)	It is intended that the Marine Spatial Plan will be finalised in 2020, and forwarded to the European Commission at that time, ahead of the due date for submission by Member States of their plans in March 2021.	The Marine Spatial Plan will be 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;	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise.

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		- Climate change and related impacts; - Communities and health; - Cultural heritage; - Marine environment and biodiversity; - Transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	The vision is: <i>"A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility."</i>	These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive: - Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life - Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities - Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing - Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)	- Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. - Sets out five key goals: - To reduce overall travel demand. - To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. - To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. - To reduce transport emissions. - To improve accessibility to transport.	- Others lower level aims include: - reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking - improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies - strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.	The three priorities stated in SFILT are: - Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); - Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and - Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for: - Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; - Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and - To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)	- White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. - Outlines strategic Goals for: - Security of Supply - Sustainability of Energy - Competitiveness of Energy Supply	The underpinning Strategic Goals are: - Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand - Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland - Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation - Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks - Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production - Being prepared for energy supply disruptions	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans	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	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)	Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.	Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)	This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland.	The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.	- Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems - Give statutory protection to NHAs - Enhances wildlife species and their habitats - Includes more species for protection	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan	Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.	- To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors. - To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. - To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services. - To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. - To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. - To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. - To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Broadband Plan (2012)	Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.	The Plan sets out: - A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband. - Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. - The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. - A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003) European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)	- Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. - Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. - Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.	- Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. - Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. - Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. - Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. - Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. - Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. - Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. - Outlines surface water quality standards. - Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)	Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation.	- Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality. - Sets groundwater quality standards. - Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to: - Prosecute for water pollution offences. - Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. - Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. - Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; - Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. - Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Services Act 2007 Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013	- Provides the water services infrastructure. - Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. - Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply.	Key strategic objectives include: - Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. - Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.	- Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards - Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. - Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. - Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. - Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. - Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.	cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)	This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.	Six strategic objectives as follows: - Meet Customer Expectations. - Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. - Provide Effective Management of Waste water. - Protect and Enhance the Environment. - Support Social and Economic Growth. - Invest in the Future.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas	Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs	- Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. - Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Harvest 2020	Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.	Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	not applicable	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)	- Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. - GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.	- Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. - Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. - Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. - Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. - Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Rural Development Programme	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	At a more detailed level, the programme also: - Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; - Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and - Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)	Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020.	Measures include the following: - Afforestation and Creation of Woodland - NeighbourWood Scheme - Forest Roads - Reconstitution Scheme - Woodland Improvement Scheme - Native Woodland Conservation Scheme - Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions - Producer Groups - Innovative Forest Technology - Forest Genetic Reproductive Material - Forest Management Plans	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
River Basin Management Plan	River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.	- Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. - Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. - Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. - Involve the public through consultations.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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 Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	Objectives of the Strategy: - To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. - To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. - To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. - To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. - To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. - To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. - To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs. To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows: Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.	Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all

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		- To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. - To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.	environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTAS) 2017- 2030	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: - AFV forecasts - Electricity targets - Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets - Hydrogen targets - Biofuels targets - LPG targets - Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. - The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) NI	The SPPS consolidates some twenty separate policy publications into one document and sets out strategic subject planning policy for a wide range of planning matters. It also provides the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development.	The overall objective of the planning system is to further sustainable development and improve well-being for the people of the North.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010	- Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland - Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed	- Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020 - Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	- This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. - By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: - Reduce overall travel demand - Maximise the efficiency of the transport network - Reduce reliance on fossil fuels - Reduce transport emissions - Improve accessibility to transport These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: - Policy Context - Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination - Enhancing the Visitor Experience - Research in the Irish Tourism Sector - Supporting Local Communities in Tourism - Wider Government Policy - International Context - Co-ordination Structures	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: - Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year - net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; 250,000 people employed in tourism; and 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE)	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála. Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: - AFV forecasts - Electricity targets - Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets - Hydrogen targets - Biofuels targets - LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
People Place and Policy - Growing Tourism to 2025, (DTTAS, 2014)	Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.	The framework establishes the overall tourism goal of Government; - Employment in the tourism sector will be 250,000 by 2025, compared with around 200,000 at present. - There will be 10 million visits to Ireland annually by 2025. The Government's ambition is that overseas tourism revenue will reach €5 billion in real terms by 2025.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Tourism Development and Innovation – A strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)	This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.	The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are: - To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience; - To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs; - To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and - To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
Regional/ County/Local Level			
Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy,	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midlands Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024	The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: - Bus; - Light Rail; - Heavy Rail; - Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment; - Integrated Service Plan; and - Integration and Accessibility.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
NI Regional Landscape Character Assessment	In recognising the importance of sustaining local identity, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has commissioned Landscape Character Assessments of Northern Ireland from environmental consultants, which resulted in the identification of distinct character areas within Northern Ireland.	The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment provides a strategic overview of the landscape in Northern Ireland and subdivides the countryside into 26 Regional Landscape Character Areas based upon information on people and place and the combinations of nature, culture and perception which make each part of Northern Ireland unique.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
NI Regional Seascape Character Assessment	The aim of this study is to provide a strategic understanding of different areas of regional seascape character along the entire Northern Ireland coast, complementing similar assessments undertaken elsewhere in the UK. This will contribute to the aims of the European Landscape Convention through promoting the protection, management and planning of the seascape, and to support the European cooperation in landscape issues.	- Identify and map the different regional seascape character areas. - Describe the key features and characteristics of each seascape character area. - Relate the description of each seascape character area to its neighbouring terrestrial landscape character areas (as described in the NI Landscape Character Assessment, 2000) and take account of boundaries identified in relation to neighbouring seascape areas for the British and Irish coastline.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: - To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site - To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest - To describe the site and its management - To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site - To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives	- Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. - These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Protection Schemes	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action Charter (CAC) for Louth (2019)	The charter acknowledges that climate change is happening and that actions must be taken to mitigate and adapt to our changing climate.	Each Chapter in the County Development Plan must be read with this Climate Action Charter at its core. The CAC actions include: - To plan and develop the county with climate action including adaptation, mitigation and improvement at its core; and - To reduce negative climate impacts and promote climate improvement/mitigation and be climate resilient in our planning. The actions detailed in the Charter underpin all policies, objectives, goals and strategies of the CDP and all other strategic plans whether they are local, regional or national.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Louth LECP 2016-2022	The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Land Use Plans: - those in force in County Louth, including: Ardee Local Area Plan 2010-2016; and Dunleer Local Area Plan 2017- 2023; Dundalk and Drogheda Development Plan (as extended); - those in force in other adjoining planning authorities, including: Meath County Development Plan 2020-2026 and Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025, (as varied); and - those in force in adjoining planning authorities in Northern Ireland including plans for counties Armagh and Down.	- Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport and tourism objectives). - Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. - Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area.	- Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. - Protect and enhances amenities and environment. - Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. - Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. - Aim to promote sustainable development. - Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
Louth Tourism and Heritage Action Plan 2016-2021	The aim: to ensure that Louth has adequate infrastructure in place to attract an increased number of visitors to the county; extend their 'dwell time'; and maximise their 'spend' in order to gain increased revenue and create additional sustainable local jobs across the county.	It seeks to capitalise on Louth's opportunities and enhance local economies by adopting a partnership approach with the Louth Tourism Officers and other sectoral players; including Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland, and the Northern Ireland Tourism Board.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with

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			other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Louth Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2025	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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Louth Landscape Character Assessment (2002)	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	• Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. • Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
Eastern and Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021	These plans 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
Louth Noise Action Plan 2018-2023	Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to: • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
Louth County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS) 2019-2024	Respond to the impact that climate change is having, and will continue to have. Attempt to climate change adaptation and mitigation.	These Plans include actions for: • Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations; Infrastructure and Built Environment; Land use and Development; Drainage and Flood Management; Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure; and Community Health and Wellbeing.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016-2020, (Boyne Valley Tourist Office 2016)	The 2016-2020 Strategy is designed to focus on areas of growth potential, identify key projects that will act as a stimulus for tourism development and bring the Boyne Valley tourism brand to the next level.	The Strategy sets out a pathway for the Boyne Valley to become one of the leading tourism destinations in Ireland based on a collaborative destination marketing approach and return on marketing investment focus.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and

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			cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Boyne Valley Food Strategy 2016-2021	The overarching strategic vision of the Boyne Valley Food Strategy 2016-2021 is 'for the Boyne Valley region to be recognised as the leading national food and drinks destination. To be the stand out food region within Ireland's Ancient East.'	One of the main pillars of the strategy is to create a Louth/Meath food network which supports and facilitates the growth of the local food community in both counties and to develop the Boyne Valley Region as the Food Champion within Ireland's Ancient East.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the Ireland's Ancient East and Hidden Heartlands brands	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.	Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.
Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes	These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.	These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 4.3.1) 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.