FEHILY TIMONEY

CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

WATERFORD LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024-2029

Natura Impact Report

Prepared for:

Waterford City and County Council

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Waterford City & County Council

Date: **January 2024**

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Natura Impact Report for the Waterford Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

User is responsible for Checking the Revision Status of This Document

Rev. No.	Description of Changes	Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Date:
1	Final	SOD/AMW/BF/AMW	AT	BG	24/01/2024

Client: Waterford City and County Council

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

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) was prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Waterford Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2028 in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

This report is part of the AA process that was undertaken alongside the preparation of the LACAP.

1.2 Post Draft Plan Consultation Revisions

This document is the final NIR produced on adoption of the LACAP. An earlier draft version of this report has been updated having regard to the consultation submissions made during the Draft Plan consultation period, recommendations made in the Chief Executive (CE) Report on consultation submissions, and the revisions made to the original draft version of the LACAP that was put on display for consultation. The updates made to the report were clerical or minor and non-material in nature and have not changed the parameters of the environmental/ecological assessment undertaken or the environmental mitigation defined.

The Plan revisions arising from the consultation process, the CE Report, and the post consultation plan-making process were screened for AA. The AA Screening Report for the post consultation Plan revisions are presented in Appendix 3. The Plan revisions were determined to be non-material and did not introduce any additional environmental/ecological effects not previously considered and mitigated during the SEA and AA processes.

An AA Conclusion Statement will now be prepared on how the AA process shaped the content of the final plan.

1.3 Legislative Context

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

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

1.4 Approach

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and grey literature[1] was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives (including spatial data collected for the most recent Article 17 conservation status reporting cycle, 2019).

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

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

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

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

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

Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

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

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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

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

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

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

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model[2], 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 LACAP provision that is known to interact with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the LACAP.

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

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

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

The scope of the AA was informed by the submissions received on the scope of the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment[3] (SEA) process being undertaken on the LACAP, including a submission from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that provided various information and suggestions relevant to the AA.

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

2. DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2.1 Overview

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

- Actively translate national climate policy to local circumstances with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures,
- Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels,
- Identify and deliver a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) within the local authority area to act as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures in a specifically defined area. This will be done through the identification of projects and outcomes that will assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective[4].

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

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

Figure 2-1 illustrates the functional area and boundary of Waterford City and County Council

2.2 Context setting background to Waterford City and County Council 's Role and the LACAP

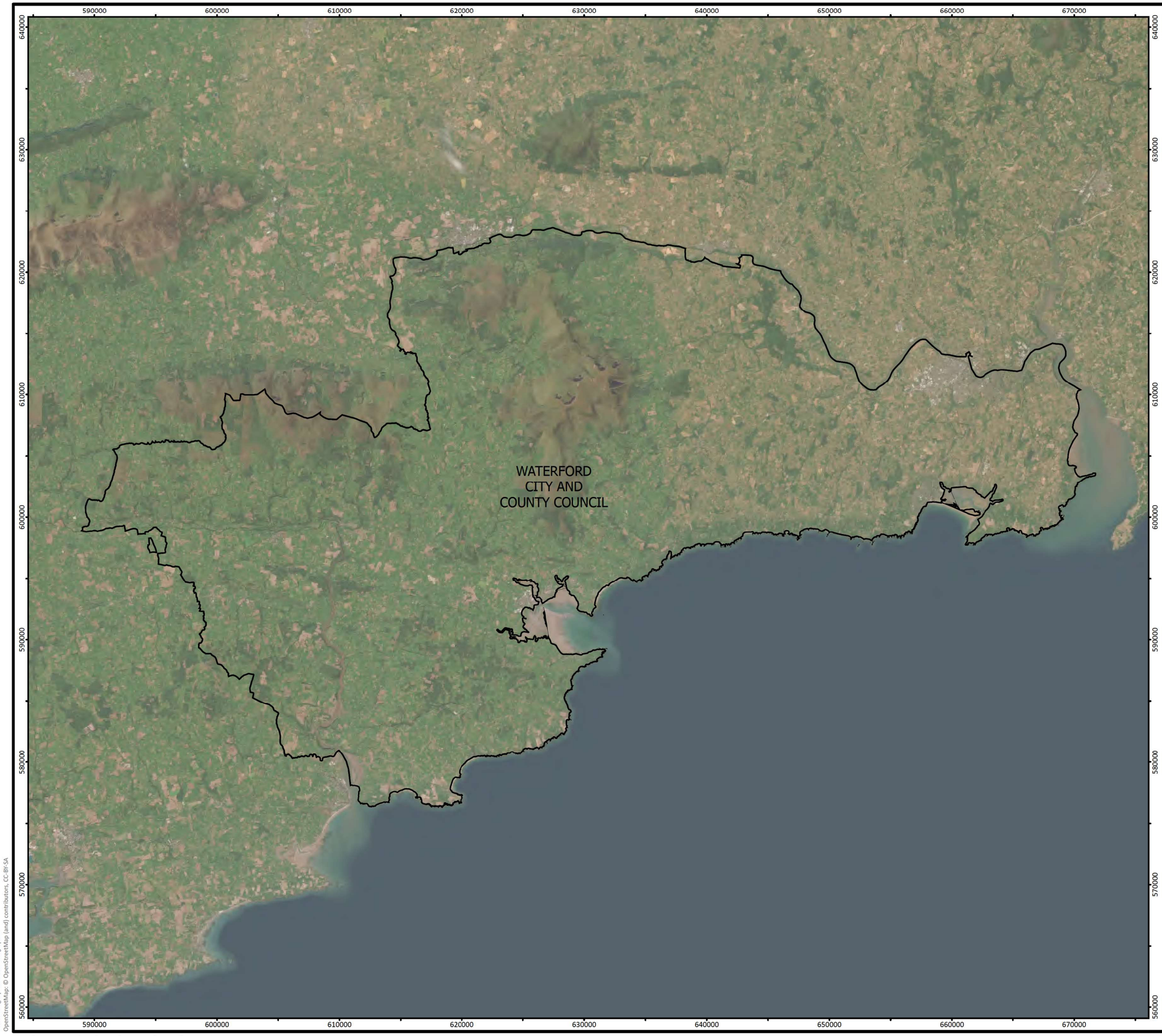
The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 provides a statutory underpinning to climate action in Ireland. It specifies the requirement to develop a national Climate Action Plan (CAP) (and update it every year), a National Adaptation Framework (NAF), a National Long Term Climate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

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

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

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

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



Legend

Local Authority Boundaries

Local Authority Boundary

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
Local Authority Climate Action Plans

FIGURE NO:	2.1
CLIENT:	WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE: 26/07/2023	**SCALE:** 1:305,000 @ A3

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

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

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

2.4 Purpose and Scope of the LACAP 2024-2029

2.4.1 Need for the Plan

The Waterford Local Authority Climate Action Plan (2024-2029) will consider specific adaptation and mitigation measures across key themes including Governance & Leadership, Built Environment & Transport, Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure, Communities Resilience & Transition and Sustainability & Resource Management.

2.4.2 Objectives of the LACAP

The overall high-level objectives of the LACAP are:

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

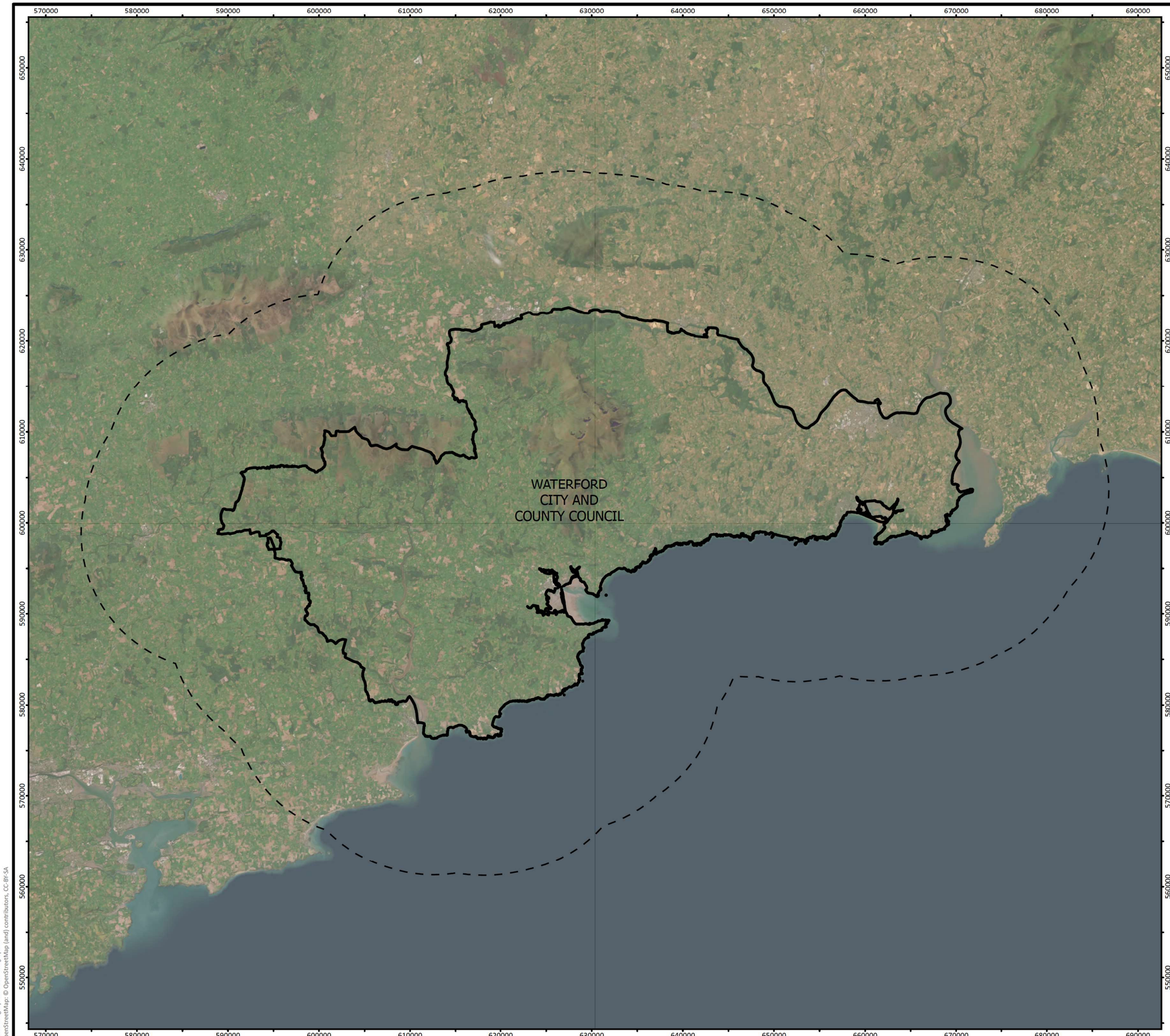
2.4.3 LACAP Geographic Area

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

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

2.4.4 LACAP Goal Area and Main Objectives

Goal Area	Main Objective
Governance & Leadership	• To take on a leadership role in the implementation of climate action measures across Waterford City and County, ensuring cross-departmental collaboration within the Council and influencing external stakeholders to lead by example in their areas of responsibility.
Built Environment & Transport	• To reduce Waterford City and County Council's greenhouse gas emissions by reducing reliance on fossil fuels through increased energy efficiency, a move to active and public transport, deployment of renewable energy technologies and influencing behavioural change internally and externally.
Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure	• To protect and enhance Waterford's blue and green infrastructure to ensure biodiversity is supported, nourished and expanded upon, to mitigate against climate change risks and to enhance the health and wellbeing of all through enhanced connection with and access to nature.
Communities, Resilience & Transition	• To give all people of Waterford an opportunity to participate in the transition to a low carbon economy that will build community, develop skills and benefit local businesses.
Sustainability & Resource Management	• To ensure waste generated is reduced, removed and reused through the implementation of effective waste management policies and procedures and to shift away from a "take-make-waste" model towards a more sustainable and circular economy to create long-term environmental, economic and social benefits.



Legend

- Local Authority Boundaries
- 15km Buffer

SEA Study Area

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
Local Authority Climate Action Plans

FIGURE NO:	2.2
CLIENT:	WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	28/07/2023
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3. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

The following NPWS 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 habitat[5] or species[6] at that site have been considered.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

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

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

[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 (2015) Conservation Objectives for Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC [IE0000077] Version 2.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Hugginstown Fen SAC [IE0000404] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Galtee Mountains SAC [IE0000646] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Helvick Head SAC [IE0000665] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Nier Valley Woodlands SAC [IE0000668] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC [IE0000671] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Bannow Bay SAC [IE0000697] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Hook Head SAC [IE0000764] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Comeragh Mountains SAC [IE0001952] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Ardmore Head SAC [IE0002123] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Lower River Suir SAC [IE0002137] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for River Barrow and River Nore SAC [IE0002162] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC [IE0002170] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Glendine Wood SAC [IE0002324] Version 1.
- NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives for Ballycotton Bay SPA [IE0004022] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Ballymacoda Bay SPA [IE0004023] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Tramore Back Strand SPA [IE0004027] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Blackwater Estuary SPA [IE0004028] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Dungarvan Harbour SPA [IE0004032] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Bannow Bay SPA [IE0004033] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Blackwater Callows SPA [IE0004094] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Keeragh Islands SPA [IE0004118] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA [IE0004192] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Mid-Waterford Coast SPA [IE0004193] Version 9.

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

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

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

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

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

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

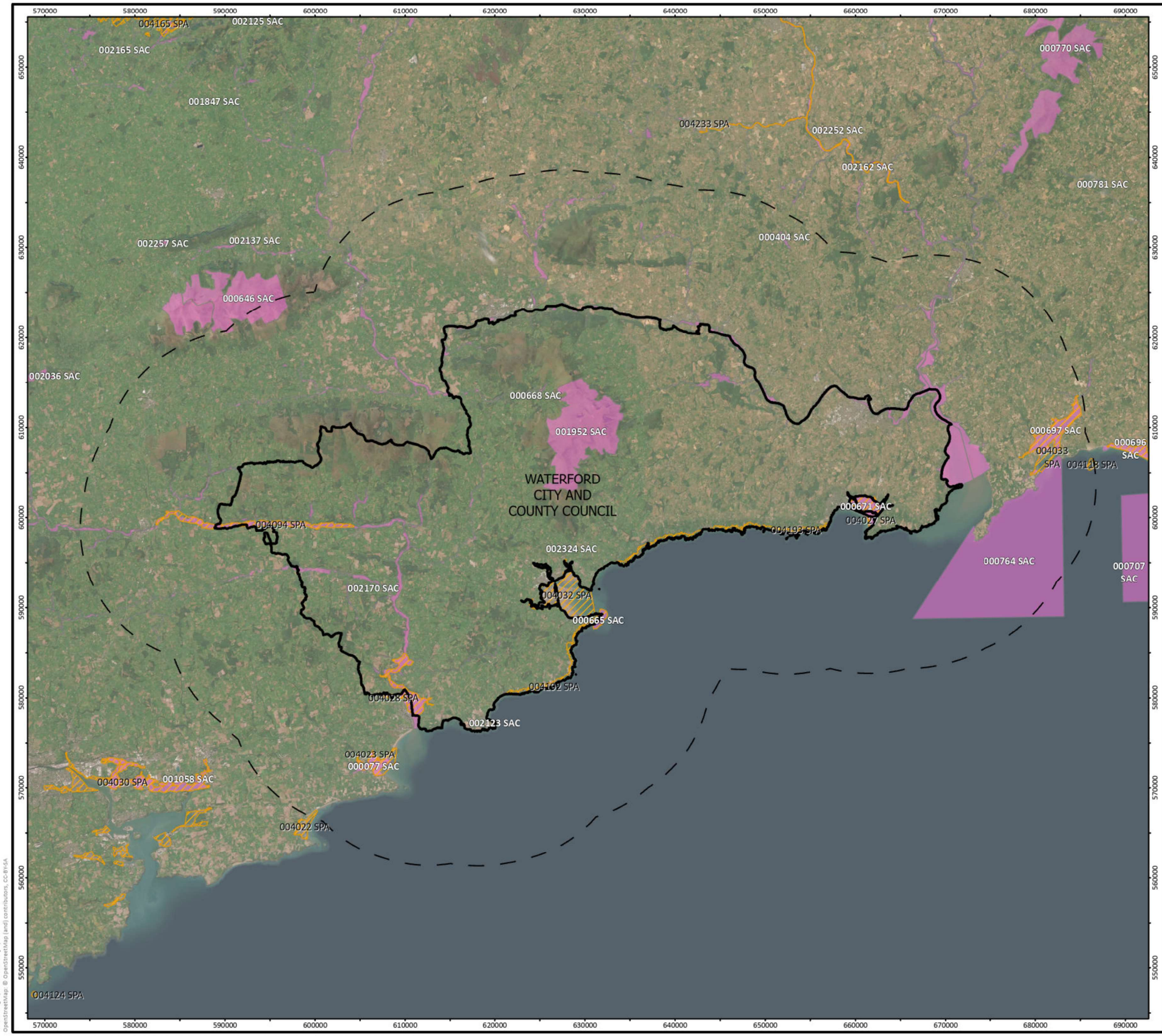
- *Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:*
  - *Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;*
  - *Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and*
  - *Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species.*
- *Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air.*
- *Adverse effects from tourism, amenity and recreation.*
- *Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.*
- *Adverse effects upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.*
- *Increase in the risk of flooding.*
- *Emissions to air including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions.*

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

3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3-1 examines whether there is potential for effects on European sites considering information provided above, including Appendix 1. Sites are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

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



Legend

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

Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
Local Authority Climate Action Plans

FIGURE NO:	3.1
CLIENT:	WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	23/01/2024
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WATERFORD
CITY AND
COUNTY COUNCIL

Legend

- Local Authority Boundaries
- Rivers

WFD Catchments

Catchment Name

- Ballyteigue-Bannow
- Barrow
- Blackwater (Munster)
- Colligan-Mahon
- Lee, Cork Harbour and Youghal Bay
- Lower Shannon
- Nore
- Suir

Hydrology

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
Local Authority Climate Action Plans

FIGURE NO:	3.2
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Table 3-1: Screening of European sites which have ecological pathways for potential effects

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000665	Helvick Head SAC	0	European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	The European Site overlaps with the Waterford City and County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
000668	Nier Valley Woodlands SAC	0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	The European Site is located within the Waterford City and County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
000671	Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC	0	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Perennial	The European Site is located within the Waterford City and County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			vegetation of stony banks [1220], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
001952	Comeragh Mountains SAC	0	European dry heaths [4030], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110], Slender green feather-moss (Hamatocaulis vernicosus) [6216], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]	The European Site is located within the Waterford City and County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
002123	Ardmore Head SAC	0	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], European dry heaths [4030]	The European Site overlaps with the Waterford City and County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	0	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) [1092], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], Twaite shad (Alosa fallax) [1103], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029]	The European Site overlaps with the Waterford City and County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes

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

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
002170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	0	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) [1092], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Estuaries [1130], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], Twaite shad (Alosa fallax) [1103], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Killarney fern (Trichomanes speciosum) [1421], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	The European Site overlaps with the Waterford City and County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
002324	Glendine Wood SAC	0	Killarney fern (Trichomanes speciosum) [1421]	The European Site is located within the Waterford City and County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA	0	Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140]	The European Site is located within the Waterford City and County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
004028	Blackwater Estuary SPA	0	Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160]	The European Site is located within the Waterford City and County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
004032	Dungarvan Harbour SPA	0	Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143]	The European Site is located within the Waterford City and County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
004094	Blackwater Callows SPA	0	Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The European Site overlaps with the Waterford City and County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
004192	Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA	0	Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) [A103], Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188], Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184], Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346]	The European Site is located within the Waterford City and County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
004193	Mid-Waterford Coast SPA	0	Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184], Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346], Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) [A103]	The European Site is located within the Waterford City and County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
004023	Ballymacoda Bay SPA	3.36	Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Lapwing	This European Site is within 15km of the area of Waterford City and County LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			(Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182], Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160]	Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
000764	Hook Head SAC	3.68	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Reefs [1170]	There is a separation distance of approximately 3.68 km between this European Site and the area of Waterford City and County LACAP and no hydrological connection is present. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No
000077	Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC	4.84	Estuaries [1130], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	There is a separation distance of approximately 4.84 km between this European Site and the area of Waterford City and County LACAP and no hydrological connection is present. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc.	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
000697	Bannow Bay SAC	6.17	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi) [1420], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Estuaries [1130], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	There is a separation distance of approximately 6.17 km between this European Site and the area of Waterford City and County LACAP and no hydrological connection is present. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No
004033	Bannow Bay SPA	7.05	Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054],	This European Site is within 15km of the area of Waterford City and County LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142]	Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
000404	Hugginstown Fen SAC	11.67	Alkaline fens [7230]	There is a separation distance of approximately 11.67 km between this European Site and the area of Waterford City and County LACAP and a potential groundwater connection is present. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. There is the potential for significant effects to the Qualifying Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
000646	Galtee Mountains SAC	12.77	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], European dry heaths [4030], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110], Northern Atlantic wet heaths	There is a separation distance of approximately 12.77 km between this European Site and the area of Waterford City and County LACAP. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			with Erica tetralix [4010], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]	At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
004022	Ballycotton Bay SPA	13.95	Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156]	This European Site is within 15km of the area Waterford City and County LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
004118	Keeragh Islands SPA	14.13	Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017]	This European Site is within 15km of the area of Waterford City and County LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes

3.4 In-Combination Effects with Other Plans and Programmes

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

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

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the next 20 years. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSESs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSES for the Southern Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the LACAP. Section 18, Part 3 of the Climate Acts 2015-2021 and Section 10 (2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) require that local authorities take account of their LACAPs when preparing a County Development Plan. Local authorities must be cognisant of this provision and forge a strong link between spatial planning and positive climate action ensuring that land-use planning and development integrates considerations of adaptation and mitigation.

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

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

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

3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

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

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant adverse effects on 19 (no.) European sites.

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

4. STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the LACAP alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 19 European sites brought forward from screening (those considered on Table 3-1 for which there is "Potential Pathway for Significant Effects" and/or "Potential for In-Combination Effects"), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified 19 European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the LACAP. Appendix 1 characterises each of the qualifying features of the ALL European sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites' vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website[7].

4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts[8]:

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

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

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

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

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

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

> *Favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when: 'population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced 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 effects on European sites is conducted utilising a standard source-pathway model (see approach referred to under Sections 1.3 and 3). The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.); and climate change. Each of these potential changes are considered below and in Table 4.1 with reference to the QIs/SCIs of all of the European sites brought forward from Stage 1 of the AA process (see Section 3).

4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

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

As identified above LACAP boundary has several European sites within it; therefore, there is potential for effects to European sites through urbanisation and direct habitat loss on foot of the implementation of the LACAP; however, several mitigation measures have been integrated into the LACAP to ensure that its implementation will not result in the loss of any habitat necessary for the ecological integrity of any European site; namely list of actions to avoid habitat loss, 2.40[9], 2.53[10], 2.63[11], 3.1[12], 3.2[13], 3.6[14], 3.7[15], 3.8[16], 3.10[17], 3.11[18], etc.

Additionally, the environmental governance section of the LACAP sets out a number of measures which will ensure the protection of biodiversity throughout the implementation of the plan such as:

- Promote climate action projects that support and maximize environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.
- Promote climate action projects that support and maximise environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.
- Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.
- Ensure local authority development underpinned or supported by plan actions is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No local authority climate action related development project that is likely to have significant negative effects on the receiving environment shall be supported.

[9] Inclusion of original hedgerows as a feature within green site development (sightlines allowing)
[10] Develop a County Heritage Plan and Biodiversity Plan with climate action as a cross-cutting theme/goal (Climate Proofed), having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites and protect built heritage.
[11] Management of greens to incorporate nature
[12] Complete county habitat and ecosystem service surveys with a focus on carbon sinks and stores and identify sites suitable for restoration (wetlands, woodlands, sand dunes, saltmarsh and sea grass beds), having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive. This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage these habitats.
[13] Develop a County Biodiversity Plan with climate action as a cross-cutting theme/goal. Use the County Biodiversity Plan as a vehicle to highlight a range of biodiversity opportunities that can be taken up at farm level with particular emphasis on the new ECO scheme. Highlight schemes for biodiversity opportunities available to farmers - having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive. This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage these habitats.
[14] Source and operate a tree health management app to identify trends in tree health and to maximise the chances of successful planting. The app will be used to manage all County Council cared-for trees
[15] Continue Marram grass planting and dune stabilisation works where possible. Investigate other options such as beach nourishment and measures similar to the Dutch Sand Engine
[16] Map green infrastructure (GI) – identify wildlife corridors, conservation and restoration spaces. Under the County Development Plan a Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy is being developed.
[17] Conduct a public awareness campaign on maintenance of roadside trees to reduce unnecessary felling of healthy trees and loss of carbon stock. (Inclusion of guidance in yearly letters)
[18] Prepare a guidance document and training on the importance of, quality rating and sustainable management of the hedgerows and riparian areas, for Council staff and external stakeholders including farmers/landowners.

- Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - the carrying out of flood resilience measures underpinned by plan actions in a manner that supports climate action-biodiversity related co-benefits, and which has due regard for the protection and enhancement of rare, protected or important habitats and species.
- Promote the carrying out of climate action related projects supported by the plan in a manner that supports climate action-cultural heritage co-benefits, and which has due regard to cultural, archaeological or architectural features and sensitivities.
- Promote the carrying out of climate action related projects underpinned by the plan in a manner that supports climate action water quality co-benefits, and the achievement of Water Framework Directive objectives.
- Promote climate action projects that support protected trees, hedgerows and other habitats such as wetlands, floodzones which contribute to green infrastructure.
- Support opportunities to improve ecological connectivity of non-designated habitats and sites to improve overall ecosystem resilience and functioning while supporting climate action within the county.
- Ensure local authority projects supported by plan actions have taken the necessary precautions to identify and manage invasives species, particularly with regard to Schedule III species. No local authority climate action related development project that is likely to cause the spread of invasives species listed in Schedule III shall be supported.
- Support opportunities to promote peatland restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance while achieving climate targets through the implementation of the climate actions within the plan.

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

4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

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

The LACAP recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. The LACAP provides actions to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as hedgerows; mitigation measures such as 2.40[9], 2.53[10], 3.2[13], 3.6[14], 3.8[16], 3.10[17], 3.11[18], 3.14[19], 3.15[20], 3.21[21] etc (see full list of measures reproduced at Section 5 of this report). Lighting is a particular issue for biodiversity - particularly with regard to linear projects, therefore the following action was required to ensure there would be no significant impacts in this regard: 2.71[22] and DZ 4.9[23].

[19] Zostera (Seagrass) Bed survey in Dungarvan and Tramore followed by a protection and awareness programme and ongoing monitoring
[20] Incorporation of biodiversity gains rather than just minimising loss of biodiversity into Development Management Standards
[21] Support the development of a nature corridor across a number of rural communities in Waterford
[22] Replace streetlighting with LED energy efficient equivalents and enable lighting controls to save energy, while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects on biodiversity.
[23] Replace inefficient streetlights with LEDs, while having due regard for the impact the spectrum of light used will have on protected nocturnal species such as bats.

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

4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

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

The LACAP accounts for noise pollution effects through its policies and objectives affording protection to European sites by ensuring any projects that arise from the implementation of the LACAP avoid or minimise noise in compliance with the Environmental Noise Directive and associated National Regulations through the Waterford City and County Council Noise Action Plan 2019 - 2023. Actions to ensure the protection of habitat quality with respect to disturbance effects from noise and other sources have been built into the LACAP; namely 1.2[24], 1.14[25], 2.5[26], 2.6[27], 2.8[28], 2.9[29], 2.10[30], 2.14[31], 2.15[32], 2.17[33]etc. (further details see Section 5).

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

[24] Review of building capacity and remote working/ hot desking possibilities for LA staff.
[25] Hybrid work policy – demonstrate the benefits of remote work via emissions savings, km of travel avoided etc.
[26] Add to the existing electric bike fleet and give staff the support they need to use the bikes
[27] Deliver E-Mobility Hubs (Electric car, scooter and bike depot) where the public can rent vehicles and facilitate e-car clubs
[28] Liaise with the NTA to improve systems: -integration between rail and WMATS (North Quays) -Bus stop facilities -Bus Connects
[29] Collaborate with Active Travel & Area Engineer to identify and work with schools to run a programme for safe routes to school (School Streets); having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage. Aim for one school per year in the County.
[30] Percentage of parking spaces changed to cycle parking – review of parking needed and funding of bike parking in suitable areas
[31] Identify and put in place suitable incentives to encourage people to Carpool
[32] Manage car parking through Demand Constraints to make active and public transport more appealing
[33] Deliver a Mobility Plan for the Council and encourage large employers in the city to do the same

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 LACAP introduces potential sources for effects to affect these four determinant factors for species densities in the form of construction phase effects such as habitat destruction, visitor movements/access, hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat encroachment, trampling etc. However, the LACAP contains provisions to enhance biodiversity, landscape and the environment within Council boundary 2.53[10], 2.63[11], 3.1[12], 3.2[13], 3.6[14], 3.10[17], 3.11[18], 3.15[20], 3.21[21], 3.23[34] etc. Similarly, the LACAP the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. Further to these provisions there are actions related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as 2.40[9], 2.53[10], 2.63[11], 3.2[13], 3.6[14], 3.10[17], 3.11[18], 3.21[21] etc. These actions apply to all plans, programmes and projects that may arise due to the implementation of the plan. Measures relating to light pollution, noise pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation are addressed above (further detailed in Section 5).

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

[34] Input Nature Recovery Law targets when they are put in place

4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

Water quality is the primary macro indicator of conservation value. The LACAP contains many robust actions to ensure the protection of both surface and ground water quality. Development within the vicinity of groundwater or surface water dependant European sites will not be permitted where there is potential for a likely significant effect on the groundwater or surface water supply to the European sites. Action that specifically relate to the protection of water quality which account for potential effects to European sites include2.18[35] 2.33[36], 2.34[37], 2.35[38], 2.37[39], 3.5[40], 3.9[41], 3.17[42], 3.24[43], 3.26[44] Etc. Similarly, emissions to air have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European sites; however, the LACAP contains actions – such as, 2.1[45], 2.3[46], 2.4[47], 2.5[26], 2.6[27], 2.8[28], 2.9[29], 2.10[30], 2.11[48], 2.12[49] etc. – which account for this.

[35] Integration of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and other nature-based solutions into plan. Ensure all SuDS related construction works are designed and implemented in a manner that does not result in the occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects.

[36] Prepare and apply a protocol to enable and require a pre-set standard for 'Climate Proofing' including water sensitive urban design, Rainwater Management Plans, and Life Cycle Assessment of all local authority led plans, purchases and investment, ensuring the protocol has appropriate regard to environmental protection requirements and opportunities for promoting climate action co-benefits.

[37] Planning decisions process to assess impact of new development proposed in areas determined to have a water supply and quality constraint (i.e., from climate related drought, extreme rainfall events). Assess impact on wastewater discharges and DWWTS and mitigate impacts.

[38] Regular programme of climate training for Planners (including whole life cycle assessment, rainwater management, Sustainable Urban Drainage etc)

[39] Life Cycle Analysis methodology, consideration of carbon emissions, and consideration of water quality impact to be used in housing and building works planning and for planning permission from 2027 following adoption of National Policy on Life Cycle Assessment.

[40] Develop nature-based flooding approaches in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Assessment made at whole-catchment level (catchment as the management unit). Prioritise delivery of Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM). Ensure due regard is given to the need to promote Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.

[41] To carry out a feasibility assessment to determine if it is possible to identify waterbodies that are both particularly vulnerable to extreme water events associated with climate change, and at risk of not meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive.

[42] Deliver on a yearly increase in the application of Blue-Green Infrastructure, Nature Based-Solutions (NBS) and Integrated Rainwater Management in local authority, private and public projects, having due regard to environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value. Collate a database and spatial map to track progress.

[43] Deliver a number of water protection projects focused on preventing nitrate run off from farms

[44] Support and inform a climate-proofing programme for natural water resources to manage flooding at the catchment level. Through advising the farming community and running information campaigns.. Due regard is to be given to the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.

[45] Deliver Eco-Driver training to WCCC Fleet staff

[46] Replace fossil fuel vehicles with Electric Vehicles (EV) in WCCC fleet whilst ensuring appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for Electric Vehicles under the ownership of local authorities.

[47] Deliver the County EV charging strategy and use the findings to apply for funding for the residential neighbourhood EV charging scheme in the areas that have been identified as needing charge points. Ensure development supported by the strategy is delivered in a manner that as due regard to environmental sensitivities (European sites, biodiversity, built heritage) and available grid capacity.

[48] Anti-idling programme (Link to air pollution/ Health). Low-cost air pollution monitoring

[49] Expand air quality monitoring programme to primary schools in towns across the county

Additionally, the actions provide broader scope to ensure the protection of the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions; such as 2.53[10], 3.1[12], 3.14[19], 3.2[13], 3.5[40], 3.9[41], 3.17[42], 3.29[50] etc.

4.3.1.6 Climate change

The LACAP is specifically focused on climate action and most of the actions within the plan are aimed at reducing carbon emissions and move towards renewable energy sources; 1.1[51], 1.5[52], 1.6[53], 1.9[54], 1.17[55], 1.20[56], 1.22[57], 1.23[58], 2.3[46], 2.4[47]etc.

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

[50] Carry out a review of Section 4 Discharge to Water Licenses to determine if they are fit for purpose to meet projected climate change related risks such as hydrological changes and water temperature increases.
[51] Ensure Climate Change is included in the Risk Register
[52] Integration of Green Public Procurement into all Section work plans
[53] Consideration of climate change in large-scale projects (carbon emission analysis as part of all future analysis) and Water-Sensitive Urban Design Certification
[54] Consider endorsing Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty
[55] Deliver an annual Reduce Your Use energy saving campaign
[56] Business case development to also include long term energy and environmental costs
[57] Dedicated annual climate change spend as a proportion of municipal budget or per capita
[58] County Council investment in partnership for renewable energy projects where a suitable project is identified, Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - the carrying out of such projects in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, landscape and visual amenity and sensitive human receptors.

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

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
000665	Helvick Head SAC	The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to agriculture and burning. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
000668	Nier Valley Woodlands SAC	The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to forestry, agriculture, and invasive species. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
000671	Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC	The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to recreation, invasive species, agriculture, waste management, direct interaction with species and populations, recreation, infrastructure, land use management, land use change. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
001952	Comeragh Mountains SAC	The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to erosion, burning, agriculture, forestry, recreation, infrastructure, land use management, mining/ resource extraction, and invasive species. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
002123	Ardmore Head SAC	The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to direct interaction with species and populations, agriculture, land use management, burning, infrastructure, and recreation. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to agriculture, infrastructure, commercial shipping, waste management, land use change, land use management, flooding, invasive species, and forestry. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to agriculture, hydrological interactions, waste management, changes in abiotic conditions, infrastructure, flooding, land use management, forestry, mining/ resource extraction, direct interaction with species and populations, recreation, commercial shipping, aquaculture, invasive species, and erosion. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
002170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to invasive species, waste management, land use change, land use management, infrastructure, agriculture, mining/ resource extraction, recreation, erosion, and forestry. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
002324	Glendine Wood SAC	The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to agriculture, infrastructure, forestry, land use management. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA	The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to land use management, infrastructure, recreation, waste management, agriculture, and invasive species. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004028	Blackwater Estuary SPA	The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to infrastructure, direct interaction with species and populations, land use management, agriculture, and recreation. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004032	Dungarvan Harbour SPA	The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to land use management, infrastructure, recreation, agriculture, and aquaculture. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004094	Blackwater Callows SPA	The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to recreation, agriculture, land use management, and infrastructure. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004192	Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA	The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to erosion, invasive species, and transport. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004193	Mid-Waterford Coast SPA	The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to agriculture, land use management, and infrastructure. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004033	Bannow Bay SPA	The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to agriculture, infrastructure, direct interaction with species and populations, recreation, land use management, and aquaculture. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
000404	Hugginstown Fen SAC	The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to agriculture and forestry. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004022	Ballycotton Bay SPA	The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to land use management, infrastructure land use change, agriculture, erosion, and recreation. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004118	Keeragh Islands SPA	There are no known threats or pressures of this SPA. The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.

5. MITIGATION MEASURES

This section outlines measures that have been incorporated into the LACAP in order to mitigate against potential effects to European sites as identified above. The LACAP was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European site from implementation of the LACAP. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European sites are identified in Table 5-1 and Table 5-2 below.[59] Some of these measures, many of which were integrated into the current Plan through the SEA and AA processes for that Plan, have been retained and/or updated.

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

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

Additional text clarifying environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to a variety of defined actions in the plan (as seen in Table 5-1). This text has been shaped to ensure that environmental considerations are appropriately taken into account during plan implementation. This text has also been shaped to ensure plan implementation generates the minimum level of negative environmental effects and the maximum level of positive environmental effects.

Several environmental governance principles were established to ensure plan implementation generates the minimum level of negative environmental effects and the maximum level of positive environmental effects (as seen in Table 5-2). These environmental governance principles shall underpin and guide plan implementation and shall apply to and be integrated into all actions/activities which result due to the implementation of the plan.

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

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

Table 5-1: Recommendations integrated into the Plan

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
1.23	County Council investment in partnership for renewable energy projects where a suitable project is identified	This plan supports the development of renewable energy development and building retrofits in the LA region that could have a variety of slight to potentially significant negative environmental effects, including biodiversity impacts.	County Council investment in partnership for renewable energy projects where a suitable project is identified, Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - the carrying out of such projects in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, landscape and visual amenity and sensitive human receptors.
1.24	Appy for Pathfinder funding and deliver energy projects and continue to apply for Better Energy Community funding	This plan supports the development of renewable energy development and building retrofits in the LA region that could have a variety of slight to potentially significant negative environmental effects, including biodiversity impacts.	Apply for Pathfinder funding and deliver energy projects; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European Sites and sensitive human receptors. Continue to apply for Better Energy Community funding.
1.26	Develop a financial instrument to speed up the retrofit of social housing	There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Older houses have the potential to house bats, retrofitting works could therefore disturb bats using these buildings.	Develop a financial instrument to speed up the retrofit of social housing, ensuring that retrofitting is carried out with due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species associated with such buildings, air quality, European sites and biodiversity.
2.2	Replace fossil fuels with renewable fuel in WCCC Fleet	This action supports the transition of the Municipal District vehicle fleet to a renewable fuel. The scalable adoption of vehicles based on certain alternative fuels may contribute to the expansion of alternative fuel production sectors. These sectors may indirectly cause environmental effects (including uncertain and potentially negative effects) as a result of fuel sourcing, production and supply processes.	Replace fossil fuels with renewable fuel in WCCC Fleet whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
2.3	Replace fossil fuel vehicles with EVs in WCCC fleet	This action could also lead to the delivery of multiple charging points and ancillary electrical infrastructure including grid connection routes across the extent of the LA. In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional charging point infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.	Replace fossil fuel vehicles with Electric Vehicles (EV) in WCCC fleet whilst ensuring appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for Electric Vehicles under the ownership of local authorities.
2.4	Deliver the County EV charging strategy and use the findings to apply for funding for the residential neighbourhood EV charging scheme in the areas that have been identified as needing charge points	This action could also lead to the delivery of multiple charging points and ancillary electrical infrastructure including grid connection routes across the extent of the LA. In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional charging point infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.	Deliver the County EV charging strategy and use the findings to apply for funding for the residential neighbourhood EV charging scheme in the areas that have been identified as needing charge points. Ensure development supported by the strategy is delivered in a manner that as due regard to environmental sensitivities (European sites, biodiversity, built heritage) and available grid capacity.
2.6	Deliver E-Mobility Hubs (Electric car, scooter and bike depot) where the public can rent vehicles and facilitate e-car clubs	This action will lead to the development of the E-Mobility Hub, which will likely include multiple charging points and ancillary electrical infrastructure including grid connection routes. In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of the hub may have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.	Deliver E-Mobility Hubs (Electric car, scooter and bike depot) where the public can rent vehicles and facilitate e-car clubs, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, air quality, and water quality.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
2.9	Collaborate with Active Travel & Area Engineer to identify and work with schools to run a programme for safe routes to school (School Streets). Aim for one school per year in the County.	In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional walking/ cycling infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.	Collaborate with Active Travel & Area Engineer to identify and work with schools to run a programme for safe routes to school (School Streets); having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage. Aim for one school per year in the County.
2.16	Review roundabouts for improvements: Dutch style	This action supports the development of additional cycling infrastructure. This action has the potential to encourage modal shift and the use of active travel networks. In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional cycling infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.	Review roundabouts for improvements: Dutch style. Ensure any consequential development has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, air quality, water quality, and biodiversity.
2.18	Integration of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and other nature-based solutions into plans	The construction of Nature Based SuDS could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise), and the receiving human environment.	Integration of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and other nature-based solutions into plans. Ensure all SuDS related construction works are designed and implemented in a manner that does not result in the occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
2.19	Engage with Active Travel goals - secure cycle parking in main car parks, cycle lanes designed for daily commuter use (segregated if possible, curbing not plastic wands, design process to include consultation with cycling community)	This action supports the development of additional cycling and walkway infrastructure. In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional cycling infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.	Engage with Active Travel goals -secure cycle parking in main car parks, cycle lanes designed for daily commuter use (segregated if possible, curbing not plastic wands, design process to include consultation with cycling community). Ensure any ancillary developments has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, air quality, water quality, and biodiversity.
2.27	Survey of roads/bridges/ infrastructures vulnerable to extreme weather events, produce vulnerability report and reinforce those structures	This action has the potential to adversely affect Annex II and IV species such as Daubenton's Bat through disturbance and habitat loss or impact protected structures if incorrectly implemented.	Survey of roads/bridges/infrastructures vulnerable to extreme weather events, produce vulnerability report and reinforce those structures - having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species or European sites.
2.33	Prepare and apply a protocol to enable and require a pre-set standard for 'Climate Proofing' including water sensitive urban design, Rainwater Management Plans, and Life Cycle Assessment of all local authority led plans, purchases and investment	The implementation of climate-proofing in plans and projects, such as the promotion of active travel, stormwater management, or flood resilience-related development, could lead to unforeseen and unintended environmental effects in the absence of appropriate mitigation.	Prepare and apply a protocol to enable and require a pre-set standard for 'Climate Proofing' including water sensitive urban design, Rainwater Management Plans, and Life Cycle Assessment of all local authority led plans, purchases and investment, ensuring the protocol has appropriate regard to environmental protection requirements and opportunities for promoting climate action co-benefits.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
2.38	Support new privately owned regeneration through facilitating a cooperative community with a collective skillset to tackle renovation projects from within its own resources, building upon work conducted under the URDF	This action will support retrofitting/upgrading works on old buildings which could result in significant negative effects if unmitigated. There will be adverse effects on Bats which are Annex IV species, as many roosts are located within old unused buildings. There is also potential for light (glint and glare) and air pollution during retrofitting works.	Support new privately owned regeneration through facilitating a cooperative community with a collective skillset to tackle renovation projects from within its own resources, building upon work conducted under the URDF. Promote with partners the carrying out of such projects in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities, including biodiversity, European sites and built heritage.
2.44	Additional km of upgraded footpaths by 2029 - 23.16 in the County, 3km in the City	In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the upgrading of footpaths have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), and impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction).	Additional km of upgraded footpaths by 2029 - 23.16 in the County, 3km in the City, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, and local air quality.
2.45	Additional km of new cycle lanes - 10.62km in the County, 33.92km in the city	In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional cycling infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.	Additional km of new cycle lanes - 10.62km in the County, 33.92km in the city, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality.
2.48	Cycle parking target - cycle parking for 5,000 bikes across the County	In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional cycling infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.	Cycle parking target - cycle parking for 5,000 bikes across the County, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
2.49	Investigate renewable back-up power generation for servers vulnerable to power outages (Dungarvan)	In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the development of renewable energy infrastructure could have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.	Investigate renewable back-up power generation for servers vulnerable to power outages (Dungarvan), having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as biodiversity, European sites, air quality and water quality.
2.53	Develop a County Heritage Plan and Biodiversity Plan with climate action as a cross-cutting theme/goal (Climate Proofed)	This action has the potential to support carrying out retrofitting/upgrade/maintenance works at historic structures, traditional buildings and monuments which could result in adverse effects on Bats which are Annex IV species, as many roosts are located within old unused buildings. This action has the potential to negatively effect biodiversity if misguided or inappropriate regimes.	Develop a County Heritage Plan and Biodiversity Plan with climate action as a cross-cutting theme/goal (Climate Proofed), having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites and protect built heritage.
2.55	Regionally develop projects to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures using exemplar retrofitting projects, life cycle assessment and carbon budgets to demonstrate climate value	This action has the potential to support the use of historic structures and traditional buildings which could result in significant negative effects if unmitigated. This action has the potential to have adverse effects on Bats which are Annex IV species, as many roosts are located within old unused buildings.	Regionally develop projects to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures using exemplar retrofitting projects, life cycle assessment and carbon budgets to demonstrate climate value, having due regard to the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species that may be present in such buildings and European sites, and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
2.59	Targeting of social homes still using solid fuels, or older social homes, as priority of retrofitting program	There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Older houses have the potential to house bats, retrofitting works could therefore disturb bats using these buildings.	Targeting of social homes still using solid fuels, or older social homes, as priority of retrofitting program. Deliver retrofitting projects in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species, biodiversity and sensitive human receptors.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
2.60	Continue moving to central heating systems only	There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Older houses have the potential to house bats, retrofitting works could therefore disturb bats using these buildings.	Continue moving to central heating systems only. Deliver retrofitting projects in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species, biodiversity and sensitive human receptors.
2.61	Continue delivering the Croi Conaithe programme, bringing vacant homes back to use	There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Older houses have the potential to house bats, retrofitting works could therefore disturb bats using these buildings.	Continue delivering the Croi Conaithe programme, bringing vacant homes back to use. Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - the carrying out of regeneration works in manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species, biodiversity, air quality and water quality.
2.64	Avoid fossil fuel heating systems and continue to replace coal and oil heating systems	There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Older houses have the potential to house bats, retrofitting works could therefore disturb bats using these buildings.	Avoid fossil fuel heating systems and continue to replace coal and oil heating systems. Deliver retrofitting projects in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species, biodiversity and sensitive human receptors.
2.67	Upgrade at least 25% of social houses (E/F/G BER to BER B2 or higher). This figure is based on the current funding allocation, and may increase.	There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Older houses have the potential to house bats, retrofitting works could therefore disturb bats using these buildings.	Upgrade at least 25% of social houses (E/F/G BER to BER B2 or higher), having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species, biodiversity, air quality and water quality. This figure is based on the current funding allocation, and may increase.
2.69	50% improvement in energy efficiency across all Council operations	This action could lead to the development of renewable technology which has the potential to create unintended localized, negative environmental impacts, including impacts on visual amenity.	50% improvement in energy efficiency across all Council operations, whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as visual amenity, water and air quality, and biodiversity related sensitivities.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
2.70	Phase out fossil-fuel based boilers from Council buildings by 2025.	This action could lead to the development of renewable technology which has the potential to create unintended localized, negative environmental impacts, including noise and dust related impacts.	Phase out fossil-fuel based boilers from Council buildings by 2025, whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as visual amenity, sensitive human receptors and biodiversity related sensitivities.
2.71	Replace streetlighting with LED energy efficient equivalents and enable lighting controls to save energy	This action broadly supports the reduction of County GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. The opportunity is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect in terms of GHG emissions however, the spectrum of light from LED sources has the potential to impact nocturnal species. Therefore there is also scope for there to be slight negative effects if unmitigated.	Replace streetlighting with LED energy efficient equivalents and enable lighting controls to save energy, while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects on biodiversity.
2.72	Addition of renewable energy to Council buildings that have a floor area of greater than 250m2 and do not have conservation restrictions	This action could lead to the development of renewable technology which has the potential to create unintended localized, negative environmental impacts, including impacts on visual amenity.	Addition of renewable energy to Council buildings that have a floor area of greater than 250m2 and do not have conservation restrictions, whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as visual amenity and biodiversity related sensitivities.
2.74	Assess Council land for Renewable Energy suitability. A target for example of 5MWh of installed capacity across the County developed in conjunction with a community (s) would require a solar farms of a 10ha size could be achieved.	This action supports the development of renewable infrastructure which has the potential to create unintended localized, negative environmental impacts, including impacts on water quality.	Assess Council land for Renewable Energy suitability. A target for example of 5MWh of installed capacity across the County developed in conjunction with a community (s) would require a solar farms of a 10ha size could be achieved. Ensure planning and environmental constraints are considered during this assessment.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
3.1	Complete county habitat and ecosystem service surveys with a focus on carbon sinks and stores and identify sites suitable for restoration (wetlands, woodlands, sand dunes, saltmarsh and sea grass beds).	This action has the potential to negatively affect biodiversity if misguided or inappropriate regimes.	Complete county habitat and ecosystem service surveys with a focus on carbon sinks and stores and identify sites suitable for restoration (wetlands, woodlands, sand dunes, saltmarsh and sea grass beds), having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive. This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage these habitats.
3.2	Develop a County Biodiversity Plan with climate action as a cross-cutting theme/goal. Use the County Biodiversity Plan as a vehicle to highlight a range of biodiversity opportunities that can be taken up at farm level with particular emphasis on the new ECO scheme. Highlight schemes for biodiversity opportunities available to farmers	This action has the potential to negatively effect biodiversity if misguided or inappropriate regimes.	Develop a County Biodiversity Plan with climate action as a cross-cutting theme/goal. Use the County Biodiversity Plan as a vehicle to highlight a range of biodiversity opportunities that can be taken up at farm level with particular emphasis on the new ECO scheme. Highlight schemes for biodiversity opportunities available to farmers - having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, and support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive. This plan shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage these habitats.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
3.5	Develop nature-based flooding approaches in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Assessment made at whole-catchment level (catchment as the management unit). Prioritise delivery of Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM)	n the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust).	Develop nature-based flooding approaches in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Assessment made at whole-catchment level (catchment as the management unit). Prioritise delivery of Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM). Ensure due regard is given to the need to promote Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.
3.16	Identify sites and opportunities to work with other agencies and communities on restoration of water levels and 'slow the flow' measures to mitigate flood risk.	In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), and the receiving human environment.	Identify sites and opportunities to work with other agencies and communities on restoration of water levels and 'slow the flow' measures to mitigate flood risk. Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - the carrying out of development supported by this action in a manner that has due regard to opportunities to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
3.17	Deliver on a yearly increase in the application of Blue-Green Infrastructure, Nature Based-Solutions (NBS) and Integrated Rainwater Management in local authority, private and public projects. Collate a database and spatial map to track progress.	The development of such green infrastructure, in particular construction related activity has the potential to have a range of unintended, negative environmental impacts if carried out.	Deliver on a yearly increase in the application of Blue-Green Infrastructure, Nature Based-Solutions (NBS) and Integrated Rainwater Management in local authority, private and public projects, having due regard to environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
			value. Collate a database and spatial map to track progress.
3.19	Prepare strategic wildfire management plan for high-risk areas	This action has the potential to negatively effect biodiversity and European Sites through certain management practices to prevent fires.	Prepare strategic wildfire management plan for high-risk areas. Ecological expertise shall be sought during plan preparation. The plan and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately protect important habitats.
3.20	Investment in increased green space in urban areas including a park of regional significance in Waterford city	The development of an amenity parkland may generate environmental effects, including construction related effects and effects on existing traffic and transport conditions	Investment in increased green space in urban areas including a park of regional significance in Waterford city - ensuring local authority led development is carried out in a manner that has due regard to relevant planning and environmental protection requirements.
3.22	Act on the findings of the Copper Coast stabilisation report	In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality, biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust).	Act on the findings of the Copper Coast stabilisation report, having due regard to environmental sensitivities associated with coastal areas such as the receiving marine environment, biodiversity, European sites, recreation and amenity value.
3.26	Support and inform a climate-proofing programme for natural water resources to manage flooding at the catchment level. Through advising the farming community and running information campaigns.	In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust).	Support and inform a climate proofing programme for natural water resources, and to better manage flooding at the catchment level. The Council will identify a sub-catchment where water quality objectives are not being met, and where there is an established flood risk. Due regard is to be given to the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
3.27	Increase the amount of permeable spaces in the County. Ensure that new housing and streetscapes incorporate permeability (Nature Based Solutions and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems)	The development of such green infrastructure, in particular construction related activity has the potential to have a range of unintended, negative environmental impacts if carried out.	Increase the amount of permeable spaces in the County. Ensure that new housing and streetscapes incorporate permeability (Nature Based Solutions and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems), having appropriate regard to local environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity European sites and cultural heritage considerations.
4.1	Climate proofing of Community Funded Projects (e.g., Town & Village) (Sustainability and Climate Change scoring on grant assessment)	The implementation of climate proofing in plans and projects, such as the promotion of active travel or flood resilience related development, could lead to unforeseen and unintended environmental effects in the absence of appropriate mitigation.	Climate proofing of Community Funded Projects (e.g., Town & Village) (Sustainability and Climate Change scoring on grant assessment); ensuring the protocol has appropriate regard to environmental protection requirements, environmental sensitivities such as European Sites, biodiversity and opportunities for promoting climate action co-benefits.
4.5	Renewable Energy Use for festivals. Review affordability of HVO generators from local suppliers. Review infrastructure needed to put in mains power for future festivals.	This action has the potential to support the development of renewable energy development in the LA region that could have a variety of slight to potentially significant negative environmental effects, including biodiversity impacts.	Renewable Energy Use for festivals. Review affordability of HVO generators from local suppliers. Review infrastructure needed to put in mains power for future festivals - having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European Sites and biodiversity related sensitivities.
DZ 1.3	Develop a Carbon Neutral Community programme where we establish an energy cooperative in a pilot community and deliver renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions for homes and transport	Development supported by this action, such as renewable energy or active travel related development could potentially have negative environmental effects, including impacts on water quality or hydrology, biodiversity and protected sites.	Develop a Carbon Neutral Community programme where we establish an energy cooperative in a pilot community and deliver renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions for homes and transport. Due regard shall be had to relevant planning and environmental protection criteria, including the need to protect European sites, when implementing this action.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ 1.4	Work on an area by area basis (City Centre, Ballybricken, Carrickpherish, Poleberry etc) over a number of months to have a presence in the community to provide advice to the public and businesses while also delivering projects in Active Travel, Presentation, Roads, Climate Adaptation, Housing etc. To provide information on existing services and to collaborate with the community going forward to develop projects and source financing/funding. Breaking the Decarbonisation Zone plan down to manageable community actions	Development supported by this action, such as renewable energy or active travel related development could potentially have negative environmental effects, including impacts on water quality or hydrology, biodiversity and protected sites.	Work on an area by area basis (City Centre, Ballybricken, Carrickpherish, Poleberry etc) over a number of months to have a presence in the community to provide advice to the public and businesses while also delivering projects in Active Travel, Presentation, Roads, Climate Adaptation, Housing etc. To provide information on existing services and to collaborate with the community going forward to develop projects and source financing/funding. Breaking the Decarbonisation Zone plan down to manageable community actions. Due regard shall be had to relevant planning and environmental protection criteria, including the need to protect European sites, when implementing this action.
DZ 2.1	Sustainable Urban Drainage systems to be incorporated in street upgrades, Council building projects and private developments.	Drainage related development supported by this action could lead to unforeseen and unintended environmental effects in the absence of appropriate mitigation, including impacts on water quality or hydrology, biodiversity and protected sites.	Sustainable Urban Drainage systems to be incorporated in street upgrades, Council building projects and private developments, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity, air and water quality.
DZ 2.3	Work with 4 regions in the city (e.g. Ballybricken, Carrickpherish) to co-design with the community climate adaptation interventions - planting, SUDS, green roofs rainwater harvesting etc.	In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), and the receiving human environment.	Work with 4 regions in the city (e.g. Ballybricken, Carrickpherish) to co-design with the community climate adaptation interventions - planting, SUDS, green roofs rainwater harvesting etc. - having due regard to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ 2.6	Put in place a park of regional significance as per County Development Plan incorporating Nature Based Solutions to reduce flood likelihood	In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), and the receiving human environment. The development of amenity parkland may create unintended traffic and transport impacts also.	Put in place a park of regional significance as per County Development Plan incorporating Nature Based Solutions to reduce flood likelihood - having due regard to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and traffic and transport conditions.
DZ 2.7	Climate Adaptation measures to be incorporated into all Council developments going forward - larger downpipes, SUDS, Nature Based Solutions	In the absence of any mitigation, development supported by this action could potentially have a variety of negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), and the receiving human environment.	Climate Adaptation measures to be incorporated into all Council developments going forward - larger downpipes, SUDS, Nature Based Solutions - having due regard to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
DZ 2.8	Implementing permeable surfaces (bioswales / rainbeds / pervious pavement) - requirement in new developments	In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), and the receiving human environment.	Implementing permeable surfaces (bioswales / rainbeds / pervious pavement) - requirement in new developments - having due regard to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
DZ 4.2	Deliver a 50% energy efficiency improvement in Council owned buildings	This action has the potential to support the development of renewable energy systems at public buildings that could have a variety of slight to potentially significant negative environmental effects, including visual impacts and impact on buildings that are designated as protected structures.	Deliver a 50% energy efficiency improvement in Council owned buildings, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as landscape and visual amenity, European Sites, biodiversity, sensitive human receptors and the need appropriately conserve built and cultural heritage.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ 4.4	Work with partners to deliver a District Heating Scheme for Waterford City	In the absence of any mitigation, development that this action could lead to, which will include extensive pipe laying works, could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality, biodiversity, flora and fauna; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise), and the receiving human environment.	Work with partners to deliver a District Heating Scheme for Waterford City, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Biodiversity, European sites, water quality and hydrology, and air quality.
DZ 4.6	Upgrade of public buildings to BER B	There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. There is the potential air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.	Upgrade of public buildings to BER B, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Biodiversity, European sites, and the need to appropriately conserve built and cultural heritage.
DZ 4.7	Do a review of Council owned land in the city for solar suitability. Develop solar energy projects. Study to be done in conjunction with SETU	In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality, and biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems.	Do a review of Council owned land in the city for solar suitability. Ensure such a review has appropriate regard to planning and environmental considerations. Develop solar energy projects - ensuring such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects. Study to be done in conjunction with SETU.
DZ 4.8	Deploy solar energy on all Council buildings with a floor area of greater than 250m2	There is the potential air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.	Deploy solar energy on all Council buildings with a floor area of greater than 250m2 - having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as landscape and visual amenity, European Sites, biodiversity, sensitive human receptors and the need appropriately conserve built and cultural heritage.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ 4.9	Replace inefficient streetlights with LEDs	This action will support the local authority in reducing its organisational GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect in terms of GHG emissions however, the spectrum of light from LED sources has the potential to impact nocturnal species. Therefore there is also scope for there to be slight negative effects if unmitigated.	Replace inefficient streetlights with LEDs, while having due regard for the impact the spectrum of light used will have on protected nocturnal species such as bats.
DZ 4.10	Development of a Smart City District on O Connell Street and the Quays (centralised at the Munster Express Building) that will use sensors to maximise energy production, efficient energy use, report risk of drain flooding and communicate air quality impacts	This action may support some degree of development which could potentially result in negative environmental effects. There is the potential air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.	Development of a Smart City District on O Connell Street and the Quays (centralised at the Munster Express Building) that will use sensors to maximise energy production, efficient energy use, report risk of drain flooding and communicate air quality impacts. Ensure due regard is had to environmental sensitivities during development processes.
DZ 4.12	Through the Croí Conaithe scheme bring existing buildings up to a high energy efficient standard ensuring occupancy rates are high in our city centre	There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Older houses have the potential to house bats, retrofitting works could therefore disturb bats using these buildings. Such works could have on the conservation status of protected structures or the context in which they sit.	Through the Croí Conaithe scheme bring existing buildings up to a high energy efficient standard ensuring occupancy rates are high in our city centre, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species associated with such buildings, European sites, biodiversity, and the need to appropriately conserve built and cultural heritage.
DZ 4.13	Removal of fossil fuel heating from all Council buildings	This action has the potential to lead to positive effects on the climate sector and result in the offset of organizational GHG emissions. There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Older houses have the potential to house bats, retrofitting works could therefore disturb bats using these buildings.	Removal of fossil fuel heating from all Council buildings, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species associated with such buildings, European sites, biodiversity, and the need to appropriately conserve built and cultural heritage.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		Such works could have on the conservation status of protected structures or the context in which they sit.	
DZ 4.14	In conjunction with the Local Enterprise Office compile a strategy for developing the Geothermal Industry in Waterford City Along with conducting a feasibility study for the city based on GSI recommendations	Renewable energy development supported by this action could potentially have unintentional negative environmental effects.	In conjunction with the Local Enterprise Office compile a strategy for developing the Geothermal Industry in Waterford City Along with conducting a feasibility study for the city based on GSI recommendations. Ensure such a study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental considerations and constraints.
DZ 4.16	Update Renewable Energy Strategy, within City and County Development Plan	There is the potential air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.	Update Renewable Energy Strategy, within City and County Development Plan. Ensure planning and environmental protection related factors are appropriately considered in the strategy.
DZ 4.18	North Quays to be an exemplary example of sustainable energy technologies	Renewable energy development supported by this action could potentially have unintentional negative environmental effects.	North Quays to be an exemplar example of sustainable energy technologies; having due regard planning and environmental considerations.
DZ 4.19	Develop a "Hydrogen Energy Strategy" for Waterford City and resource implementation of aspects of the National Strategy that can be advanced in Waterford	Sustainable energy development supported by this action could potentially have unintentional negative environmental effects.	Develop a "Hydrogen Energy Strategy" for Waterford City and resource implementation of aspects of the National Strategy that can be advanced in Waterford. Ensure planning and environmental protection related factors are appropriately considered in the strategy.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ 4.20	Exploit Waterford's Shallow Geothermal opportunities by including Geothermal as a heat source for a District Heating and by including Geothermal heating where suitable in Council redevelopment projects	Renewable energy development supported by this action could potentially have unintentional negative environmental effects.	Exploit Waterford's Shallow Geothermal opportunities by including Geothermal as a heat source for a District Heating and by including Geothermal heating where suitable in Council redevelopment projects. Progress development supported by this action in a manner that maximizes climate action co-benefits and accords with relevant environmental protection requirements.
DZ 4.21	Develop Solar Car port projects (1MW) and a solar farm within the city (19MW)	Renewable energy development supported by this action could potentially have unintentional negative environmental effects.	Develop Solar Car port projects (1MW) and a solar farm within the city (19MW); having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as landscape and visual amenity, European Sites, biodiversity, sensitive human receptors and the need appropriately conserve built and cultural heritage.
DZ 4.22	Investigate the requirements for large scale installation of low carbon sources of heating (air/ground/water source heat pumps), using council owned homes as a test bed in partnership with grid operators and supply chains	There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. There is also potential for impacts on the receiving soils or water environment.	Investigate the requirements for large scale installation of low carbon sources of heating (air/ground/water source heat pumps), using council owned homes as a test bed in partnership with grid operators and supply chains, having due regard to planning and environmental protection considerations associated with such projects.
DZ 6.1	Investigate the possibility of creating a Green Bond for the city which can be used to invest in renewable energy	Renewable energy development supported by this action could potentially have unintentional negative environmental effects.	Investigate the possibility of creating a Green Bond for the city which can be used to invest in appropriately planned renewable energy.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ 2.10	Plant 100,000 trees within the Metropolitan area	This action has the potential to have negative effects to biodiversity if invasive species are used	Plant 100,000 native trees within the Metropolitan area
DZ 2.11	Carbon sequestration through detailed tree / meadow planting / growing, rewilding, soil management, waterways and wetland planning, informed by habitat mapping, opportunity mapping and tree canopy surveys	This action has the potential to negatively effect biodiversity if misguided or inappropriate regimes are adopted.	Carbon sequestration through detailed tree / meadow planting / growing, rewilding, soil management, waterways and wetland planning, informed by habitat mapping, opportunity mapping and tree canopy surveys. These actions shall be overseen by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage these habitats.
DZ 8.2	Integration of renewable energy, EV charging, active travel infrastructure into new developments	In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of development supported by this action such as additional charging point infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), material asset impacts, and biodiversity impacts.	Integration of renewable energy, EV charging, active travel infrastructure into new developments, having due regard to opportunities to promote climate action co-benefits, and relevant planning and environmental protection requirements.
DZ 8.3	In URDF projects facilitate a city centre cooperative community with a collective skill set that can tackle renovation projects from within its own resources. This work should have a focus on Circular Economy, making tools and skills available for people to do up properties that they can live in	This action has the potential to support building retrofits in the LA region that could have a variety of slight to potentially significant negative environmental effects, including biodiversity impacts.	In URDF projects facilitate a city centre cooperative community with a collective skill set that can tackle renovation projects from within its own resources. This work should have a focus on Circular Economy, making tools and skills available for people to do up properties that they can live in - whilst promoting the need for supported projects to adhere to relevant planning and environmental protection requirements.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ 5.8	Continue to engage with businesses encouraging them to save energy with the Commercial Energy Rates Discount Scheme	This action has the potential to support the building retrofits in the LA region that could have a variety of slight to potentially significant negative environmental effects, including biodiversity impacts.	Continue to engage with businesses encouraging them to save energy with the Commercial Energy Rates Discount Scheme - whilst promoting the need for supported projects to adhere to relevant planning and environmental protection requirements.
DZ 10.3	Install 33.9 Km of cycle lanes	In the absence of mitigation, the action could support the carrying out of potentially significant development which could have negative slight to significant environmental effects, including biodiversity impacts, and impacts on the water or soils environment (due to development construction phase run-off of silt or cement based material). Such potential effects can be mitigated by considering planning and environmental related matters and constraints early on during the assessment/design process.	Install 33.9 Km of cycle lanes, whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and water and air quality.
DZ 10.4	Review public parking and staff parking to see the impact of car pooling, car sharing, public transport and active travel to identify areas where different usages could be applied for those spaces	In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional active infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.	Review public parking and staff parking to see the impact of car pooling, car sharing, public transport and active travel to identify areas where different usages could be applied for those spaces, having due regard to opportunities to promote climate action co-benefits, nature based solutions, SuDS, and relevant environmental protection requirements.
DZ 10.6	Install 3 Km of upgraded footpaths along with maintaining existing footpaths	In the absence of mitigation, the action could support the carrying out of potentially significant development which could have negative slight to significant environmental effects, including biodiversity impacts, and impacts on the water or soils environment (due to development construction phase run-off of silt or cement based material).	Install 3 Km of upgraded footpaths, whilst having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites, biodiversity and water and air quality.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		Such potential effects can be mitigated by considering planning and environmental related matters and constraints early on during the assessment/design process.	
DZ 10.14	Complete an EV charging strategy and apply for the Neighbourhood Charging Fund for the required number of chargers and ensure that all new plannings for developments include the legally mandated EV charger requirement	This action could also lead to the delivery of multiple charging points and ancillary electrical infrastructure including grid connection routes across the extent of the DZ. In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional charging point infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.	Complete an EV charging strategy and apply for the Neighbourhood Charging Fund for the required number of chargers and ensure that all new plannings for developments include the legally mandated EV charger requirement. Ensure development supported by the strategy is delivered in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities (European sites, biodiversity, built heritage) and available grid capacity.
DZ 10.15	Deliver at least 5 Safe Routes to Schools campaigns at City Schools - this will depend on school demand	In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional cycling infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.	Deliver 5 School streets campaigns. Ensure any ancillary development has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.
DZ 10.17	Review of bus lanes in the city and extension as part of the Bus Connects programme	Such a review may lead to alteration to existing traffic and transport related infrastructure, which could lead to unintended negative effects on traffic conditions.	Review of bus lanes in the city and extension as part of the Bus Connects programme, having due regard to transport planning related factors.
DZ 10.28	Delivery of Park and Ride -	The delivery of such infrastructure may lead to unintended environmental impacts, including dust, noise, water quality and traffic impacts, in the absence of good design or appropriate mitigation.	Delivery of Park and Ride - having due regard to planning and environmental protection considerations, including transport planning factors.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ 10.1	Completion of the Sustainable Transport Bridge between Ferrybank and Waterford City	The development of the bridge may have a wide variety of unintended negative environmental impacts in the absence of proper design and environmental mitigation, such as landscape and visual impacts, biodiversity related impacts, hydrological and water quality related impacts, and traffic and transport related impacts.	Completion of the Sustainable Transport Bridge between Ferrybank and Waterford City, subject to planning and environmental protection related requirements.
DZ 10.30	Continue to work with the NTA to provide infrastructure for the bus network - the city bus network will be electrified and extended within this period with input from the Council	This action will promote the use of public transport networks and better encourage modal shift away from ICE based vehicles - leading to positive effects on climate and local air quality. The minor works involved in developing bus stops and bus shelters are unlikely to lead to any significant environmental impact. The action may support the development of transport infrastructure, including infrastructure to facilitate the electrification of the bus network, such as cable routes or sub-station infrastructure.	Continue to work with the NTA to provide infrastructure for the bus network - the city bus network will be electrified and extended within this period with input from the Council. Promote integrated planning and consultation and adherence to planning and environmental protection requirements, including the appropriate consideration of available grid capacity, during projects supported by this action.

Table 5-2: Environmental Mitigation Measures related Environmental Governance Principles suggested for inclusion in the plan - specifically the plan implementation section

Promote climate action projects that support and maximise environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.
Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.
Ensure local authority development underpinned or supported by plan actions is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No local authority climate action related development project that is likely to have significant negative effects on the receiving environment shall be supported.
Promote - through control or influence as appropriate - the carrying out of flood resilience measures underpinned by plan actions in a manner that supports climate action-biodiversity related co-benefits, and which has due regard for the protection and enhancement of rare, protected or important habitats and species.
Promote the carrying out of climate action related projects supported by the plan in a manner that supports climate action-cultural heritage co-benefits, and which has due regard to cultural, archaeological or architectural features and sensitivities.
Promote the carrying out of climate action related projects underpinned by the plan in a manner that supports climate action water quality co-benefits, and the achievement of Water Framework Directive objectives.
Promote climate action projects that support protected trees, hedgerows and other habitats such as wetlands, floodzones which contribute to green infrastructure.
Support opportunities to improve and restore ecological connectivity of non-designated habitats and sites (including watercourse connectivity) to improve overall ecosystem resilience and functioning while supporting climate action within the county.
Ensure local authority projects supported by plan actions have taken the necessary precautions to identify and manage invasive species, particularly with regard to Schedule III species. No local authority climate action related development project that is likely to cause the spread of invasive species listed in Schedule III shall be supported. All supported projects shall align with the goal of appropriately protecting, restoring and enhancing terrestrial and aquatic habitat and conditions to support the promotion of native species).
Support opportunities to promote peatland restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance inclusive of biodiversity enhancement while achieving climate targets through the implementation of the climate actions within the plan.

6. CONCLUSION

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

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

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Waterford Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects[60]. 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.

[60] 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.

FEHILY TIMONEY

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APPENDIX 1

Background information to European sites

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

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
000077	Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC	This is a fine example of a relatively small estuarine system. Intertidal flats are well represented with a good diversity of macro-invertebrate species and range of intertidal biotopes. Atlantic salt meadows are particularly well-developed and currently extending in parts of site. Salicornia and other annuals of intertidal sand and mud flats also occur. The quality of habitats on the site is good though pollutants from surrounding agricultural catchment undoubtedly enter site. The site is very important for wintering waterfowl with over 20000 birds occurring at times. 11 species occur in numbers of national importance including Pluvialis apricaria (one of largest populations in the country) and Limosa lapponica. The ornithology of the site has been well studied.	This site comprises the estuary of the Womanagh River a substantial river which drains a large agricultural catchment. The site includes part of the tidal section of the river and extends out to the low tide mark. The inner part of the estuary is well sheltered by a stabilised sandy peninsula (Ring peninsula). Sediment types vary from muds and muddy sands in the inner part to fine rippled sands in the outer exposed part. The main channel is flanked by salt marshes and wet fields much of the latter being partly improved for agriculture. Usage of the site is low mainly comprising grazing in the grass fields and low-level recreation on the sandy beaches.
000668	Nier Valley Woodlands SAC	Woodlands show both primary and secondary successions in development towards an oak-dominated climax. Quality of woods diminished by regular grazing and regeneration is poor.	Site comprises a series of non-contiguous deciduous woodlands along the R. Nier and its tributaries. Betula spp. Corylus avellana and Quercus spp. are main species with Ilex aquifolium and Sorbus aucuparia. Parts of site are of heath and scrub. Dry grassland and wet grassland also occur. Good representation of Irish mammals and birds. Valley has amenity value and is a popular tourist destination.
001952	Comeragh Mountains SAC	This is the most south-easterly upland area in the country and supports a diverse range of upland habitats and species. Habitats of particular note are the oligotrophic lakes dry heaths and alpine heath. Many rare bryophytes are present including Drepanocladus vernicosus. Three bird species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive breed within the site - Falco peregrinus Circus cyaneus and Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax. The Red Data Book fish Salvelinus alpinus occurs in the lakes.	A medium sized upland site with a diversity of habitats including various heath types, oligotrophic lakes in coums backed by extensive cliff faces upland grassland a variety of rocky habitats and rivers with well developed aquatic flora. The blanket bog at this site is not considered a good example of the habitat. There is a small area of coniferous forestry present within the site. Roads have been developed near Mahon River for tourism purposes.
004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA	An important estuarine site which has an internationally important population of Branta bernicila hrota. It supports a further six species in numbers of national importance including Pluvialis apricaria Pluvialis squatarola Limosa limosa and Limosa lapponica.	The site is situated approximately 1 km east of Tramore Co. Waterford on the south-east coast. It comprises a shallow and sheltered intertidal area known as the Back Strand enclosed by a substantial sand spit Tramore Burrow. At low tide substantial areas of sand and mud flats are uncovered. Zostera is present and Spartina is well established.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		The population of Pluvialis squatarola is of particular note as it represents 4% of the national total. Egretta garzetta breeds locally and the Tramore Back Strand is their main feeding area. The site provides very good feeding areas for wintering waterfowl. High tide roosting sites however are limited. Wintering bird populations have been well monitored since the 1970s.	The intertidal flats merge in places with salt marsh vegetation. The main rivers which flow into the site are the Keiloge and Glendudda. The land to the north and east of the site is fairly intensive agricultural land while to the west the town of Tramore encroaches with the city landfill close to the site.
000697	Bannow Bay SAC	Site is important for presence of eleven habitats listed on Annex I of Habitats Directive. Halophilous scrub at the site is one of only two examples in the country. The legally protected Arthrocnemum perenne is found there. The site includes an important SPA. Internationally important numbers of Branta bernicla hrota found and nationally important numbers of Tadorna tadorna Anas acuta Calidris Vanellus vanellus Calidris alpina Limosa limosa islandica L. lapponica Tringa totanus and Plurialis apricaria Egretta garzetta Alcedo atthis and Sterna albifrons are found and possibly breed in the site. A substantial heronry is located at south-west of site.	Relatively large estuarine site on south-east coast of Ireland. Typical coastal estuary with large areas of mud and sand and restricted access to the sea. Small rivers and streams to the north and south-west flow into the bay. The southern end of the site supports a mosaic of sand dune types, sea cliffs of clay and rock and extensive sandy beaches. Northern end supports freshwater habitats of marsh wet woodland and non-tidal reedbed. The geology of the site is mainly Ordovician slate rocks with some Cambrian slate at the south-east.
004032	Dungarvan Harbour SPA	This site qualifies for international importance as waterfowl numbers regularly exceed 20000. It also qualifies as it supports internationally important populations of Branta bernicla hrota Limosa limosa and Limosa lapponica. The Limosa lapponica population is one of the largest in the country comprising 6.0% of the national total. A further eleven species have populations of national importance notably Pluvialis squatarola (5.9% of total) Pluvialis apricaria (3.3% of total) Calidris alpina (3.6% of total) Calidris canutus (2.8% of total) and Tadorna tadorna (3.6% of total). The site provides high quality feeding areas and good roost sites. At high tides however roosts outside of the site area are also used. Overall, this is the most important site for waterfowl in County Waterford and is one of the most important in the region.	The site is a large east-facing bay sheltered on the south by Helvick Head and Ballynacourty Point to the north. A narrow north-south shingle spit which almost divides the bay in two provides very sheltered conditions for the inner part of the site. The bay is essentially the estuaries of three main rivers the Brickey the Colligan and the Glendine. At low tide very extensive intertidal sand and mud flats are exposed. These have a diverse macro-invertebrate fauna and Zostera is present. Salt marshes often fringe the intertidal flats especially in the more sheltered areas. The site includes a substantial area of shallow marine water in outer Dungarvan Harbour.
004033	Bannow Bay SPA	Bannow Bay supports an excellent diversity of wintering waterfowl and is one of the most important sites in the south-east. Of particular note is an internationally important population of Branta bernicla hrota.	Bannow Bay is a large very sheltered estuarine system with a narrow outlet to the sea. Very extensive intertidal mud and sand flats are exposed at low tide with an average width of about 2 km. A number of small to medium sized rivers flow into the site the principal being the Owenduff and the Corock which enter at the top end of the estuary.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		It also supports nationally important numbers of a further 12 species which includes 3.4% of the national total for Tadorna tadorna 3.0% of the total for Limosa limosa 2.6% of the total for Limosa lapponica and 2.6% of the total for Anas acuta. The intertidal sand and mud flats provide excellent feeding for waterfowl species while suitable roosts are provided by the salt marshes and other shoreline habitats. Habitats are generally of good quality. Part of site is a Wildfowl Sanctuary. The site has been well monitored since the 1970s.	The sediments have a rich macroinvertebrate fauna with such species as Scrobicularia plana Hediste diversicolor and Arenicola marina being frequent. Salt marshes are well developed in the sheltered areas of the site. The main landuse within the site is shellfish farming. The site is surrounded by agricultural land of moderate to high intensity.
004118	Keeragh Islands SPA	The site has a nationally important breeding colony of Phalacorcorax carbo which is considered to be one of the largest in the country. The site was well monitored in the past though an up-to-date survey is urgently required. Larus gulls bred in the past and small numbers may still breed. The islands may be used as a night roost by wintering waterfowl from the mainland. The site is well isolated and with little disturbance.	The Keeragh Islands are two low-lying islets located just over 1 km offshore from the south Wexford coastline. The site includes the islets and associated rocky shorelines and reefs as well as the surrounding marine area to a distance of 200 metres. The islets which rise to a maximum height of about 9 m above sea level have very small areas of land permanently above the tide line. The vegetation is predominantly maritime in character with species such as Festuca rubra Armeria maritima Cochlearia officinalis and Silene vulgaris subsp. maritima. The surrounding reefs support a range of seaweeds.
000764	Hook Head SAC	The site has an important example of low-lying south-eastern cliffs of both clay and rock. Quality good. It is of high geological importance and a noted fossil site. It is of particular importance for marine habitats. Infralittoral bedrock communities are species rich (81 and 84 species in the upper infralittoral and 81 and 82 species in the lower infralittoral). Rare to scarce species include the sponge Stryphnus ponderosus; the hydroids Aglaophenia kirchenpaueri and Gymnangium montagui; the anemone Isozoanthus sulcatus; the nudibranch Crimora papillata; the ascidians Distomus variolosus and Stolonica socialis; and the red alga Schizymenia dubyi. Of particular interest is Schizymenia dubyi since Irish populations of this species appear to be concentrated in the south-east of the country. Circalittoral reef communities have good examples of Axinellid sponge communities.	The Hook peninsula is a long narrow low-lying headland which protrudes into the sea in a south-south-west direction on the eastern side of Waterford Harbour. The site includes Baginbun Head. There are c.15 km of coastline most of which has cliffs above a bedrock or boulder beach shoreline. The cliffs are mostly low usually not more than 10-20 m though they reach up to 30 m at Baginbun. The geology of the area is of high interest being an excellent example of the junction between Devonian Old Red Sandstone and overlying Carboniferous Limestone. Fossils are a feature of the limestone rock formations. A large area of the surrounding sea is included in the site. Under the surface of the water the reef has a north-east/south-west orientation and is typically strewn with boulders cobbles and patches of sand and gravel. It is exposed to prevailing wind and swells from the west. Tidal streams tend to be moderate but are strong in some areas.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		Notable species present are: Axinella dissimilis Aglaophenia kirchenpaueri Gymnangium montagui Alcyonium glomeratum Eunicella verrucosa and Crimora papillata. Sublittoral sediments populated by the burrowing sea cucumber Neopendactyla mixta are noteworthy because this type of community was only recorded seven times by the BioMar survey and the Amphiura securigera was only recorded at the Kenmare River in Co. Kerry and at Hook Head and the Saltee Islands in Co. Wexford. Has breeding Falco peregrinus and Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax and a small seabird colony (mostly Uria aalge).	
002123	Ardmore Head SAC	A small site though displaying fairly typical examples of the type of cliff and dry heath associated with the south coast of Ireland. Mostly of good quality though some damage from burning. Cliffs support seabird colonies notably Rissa tridactyla with 1.6% of national total. Also has Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax an Annex I Birds Directive species.	Situated on a small headland just east of the village of Ardmore on the west Waterford coastline the site includes a range of habitats from open marine water to cliff heath and dry grassland. The cliffs are of moderate height (up to 40 m) continuous and well indented. They form part of the Ardmore Syncline. The dry heath is of the shrubby type dominated by Calluna vulgaris but with Ulex gallii and Erica cinerea. A footpath occurs along the top of the cliffs. In addition, St. Declan's holy well and church is within the site.
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	This site contains a range of Annex I habitats including floating river vegetation eutrophic tall herbs alluvial forest old oak woods yew woods and salt meadows. The site is very important for the presence of a number of scarce and specialised Annex II animal species with particularly important populations of the fish species Salmo salar and Alosa fallax fallax. Lutra lutra is widespread on the system as is Austropotamobius pallipes. The site supports two Annex I priority and five non-priority Annex I habitats. There are four Annex I species of birds present within the site. The rare lichen Lobaria pulmonaria an ancient woodland indicator occurs at Portlaw Oak Woods within the site.	The Suir River system flows through the counties of Tipperary Kilkenny and Waterford. The site consists of all of the freshwater stretches of the Suir immediately south of Thurles the tidal stretches as far as the confluence with the Barrow/Nore immediately east of Cheekpoint in Co. Waterford and many of the tributaries including the Clodiagh the Lingaun Anner Nier Tar Aherlow and Multeen. Much of the system flows through Carboniferous limestone though towards Waterford the geology changes to Old Red Sandstone and Ordovician bedrocks. The site supports a diverse range of habitats including marsh reedbeds wet and dry grasslands broad-leaved semi-natural woodlands salt marshes tidal rivers and estuarine channels. Substantial areas of improved grassland and arable lands are included for water quality reasons.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
002324	Glendine Wood SAC	This is an extremely important site for Trichomanes speciosum with 22 sporophyte gametophyte and mixed generation colonies currently known. Colony size is on average greater than is found elsewhere with the result that in comparison to other sites a very large area is occupied by the species. A very large number of sporophyte fronds of all types (sterile fertile juvenile young unfurling) have been recorded. Habitat is a classic deep ravine which is well-wooded. Site also has Meles meles a Red Data Book species and the river supports Cinclus cinclus.	Site lies 3-4 km north-east of Dungarvan in Co. Waterford. It consists of a steep-sided narrow ravine cut through a low ridge of Old Red Sandstone by the Glendine River. Woodland covers the valley sides and the land to the east and west of the mouth of the ravine. The woodland within the ravine is mostly mixed deciduous dominated by Fraxinus excelsior and Corylus avellana. The field layer is rich and varied with ferns forming a distinctive feature. Above the ravine the woodland is dominated by dense stands of the introduced Prunus laurocerasus. Small cliffs are exposed in part of the ravine.
004094	Blackwater Callows SPA	The site is of high importance for wintering waterfowl. It supports an internationally important population of Cygnus cygnus and nationally important populations of Anas penelope Anas crecca and Limosa limosa. The population of Limosa limosa has exceeded the threshold for international importance at times. Formerly it had a regular population of Cygnus columbarius bewickii but this no longer occurs reflecting a contraction of range at a national level. Egretta garzetta breeds locally and this species is now a regular visitor to the site. The Blackwater system is an important salmonid fishery and is of high conservation value for Salmo salar. It also supports important populations of Lampetra planeri L. fluviatilis Petromyzon marinus and Alosa fallax fallax. Lutra lutra is widespread throughout the site	The site comprises a 23 km stretch of the River Blackwater running in a west to east direction between Fermoy and Lismore. It includes the river channel and strips of seasonally flooded grassland within the flood plain. Sandstone ridges parallel to the river confine the area of flooding to a relatively narrow corridor. The lower stretch from Ballyduff to Lismore is more subject to flooding than the upper part. The river channel has a well-developed aquatic community along with emergent swamp vegetation in places. Most of the land above the banks is improved for agriculture with only occasional areas of fringing marshland wet grassland and wet woodland (mostly Salix spp.) still present. Some arable areas occur.
004192	Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA	The low heath and agricultural farmland on the cliff tops provide good foraging habitat for Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax; the site is also important for Falco peregrinus. In addition, the site has important breeding seabird populations centred around Helvick Head.	Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA is a linear site situated on the south-west coast of Co. Waterford. It includes the sea cliffs and land adjacent to the cliff edge between Helvick Head in the east and Ballyquin townland in the south-west. The high water mark forms the seaward boundary except around Helvick Head where the adjacent sea area to a distance of 500 m from the cliff base is included.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
000404	Hugginstown Fen SAC	The site supports an important example of alkaline fen vegetation and is considered one of best sites in the south-east region. It has a diverse vegetation including some scarce plants such as Oenanthe fistulosa. The site is in a fairly natural state and quality is generally good. Some rare insects have been recorded notably Lestes dryas and Parhelophilus consimilis. Rana temporaria is common at the site.	The site occupies a narrow low-lying basin on limestone glacial till overlying acid Old Red Sandstone. It comprises a relatively large wetland dominated by swamp and fen vegetation. The wetland has a small catchment and is partly fed by iron rich springs. The northern part of the site is dominated by Phragmites swamp but much of the remainder consists of species-rich fen partly developed on floating mats of Carex diandra with beds of Typha latifolia or Phragmites scattered throughout and especially adjacent to spring areas. Species-rich Junco-Molinion grassland occurs in drained areas at the southern and northern ends of the site and around the margins at the peat-mineral interface. Surrounding land is mainly improved grassland used for pasture.
000646	Galtee Mountains SAC	One of the highest inland mountain ranges in Ireland with extensive areas of dry heath alpine heath montane blanket bog and upland grassland including species-rich nardus grassland. The cliffs above the corries support arctic-alpine vegetation including the Red Data species Cardaminopsis petraea in one of its two Irish localities and several other notable Irish varieties. Site contains two known territories of Falco peregrinus.	An inland mountain range reaching 920m derived from folding of old red sandstone and silurian rocks with a series of small corrie lakes on the northern side and encompassing the headstreams of numerous tributaries of the river Suir. Site includes high level montane blanket bog alpine heath dry heath and montane cliffs.
000665	Helvick Head SAC	The site supports typical examples of vegetated sea cliffs and coastal Erica-Ulex dry heath with a south to south-east facing aspect. Both habitats have good structures and are functioning well. Helvick Head is an important seabird colony and has a nationally important breeding population of Rissa tridactyla and regionally important numbers of Fulmarus glacialis Larus argentatus Uria aalge Alca torda and Cepphus grylle. The site supports Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax though suitable nesting and foraging habitat is limited and is a traditional nesting site for Falco peregrinus.	Helvick Head is at the tip of an east-north-east facing promontory on the southern side of Dungarvan Harbour. It forms the eastern extremity of a broad sandstone ridge which extends west as far as Cork City and is the most northern of the (Hercynian) parallel folds in the rocks of the south-west of Ireland. The beds of rock dip quite steeply at this point so that the cliffs which rise to over 60 m are formed of a series of semi-vertical ribs with small gullies between them especially at the eastern end. The site extends over 3.5 km of coastline from Helvick Head to Muggort's Bay. In addition to dry heath and sea cliffs the site comprises dry grassland rocky shore and some shingle. A marine area to a distance of 500 m from the cliff base occurs in the eastern part of the site and is for the benefit of nesting seabirds.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
000671	Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC	Tramore dunes are a fine example of a sand spit developed on a shingle ridge and represents one of the few dunes systems on the south coast of Ireland. The fixed dunes are substantial in area though species diversity is low due to the absence of grazing. The fixed dunes are complemented by small though good examples of shifting marram dunes and embryonic dunes. The salt marshes are of the lagoon type a rare type in Ireland and both Atlantic and Mediterranean communities are well represented. The intertidal sand and mud flats are of moderate size and have Zostera communities. Five Red Data Book plant species have been known from the site and one Polygonum maritimum has its only Irish station here. Site supports important wintering waterfowl populations with Branta bernicla hrota in international numbers and seven other species in numbers of national importance. Two species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive occur - Pluvialis apricaria and Limosa lapponica.	Site is situated approximately 1 km east of Tramore Co. Waterford on the south-east coast. Site comprises a shallow and sheltered intertidal area known as the Back Strand enclosed by a substantial sand spit Tramore Burrow. The extreme inner part of the intertidal area is particularly well sheltered as it is bounded by an embankment with a narrow gap. Here salt marsh vegetation Spartina swards and communities of Salicornia and other annuals thrive. The spit is dominated by a substantial dune system and on the seaward side there is a fine sandy beach with a shingle element. The land to the north and east of the site is fairly intensive agricultural land while to the west the town of Tramore encroaches with the city landfill adjacent to the site. Recreational activities is the main landuse within the site.
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	The site supports many Annexed habitats including the priority habitats of alluvial woodland and petrifying springs. Quality of habitat is generally good. The site also supports a number of Annex II animal species - Salmo salar Margaritifera margaritifera M.m. durrovensis Alosa fallax fallax Austropotamobius pallipes Petromyzon marinus Lutra lutra Lampetra fluviatilis and L. planeri. Annex I Bird species include Anser albifrons flavirostris Falco peregrinus Cygnus cygnus Cygnus columbianus bewickii Limosa lapponica Pluvialis apricaria and Alcedo atthis. A range of rare plants and invertebrates are found in the woods along these rivers and rare plants are also associated with the saltmarsh.	This site consists of most of the freshwater stretches of the Barrow/Nore River catchments. The Barrow is tidal as far upriver as Graiguenamanagh while the Nore is tidal as far upriver as Inishtioge. The site also includes the extreme lower reaches of the River Suir and all of the estuarine component of Waterford Harbour extending to Creadan Head. The larger of the many tributaries include the Lerr Fushoge Mountain Aughavaud Owenass Boherbaun and Stradbally Rivers of the Barrow and the Delour Dinin Erkina Owveg Munster Arrigle and King's Rivers on the Nore. Both rivers rise in the Old Red Sandstone of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. They traverse limestone bedrock for a good proportion of their routes though the middle reaches of the Barrow and many of the eastern tributaries run through Leinster Granite. A wide range of habitats associated with the rivers are included within the site including substantial areas of woodland (deciduous mixed) dry heath wet grassland swamp and marsh vegetation salt marshes a small dune system biogenic reefs and

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
			intertidal sand and mud flats. Areas of improved grassland arable land and coniferous plantations are included in the site for water quality reasons.
002170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	The site supports important examples of a range of Annex I habitats notably estuaries intertidal mudflats and sandflats perennial vegetation of stony banks salt meadows floating river vegetation alluvial forests and oak woodlands. Most of these are of good quality and extensive in area. The Blackwater system is an important salmonid fishery and is of high conservation value for Salmo salar. Also supports important populations of Lampetra planeri L. fluviatilis Petromyzon marinus and Alosa fallax fallax. Substantial populations of Margaritifera margaritifera occur while Austropotamobius pallipes is found in the Awbeg River. Lutra lutra is widespread throughout the site and has been subject to detailed surveys. Trichomanes speciosum occurs at one location. Annex I bird species present in the site include breeding Egretta garzetta Alcedo atthis and Falco peregrinus and wintering cygnus cygnus and Pluvialis apricaria. A good diversity of other winter waterfowl species also occurs.	The River Blackwater is one of the largest rivers in Ireland draining a major part of Co. Cork and parts of Cos. Kerry Limerick Tipperary and Waterford. The site consists of most of the freshwater stretches of the system as well as the estuarine component at Youghal. Tidal influence extends almost to Cappoquin. The Blackwater rises in the east Kerry uplands where Namurian grits and shales build the low heather-covered plateaux. In the lowlands in the Mallow district, it passes over limestone and later cuts through ridges of Old Red Sandstone to the south of Cappoquin. Main tributaries include the Rivers Lickey Bride Allow and Awbeg. A wide range of habitats associated with the rivers are included within the site including substantial areas of woodland (deciduous mixed) scrub wet grassland swamp and marsh vegetation bog salt marshes and intertidal sand and mud flats. Areas of improved grassland arable land and coniferous plantations are included in the site for water quality reasons.
004022	Ballycotton Bay SPA	The site supports an excellent diversity of wintering waterfowl species and has nationally important populations of nine species: Anas crecca Charadrius hiaticula Pluvialis apricaria Pluvialis squatarola Vanellus vanellus Limosa limosa Limosa lapponica Numenius arquata and Arenaria interpres. Formerly it was of importance for Cygnus columbianus bewickii but the birds have abandoned the site since the reversion of the lagoonal habitat to estuarine conditions. Ballycotton Bay is also important for wintering gulls especially Larus fuscus in autumn and early-winter. Larus fuscus and Larus canus occur in numbers of national importance. Passage waders such as Philomachus pugnax and Calidris minuta are regular especially in autumn. The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the waterfowl species.	Situated on the south coast Ballycotton Bay is an east-facing coastal complex which stretches northwards from Ballycotton towards Garryvoe a distance of c. 3 kilometres. The site is characterised by two sheltered inlets which receive the flows of several small rivers. The southern inlet had been lagoonal in character (Ballycotton Lake) but breaching of the shingle barrier in recent times has seen the area revert back to estuarine conditions. The principal habitat is intertidal sandflats which are mostly well exposed. Sandy beaches are well represented. Salt marshes fringe the flats in the sheltered inlets, and these provide high tides roosts. Fringes of Phragmites australis occur where there are freshwater influences.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		Acrocephalus scirpaceus breeds at the site which is near the western edge of the range of the species in Ireland. Wintering bird populations are well monitored. The Red Data Book plant Crambe maritima occurs.	The site includes some marginal grassland fields which are used by a range of waterfowl species. A small area of shallow marine water is also included.
004023	Ballymacoda Bay SPA	Ballymacoda Bay is the second most important site for wintering waterfowl on the south coast after Cork Harbour. The site has internationally important numbers of Limosa limosa and Larus fuscus and is the most important site in the country for Larus fuscus during autumn. Nationally important numbers of a further 16 species are found in the site. Of particular note is that it holds 9.6% of the national total for Pluvialis apricaria 9.2% of the total for Pluvialis squatarola 4.3% for Limosa lapponica and 3.2% for Calidris alpina. Ballymacoda Bay is a regular site for passage waders such as Philomachus pugnax Calidris ferruginea and Numenius phaeopus. It is also an important site for wintering gulls especially Larus canus. The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the waterfowl species and habitat quality for most of the estuarine habitats is very good. Wintering bird populations have been well monitored since the 1970s.	The site comprises of the estuary of the Womanagh River a substantial river which drains a large agricultural catchment. The inner part of the site is well sheltered by a stabilised sandy peninsula (Ring peninsula) and includes the tidal section of the river as far as Crompaun Bridge. Sediments here are mostly muds or muddy sands and salt marshes are well developed. The outer part of the site is well exposed and sediments here are mostly fine rippled sands. An area of shallow marine water is included. Usage of the site is low with low-level recreation on the sandy beaches.
004028	Blackwater Estuary SPA	The Blackwater Estuary is of high ornithological importance for wintering waterfowl providing good quality feeding areas for a diversity of waterfowl species. At high tide the birds roost along the shoreline and salt marsh fringe. The site supports an internationally important population of Limosa limosa (over 5% of the national total). It supports a further eight species in numbers of national importance: Tadorna tadorna Anas penelope Pluvialis apricaria Vanellus vanellus Calidris alpina Numenius arquata Tringa totanus and Tringa nebularia. A population of Limosa lapponica exceeds the threshold for national importance in some winters. Egretta garzetta breeds locally and the Blackwater Estuary is a main feeding area. The site is important for gulls and attracts substantial numbers of Larus fuscus in autumn and winter. The Blackwater Estuary has been well-studied with waterfowl counts extending back to 1974.	The Blackwater Estuary SPA is a relatively small, sheltered south-facing estuary which extends from below Youghal Bridge to the Ferry Point peninsula close to where the river enters the sea. It comprises a section of the main channel of the River Blackwater. At low tide intertidal flats are exposed. On the eastern side the intertidal channel extending as far as Kinsalebeg and Moord Crossroads is included while on the west side the site includes much of the estuary of the Tourig River. The intertidal sediments are mostly muds or sandy muds reflecting the sheltered conditions of the estuary. The sediments have a macrofauna typical of muddy sands with polychaete worms and bivalves well-represented. Salt marshes occur along the sheltered inlets. A low-lying field which provides an important roost is included.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
004193	Mid-Waterford Coast SPA	This site supports a nationally important population of breeding Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax a Red Data book species. 24 breeding pairs were recorded in the 1992 survey and 20 in the 2002/03 survey. The site supports an important Falco peregrinus population (7 pairs in 2002). The site also holds nationally important populations of Phalacrocorax carbo (79 pairs) and Larus argentatus (147 pairs) as well as smaller numbers of other breeding seabirds.	The Mid-Waterford Coast SPA encompasses the areas of high coast and sea cliffs in Co. Waterford between Newtown Cove to the east and Ballyvoyle to the west. The site includes the sea cliffs and the land adjacent to the cliff edge. The high water mark forms the sea boundary. The site is underlain by Devonian sandstones siltstones mudstones and conglomerates as well as a variety of volcanic rocks of Ordovician age. Sea cliffs are the predominant habitat of the site; these occur along its length and are generally well-vegetated by a suite of typical sea cliffs species. Above the cliffs are areas of heath improved grassland unimproved wet and dry grassland and woodland. Landuse is predominately grazing by stock, but some arable farming is also carried out.

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

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000077	Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Estuaries [1130], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	E01.03, F03.02, A04, F03.01, F02.03, G02.07, G01.02, A08, K02.03, I01, F02.03.01	Dispersed habitation, Taking and removal of animals (terrestrial), Grazing, Hunting, Leisure fishing, Sports pitch, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Fertilisation, Eutrophication (natural), Invasive non-native species, Bait digging or collection
000404	Hugginstown Fen SAC	Alkaline fens [7230]	A08, A04, B02	Fertilisation, Grazing, Forest and Plantation management & use
000646	Galtee Mountains SAC	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], European dry heaths [4030]	G01.04.01, A10.01, G01.03.02, X, J01, A04.01.02, G01.02, J02.11	Mountaineering & rock climbing, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Off-road motorized driving, No threats or pressures, Fire and fire suppression, Intensive sheep grazing, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits
000665	Helvick Head SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	A04, J01	Grazing, Fire and fire suppression
000668	Nier Valley Woodlands SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	X, B, A04, I01	No threats or pressures, Sylviculture, forestry, Grazing, Invasive non-native species

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000671	Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	F02.03, I01, A04, E03, F03.01, G02.08, G01.02, E01, C01.01.02, F02.03.01	Leisure fishing, Invasive non-native species, Grazing, Discharges, Hunting, Camping and caravans, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Removal of beach materials, Bait digging or collection
000697	Bannow Bay SAC	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi) [1420], Estuaries [1130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	E03.01, X, F02.03.01, E03, K01.01, D01.01, G01.03.02, I01, F01.01, J02.02, B01, C01.01.02, J02.11.01	Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, No threats or pressures, Bait digging or collection, Discharges, Erosion, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Off-road motorized driving, Invasive non-native species, Intensive fish farming, intensification, Removal of sediments (mud...), Forest planting on open ground, Removal of beach materials, Dumping, depositing of dredged deposits
000764	Hook Head SAC	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Reefs [1170]	F02, J02.11.01, K01.01, X, G01.07	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Erosion, No threats or pressures, Scuba diving, snorkelling
001952	Comeragh Mountains SAC	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110], Slender green feather-moss (Hamatocaulis vernicosus) [6216], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], European dry heaths [4030], Water	K01.01, J01, A04, B, G01.02, D01.02, E06, C01.03, I01, E02	Erosion, Fire and fire suppression, Grazing, Sylviculture, forestry, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Roads, motorways, other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities, Peat extraction, Invasive non-native species, Industrial or commercial areas

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260]		
002123	Ardmore Head SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	G05, A04, F02.01.02, E01.03, J01, D01.02, G01.02	Other human intrusions and disturbances, Grazing, Netting, Dispersed habitation, Fire and fire suppression, Roads, motorways, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) [1092], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Twaite shad (Alosa fallax) [1103], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095]	A01, D03.01, J02.01, A08, E01, J02.12.02, X, I01, B, J02.01.02, E03, H01	Cultivation, Port areas, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Fertilisation, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, No threats or pressures, Invasive non-native species, Sylviculture, forestry, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Discharges, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Killarney fern (Trichomanes speciosum) [1421], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Estuaries [1130], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Nore Pearl Mussel (Margaritifera durrovensis) [1990], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) [1092], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Water	B05, E02, J02, J02.12.02, A10.01, J02.06, B02.01.01, F02, F01.01, J03.02.01, H01, A02.01, B02, F02.03, C01.01.01,	Use of fertilizers (forestry), Industrial or commercial areas, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Water abstractions from surface waters, Forest replanting (native trees), Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Intensive fish farming, intensification , Reduction in migration or migration barriers, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Agricultural intensification, Forest and

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], European dry heaths [4030], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Desmoulin`s whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Reefs [1170], Twaite shad (Alosa fallax) [1103]	A04.01.01, B07, M01, K01.01, F02.01.02, D03.01, J02.05.02, J02.02.01, I01, C01.03	Plantation management & use, Leisure fishing, Sand and gravel quarries, Intensive cattle grazing, Forestry activities not referred to above, Changes in abiotic conditions, Erosion, Netting, Port areas, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Dredging or removal of limnic sediments, Invasive non-native species, Peat extraction
002170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Estuaries [1130], White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) [1092], Killarney fern (Trichomanes speciosum) [1421], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Twaite shad (Alosa fallax) [1103]	G02, J02.01, A04, D01.02, F02.03, B, G01.01, C01.01, A08, E01, I01, D01.04, E03.01, K01.01, A03, E02	Sport and leisure structures, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Grazing, Roads, motorways, Leisure fishing, Sylviculture, forestry, Nautical sports, Sand and gravel extraction, Fertilisation, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Invasive non-native species, Railway lines, TGV, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Erosion, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Industrial or commercial areas
002324	Glendine Wood SAC	Killarney fern (Trichomanes speciosum) [1421]	A04, D01.02, B, K05, E01.03	Grazing, Roads, motorways, Sylviculture, forestry, Reduced fecundity or genetic depression, Dispersed habitation
004022	Ballycotton Bay SPA	Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999],	E01, J02.01.02, A04, K01.01, A08, G01.02	Urbanised areas, human habitation, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Grazing, Erosion, Fertilisation, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052]		
004023	Ballymacoda Bay SPA	Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144]	F03.01, G01.02, A04, A08, I01	Hunting, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Grazing, Fertilisation, Invasive non-native species
004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA	Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046]	E01, G01.02, H, A08, A04, E03, I01	Urbanised areas, human habitation, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Pollution, Fertilisation, Grazing, Discharges, Invasive non-native species
004028	Blackwater Estuary SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162]	D01.02, F03.01, E01, A04, F02.03, G01.01, A08	Roads, motorways, Hunting, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Grazing, Leisure fishing, Nautical sports, Fertilisation
004032	Dungarvan Harbour SPA	Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Curlew (Numenius	E01, G01.02, A08, F01, F02.03	Urbanised areas, human habitation, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Fertilisation, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Leisure fishing

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		arquata) [A160], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141]		
004033	Bannow Bay SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141]	A04, D01.02, F03.01, A08, G01, E01.03, F01	Grazing, Roads, motorways, Hunting, Fertilisation, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Dispersed habitation, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture
004094	Blackwater Callows SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052]	F02.03, A08, E01, A04	Leisure fishing, Fertilisation, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Grazing
004118	Keeragh Islands SPA	Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017]	X	No threats or pressures
004192	Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA	Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188], Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) [A103], Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346], Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184]	K01.01, I01, X, G01.03	Erosion, Invasive non-native species, No threats or pressures, Motorised vehicles
004193	Mid-Waterford Coast SPA	Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) [A103], Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346], Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184]	A04, E05, A04.03, A02, E04.01	Grazing, Storage of materials, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Modification of cultivation practices, Agricultural structures, buildings in the landscape

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

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

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	[1140]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
Large shallow inlets and bays	[1160]	Pressures on the habitat include nutrient enrichment, dredging and invasive alien species. Overall Status is assessed as Bad and deteriorating, a genuine decline since the 2013 assessment of Inadequate and improving and is based on more detailed information.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity, surface water runoff, discharge etc. On site management activities.
Reefs	[1170]	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Annual vegetation of drift lines	[1210]	Grazing; sand and gravel extraction; recreational activities; coastal protection works.	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	[1220]	Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
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.
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.
Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	[1330]	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (Spartina anglica); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Otter (Lutra lutra)	[1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); hunting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)	[1410]	Over-grazing by cattle or sheep; infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)	[1420]	Area losses, associated with algal mats formed as a consequence of water pollution, which resulted in a contraction of the range of the habitat.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Killarney Fern (Trichomanes speciosum)	[1421]	Threatened by habitat loss, deliberate collection, encroachment of invasive or vigorous species, or indirectly by water pollution, removal of woodland or alteration of watercourses.	Land use management and direct impacts.
River Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel (Margaritifera durrovensis)	[1990]	In stream works, hydrological and morphological alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due urbanisation etc. Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
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.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes (Ammophila arenaria)	[2120]	Recreation and coastal defences, which may interfere with local sediment dynamics.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	[2130]	Recreation; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing: non-native plant species, particularly sea buckthorn (Hippophae rhamnoides).	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)	[3110]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; wastewater; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation (Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion)	[3260]	Hydrological and morphological changes, water quality, enrichment, and surface water discharges from industrial site and/or agriculture.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	[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.
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.
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.
Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	[6230]	Bracken encroachment, succession, inappropriate grazing, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	[6430]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	[7130]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	[7220]	Ground water interactions, on site management activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Alkaline fens	[7230]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	[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.
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	[8210]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	[8220]	Pressures associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb (Epilobium brunnescens).	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	[91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	[91J0]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.

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

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A005	Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus cristatus	F01, F02, G01, H01, H03	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution
A017	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo carbo	C03, F02, F03, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A038	Whooper Swan	Cygnus cygnus	A02, A11, C03, D02, G01, H07	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other forms of pollution
A046	Light-Bellied Brent Goose	Branta bernicla hrota	A02, A11, C03, D02, F01, G01, G05, H03, H07, I01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other Human intrusions and disturbances , Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A048	Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	F01, F02, G01, H03, M01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions
A050	Eurasian Wigeon	Anas penelope	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, I01, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A052	Eurasian Teal	Anas crecca crecca	C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A054	Northern Pintail	Anas acuta	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A069	Red-Breasted Merganser	Mergus serrator	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A103	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus peregrinus	C03, F03, J03, M02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in biotic conditions
A130	Eurasian Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A137	Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A140	European Golden Plover	Pluvialis apricaria	A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Forest planting on open ground, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Fire and Fire suppression, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A141	Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A142	Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	A02, C03, F01, G01, H03	Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A143	Knot	Calidris canutus	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A144	Sanderling	Calidris alba	C03, F01, G01, H03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions
A149	Dunlin	Calidris alpina	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A156	Black-Tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa islandica	A02, C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A157	Bar-Tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A160	Curlew	Numenius arquata arquata	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A162	Common Redshank	Tringa totanus	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A169	Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres	C03, F01, G01, H03, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A179	Black-Headed Gull	Larus ridibundus	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A182	Common Gull	Larus canus	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A183	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	Larus fuscus graellsii	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A184	European Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A188	Kittiwake	Rissa tridactyla	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution
A346	Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	A02, A04, E06, G01	Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities

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APPENDIX 2

Relationship with other plans and programmes

This appendix is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of inter-related Plans or Programmes, 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 Plan or Programme, Directive or Regulation 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	• 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	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	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.	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.	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	• Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. • Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. • Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. • Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.	• Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. • Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. • Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. • Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	• 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).	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.	• 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.	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Bathing Water Directive (revised) 2006 [2006/7/EC]	The purpose of this Directive is to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing Directive 2000/60/EC	This Directive lays down provisions for: • the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; • the management of bathing water quality; and • the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial	The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy;	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
emissions	land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection.	• metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Renewable Energy Directive (EU/2018/2001)	• This Directive sets an overall European renewable energy target of 32% by 2030 and includes rules to ensure the uptake of renewables in the transport sector and in heating and cooling. • The directive sets common principles and rules for renewable energy support schemes, sustainability criteria for biomass and the right to produce and consume renewable energy and to establish renewable energy	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	communities. • It also establishes rules to remove barriers, stimulate investments and drive cost reductions in renewable energy technologies and empowers citizens and businesses to participate in the clean energy transformation.	• Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.	
Directive 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)	This Directive establishes a common framework for the promotion of energy from renewable sources. It sets a binding European Union target for the overall share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030: Member States shall collectively ensure that the share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030 is at least 32%. Support schemes for energy from renewable sources shall be adopted by Member States. Provisions on joint projects between Member States and between Member States and third countries are laid down too.	The Directive lays down rules on financial support for electricity from renewable sources, on self-consumption of such electricity, on the use of energy from renewable sources in the heating and cooling sector and in the transport sector, on regional cooperation between Member States, and between Member States and third countries, on guarantees of origin, on administrative procedures and on information and training. It also establishes sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels. The latter include fuels produced from waste, from agricultural biomass and from forest biomass. The Commission shall monitor the origin of biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels consumed in the European Union and the impact of their production, including the impact as a result of displacement, on land use in the Union and in the main third countries of supply.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Energy Efficiency Directive (EU) 2023/1791	The new directive introduces a series of measures to help accelerate energy efficiency, including embracing the "energy efficiency first" principle in the energy and non-energy policies.	• Establishing an EU legally binding target to reduce the EU's final energy consumption by 11.7% by 2030 (relative to the 2020 reference scenario). This includes for each Member State the requirement to set its indicative national contribution based on objective criteria reflecting national circumstances. If the national contributions do not add up to the EU target, an ambition gap mechanism is applied by the Commission. • Increasing annual energy savings from 0.8% (at present) to 1.3% (2024-2025), then 1.5% (2026-2027) and 1.9% from 2028 onwards. That's an average of 1.49% of new annual savings for the period from 2024-2030. • Obliging Member States to prioritise vulnerable customers and social housing within the scope of their energy savings measures. • Introducing an annual energy consumption reduction target of 1.9% for the public sector as a whole. • Extending the annual 3% buildings renovation obligation to all the levels of public administration. • Introducing a different approach, based on energy consumption, for business to have an energy management system or to carry out an energy audit. • Bringing in a new obligation to monitor the energy performance of data centres, with an EU-level database collecting and publishing data. • Promoting local heating & cooling plans in larger municipalities. • Progressively increasing the efficient energy consumption in heat or cold supply, also in district	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		heating.	
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.	• The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas: • Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; • The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; • The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; • Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; • Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
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. This Act may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	The Marine Act sets out a new framework for Northern Ireland's seas based on a system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resource needs; improved management for marine nature conservation and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects. The main provisions of the Act are outlined below: • Marine Planning • Nature Conservation • Marine Licensing	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)	The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030 and contains specific actions and commitments.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: • Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at • sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. • An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. • A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision making. • Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.	
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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	• links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and • recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.	• sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them; • each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage; • encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	The Convention has three main goals: • the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); • the sustainable use of its components; and • the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
			towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change	It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.	The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 compliment 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) **Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)**	• The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). • Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. • Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing	• Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. • Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. • Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	compliance against limit values. • Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM_{10}) or up to five years (NO_2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. • The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	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.	protection and management.
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to: • Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; • Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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	• Dangerous Substances Directive		
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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 (2020/2184)	• The recast Drinking Water Directive is the EU's main law on drinking water. It concerns the access to, and the quality of water intended for human consumption to protect human health. • The EU adopted the recast Drinking Water Directive in December 2020 and the Directive entered into force in January 2021. Member States have to transpose the Directive into national law and comply with its provisions by 12 January 2023. The recast Drinking Water Directive will further protect human health thanks to updated water quality standards, tackling pollutants of concern, such as endocrine disruptors and microplastics, and leading to even cleaner water from the tap for all.	Key features of the revised Directive are: • reinforced water quality standards, in line or, in some cases, even more stringent than the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations • tackling emerging pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors and PFAs, as well as microplastics • a preventive approach favouring actions to reduce pollution at source by introducing the risk-based approach • measures to ensure better access to water, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups • measures to promote tap water, including in public spaces and restaurants, to reduce (plastic) bottle consumption • harmonisation of the quality standards for materials and products in contact with water • measures to reduce water leakages and to increase transparency of the sector	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	• This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. • The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.	• Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. • Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. • Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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		• The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. • The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. • The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. • The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the Guidelines. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing • knowledge and new needs.	
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 initial assessment of Irish marine waters; • Establishment of establish environmental targets and indicators; • Establishment of a monitoring programme; • Establishment of a programme of measures; and • Implementation of the 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	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		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.	
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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co- operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	• The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. • The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co- operation between states and regions.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and	It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.	• (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; • (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes;	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the

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Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')		• (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and • (IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research.	Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	• Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. • Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.		
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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Caucus. • Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. • Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		• 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.	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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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)(as amended)	Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.	The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely: • Registration, • Evaluation, • Authorisation; and • Restriction of chemicals. REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

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		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	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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
OSPAR Convention	The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.	OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies: • Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy • Eutrophication Strategy • Hazardous Substances Strategy • Offshore Industry Strategy • Radioactive Substances Strategy	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental

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		• 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.	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: 1. 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 2. 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; 3. the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); 4. the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 5. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.	• It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. • It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. • In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental

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			protection and management.
EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030 and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Commission's Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector as part of its Fisheries Policy Package	The main objectives of the measures defined in this communication are to promote the use of cleaner energy sources and reduce dependency on fossil fuels in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, in line with one of the ambitions of the European Green Deal to reach climate neutrality in the EU by 2050.	The communication defines various measures to support the sector in accelerating its energy transition, by improving fuel efficiency and switching to renewable, low-carbon power sources. A summary of the measures broadly proposed by the communication is presented below: • Creation of an Energy Transition Partnership for EU Fisheries and Aquaculture for the purpose of promoting collaboration and stakeholder engagement • Promotion of new innovative technologies and ways of operating • Improving energy efficiency Moving to renewable and zero or low-carbon energy sources (e.g., use of alternative fuels).	The communication noted the current dependency of the sector on fossil fuel based energy (e.g., marine diesel). It defines a vision for climate-neutral fisheries and aquaculture.

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National Level			
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan (2021 - 2030)	• The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. • The National 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.	The National Planning Framework published alongside the National Development Plan yields ten National Strategic Outcomes as follows: 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. Sustainable Mobility 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 6. High-Quality International Connectivity 7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage 8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	The core principle objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2022 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.	• Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. • There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. • Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects. • Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011	• The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	• The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. • These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. • Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009 (S.I 296 of 2009)	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	Actions: • Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). • Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. • Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2016 (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	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
S.I. No. 113/2022 - European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022	The purpose of the Regulations is to provide a basic set of measures to ensure the protection of waters, including drinking water sources, against pollution caused by nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural sources, with the primary emphasis on the management of livestock manures and other fertilisers. The set of measures also provide some basic safeguards against possible harmful impacts on water quality arising from agricultural expansion. This basic set of measures has been strengthened over the last two reviews and this new programme provides a further strengthened set of measures to help reduce nitrogen and phosphorus losses from agriculture and	The Regulations include measures such as: • Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited • Limits on the land application of fertilisers • Storage requirements for livestock manure; and • Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	contribute to improvements in water quality.		
National legislation transport the Industrial Emissions Directive: • Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, amended by the Protection of the Environment Act 2003; and • Environmental Protection Agency (Integrated Pollution Control) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment)(Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992)(Amendment) Regulations 2020 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. • European Union (Industrial	The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection. This legislation transposes the provision of the Directive	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Emissions) Regulations 2013 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing)Regulations 2013. Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013			
Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (S.I. 79 of 2008)	These Regulations provide for transposition of the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (Directive 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006) which aims: • To improve health protection for bathers • To establish a more pro-active approach to management of bathing waters, and • To promote increased public involvement and dissemination of information to the public.	• The Regulations establish a new classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications "poor", "sufficient", "good" and "excellent" and generally require that a classification of at least "sufficient" be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters. • Local authorities must take appropriate measures with a view to improving waters which are classified as "poor" and increasing the number of bathing waters classified as "good" or "excellent". • A permanent advice against bathing must be issued in a case where a bathing water is classified as "poor" for five consecutive years. • Local authorities are required annually to identify bathing waters, establish a monitoring calendar, carry out the specified monitoring, report the results to the EPA, carry out appropriate management measures where necessary and provide information to the public. • There must be public participation in the identification of waters and the general implementation of the Regulations.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		• The EPA is required by the Regulations to classify bathing waters, generally on the basis of the monitoring results for the four preceding bathing seasons, and to publish an annual report in relation to bathing water quality. • Monitoring by local authorities is to commence not later than 2011 with a view to ensuring that a classification is assigned to bathing waters not later than 2015. • Private controllers of access lands may be required to contribute towards the costs incurred by a local authority or the EPA.	
Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I 351 of 2011)	This Regulation defines further the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment.	Further defines the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 (Amendment) Act 2021	An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.	When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to: • The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		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.	
Climate Action Plan 2023	The Climate Action Plan 2023 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.	The Plan lists the actions needed to deliver on our climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated annually, to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024)	• National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). • The first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also included a	The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation: • To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development; • To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs; • Greater partnerships for the Goals;	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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	'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.	• To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and • Strong reporting mechanisms	
Clean Air Strategy for Ireland (2023)	The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	• Through this document Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. • The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. • The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. • In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount, this is a strong theme of the Strategy.	Implementation of the Guidelines need to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EirGrid 's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017 - 2022	• EirGrid 's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland. • "Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."	Grid25, EirGrid 's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	• 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	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental

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	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.	activity tourism • to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, • domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; • Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; • Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and • Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.	protection and management.
National Water Resources Plan (2021)	• The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. • The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.	The key objectives of the plan are to: • Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions • Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry • Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources • Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events • Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water • Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies • Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development 2030	This multi-annual National Strategic Plan Sustainable Aquaculture Development (2022 – 2030) (NSPSA) overlaps with the EU's new 'Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030', as well as the programming period (2021 to 2027) of the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF). As such, this plan provides the strategic vision and framework for funding under EMFAF, as well as other EU and national initiatives.	• Develop 'Designated Marine Area Plans' (DMAPs) for aquaculture to ensure that the sector is championed in Ireland's Marine Spatial Plan to facilitate investment in different forms of sustainable aquaculture. • More vigilant and responsive monitoring if aquatic diseases and food safety risks. • Develop a comprehensive human capacity plan for Irish aquaculture to promote the sector as an attractive career option, develop leadership, management and business capacity in the sector and provide the necessary skills required over the strategy time period. • Provide coordinated messaging on the sustainable, low carbon nature of Irish aquaculture production, supported by independent certification and open dialogue.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	• Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. • The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.	This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: • A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; • Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; • The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; • Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; • Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		• 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.	
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and **National Landscape Character Assessment**	• The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. • Landscape Strategy Vision: "Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."	The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: • Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; • Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; • Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; • Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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) 2021 - 2027	This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the	The revised Plan makes 20 recommendations under the following topics: • Policy and Regulation • Prevention • Collection and Treatment	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

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	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.	• Implementation	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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Aviation Policy 2015	Specifically, the principal goals of this National Aviation Policy are: • To enhance Ireland's connectivity by ensuring safe, secure and competitive access responsive to the needs of business, tourism and consumers; • To foster the growth of aviation enterprise in Ireland to support job creation and position Ireland as a recognised global leader in aviation; and • To maximise the contribution of the aviation sector to Ireland's economic growth and development.	The National Aviation Policy commits to: • Maintaining safety as the number one priority in Irish aviation and ensuring that safety regulation is robust, effective and efficient; • Creating conditions to encourage the development of new routes and services, particularly to new and emerging markets; • Ensuring a high level of competition among airlines operating in the Irish market; • Optimising the operation of the Irish airport network to ensure maximum connectivity to the rest of the world; • Ensuring that the regulatory framework for aviation reflects best international practice and that economic regulation facilitates continued investment in aviation infrastructure at Irish airports to support traffic growth; • Supporting the aircraft leasing and aviation finance sectors to maintain Ireland's leading global position in these spheres; and • Maintaining a safe and innovative general aviation sector to support Ireland's broader aviation industry	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	The vision is: "A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility."	These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive: • Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life • Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities • Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing • Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Marine Planning Framework 2021	The NMPF is a key consideration for decision makers on all marine authorisations. The NMPF creates the overarching framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence based, and secures a sustainable future for the maritime area.	The National Marine Planning Framework is a succinct strategic document that will deal with, inter alia, the following environmental, social and economic issues: • Key marine activities such as fisheries, tourism, transport, offshore renewable energy generation, oil and gas exploration and production, aquaculture, and how they interact; • Climate change and related impacts; • Communities and health; • Cultural heritage; • Marine environment and biodiversity; • Transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: • Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year • net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; • 250,000 people employed in tourism; and • 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute

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			towards – in 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 Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan	• This Strategy will be published in 2024. • The plan sets out a 10-year plan for the growth of the tourism sector in Northern Ireland., with an aim to increase the value of tourism to the economy by 50-75% compared to 2019. • Vision is to "Establish Northern Ireland as a year-round world class destination which is renowned for its authentic experiences, landscape, heritage and culture and which benefits communities, the economy and the environment, with sustainability at its core." This Plan may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	The strategic goals and core themes of the Strategy are: • Innovative • Inclusive • Sustainable • Attractive • Collaborative The document identifies the key challenges and drivers for growth.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) 2021	• NIFTI is the Department of Transport's framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network to support the delivery of the National Strategic Outcomes. • The NIFTI will guide transport investment in the years ahead to enable the National Planning Framework, support the Climate Action Plan, and promote social, environmental and economic outcomes throughout Ireland.	The four investment priorities stated in NIFTI are: • Mobility of people and goods in urban areas. • Protection and renewal. • Enhanced regional and rural connectivity. • Decarbonisation.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 (including transport)	NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur	• Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. • Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance based actions. • Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. • Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning: • Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% • Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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Wildlife Act of 1976 **Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000**	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.	• Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems • Give statutory protection to NHAs • Enhances wildlife species and their habitats • Includes more species for protection	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan	Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.	• To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors. • To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. • To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. • To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		the successful implementation of these targets. • A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)	• Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process. • Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications. • Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels. • Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts.	• Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. • Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off. • Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains. • Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth. • Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders. • Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation • are complied with at all stages of flood risk management. The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	• Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. • Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. • Identifies the competent authorities in	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

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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)(as amended)**	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 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.	bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 to 1990	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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		• Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.	
Water Services Act 2007 **Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012** **Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013** **Water Services Act 2017**	• Provides the water services infrastructure. • Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. • Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply. • Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.	Key strategic objectives include: • Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. • Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services. • Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards • Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. • Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. • Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. • Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. • Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.	Implementation of the Guidelines need to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Irish Water's (now known as Uisce Eireann) Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated	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	Six strategic objectives as follows: • Meet Customer Expectations. • Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. • Provide Effective Management of Wastewater. • Protect and Enhance the Environment.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2020 - 2024)	short and medium term.	• Support Social and Economic Growth. • Invest in the Future.	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas 2017 - 2022	Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs	• Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. • Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Rural Development Programme	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	At a more detailed level, the programme also: • Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; • Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and • Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as • non-agricultural activities	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027	The new Forestry Programme 2023-2027 came into force in 2023, as soon as State Aid approval by the European Commission has been received. The new Programme sets out increased support for a number of schemes.	The proposed Forestry Programme 2023-2027 contains a series of eight different interventions: • Forest creation; • Agroforestry; • Infrastructure and technology investments; • Sustainable forest management; • Developing skills and empowering the forest sector for sustainable forest management; • Open forests - social, cultural and heritage forests; • Climate resilient reforestation; • Reconstruction.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
River Basin Management Plan	River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.	• Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. • Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. • Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. • Involve the public through consultations.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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		responsible. • 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.	
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows: • Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.	Three high level goals of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: • To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. • To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. • To ensure that bioenergy developments do not	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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		adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.	
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 2018/2001: 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Framework For Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Coastal Change Management Strategy	The Government has adopted a policy to assess and manage coastal flood risk with regard to both existing risk and the potential impacts of climate change. This strategy will: • Provide a framework to determine the key decisions to be taken on how Ireland could best manage its coast, being aware of the future risks and the associated planning requirements.	Recommendations: • Enhancing governance and capacity building (a dual approach of both mitigation and adaptation measures) • Understanding the risk and identifying potential risk management options Developing management (a dual approach of both mitigation (tackling the cause) and adaptation measures) to coastal change	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	• Provide a framework to best inform both where and how decisions regarding appropriate development / projects along the coast should be taken in the future, in coordination with investment in flood risk management.		
Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019)	• Heritage in Ireland ranges from private homes, commercial and public buildings, national monuments, underwater and buried archaeology and the physical and cultural settings of all of these. • This plan considers not only those structures and sites that have been statutorily listed, but all man-made assets that have historical, aesthetic and cultural value, but does not consider natural heritage. Aims to: • Build adaptive capacity within the sector • Reduce the vulnerability of built and archaeological heritage to climate change • Identify and capitalise on the various potential opportunities for the sector	The five adaptation goals for built and archaeological heritage in Ireland are: 1. To improve understanding of each heritage resource and its vulnerability to climate change 2. To develop and mainstream sustainable policies and plans for climate-change adaptation of built and archaeological heritage 3. To conserve Ireland's heritage for future generations 4. To communicate and transfer knowledge To exploit the opportunities for built and archaeological heritage to demonstrate value and secure resources	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.
Heritage related legislation: • National Monuments Act 1930 as amended; • Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and	• Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the LACAPs. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the LACAPs. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.

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Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999; and • The Heritage Act 2018.			
All-Island Strategic Rail Review	The Review aims to inform policy and future strategy for the railways in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland.	The Review sets out six high-level goals which aim to use rail as effectively as possible to: • contribute to decarbonisation; • improve All Island connectivity between major cities; • enhance regional accessibility; • stimulate economic activity; • encourage sustainable mobility; and achieve economic and financial feasibility.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.
Regional/ County/Local Level			
Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council. The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Waterford City and County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Tipperary County Council, Wexford County Council, Kerry County Council, Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council,	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council. The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its eight constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council, Leitrim County Council, Sligo County Council, Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, and Galway County Council.	
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. This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective.	Implementation of the Guidelines need to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2022-2042)	It sets out how transport will be developed across the region, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare, over the period of the strategy and has been approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in accordance with the relevant legislation. This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	They set out a number of core principles deriving from the strategic vision, which are: • Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, national, regional and local needs. • The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country. • The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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		World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance. • Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form. • Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form. • Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses.	
Transport Strategy for the Cork Metropolitan Area 2040	The Strategy addresses all transport modes, and its objective will be to provide a long-term strategic planning framework for the integrated development of transport infrastructure and services in the Cork Metropolitan Area, over the next two decades. This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	It will be used to inform transport investment levels and investment prioritisation over both the longer and shorter terms and will be able to inform sustainable integrated land use and transport policy formulation at the strategic (Metropolitan Area) level and at the local level.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan	• Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow • Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically • The Plan refers to the EuroVelo International Cycle Route Network of the European Cyclists Federation is a network of 15 long distance cycle routes connecting and uniting	Aims to identify and determine: • The Urban Cycle Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level • The Inter-Urban Cycle Network linking the relevant sections of the Urban Network including the elements of the National Cycle Network within the Greater Dublin Area including linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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	the whole European continent. Two of these routes are in Ireland • including EV2 from Galway through Dublin to London, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow. This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	ports • The Green Route Network being cycle routes for development of tourist, recreational and leisure purposes.	
Dublin to Galway Greenway Plan	• Develop a segregated cycling and walking trail to international standards, extending from Dublin City to Galway which is of a scale that will allow Ireland to harness the potential of an identified growing tourism market for cycling. • This route forms part of an interconnected National Cycle Network of high quality, traffic free, inter urban routes, which will establish Ireland as a quality international tourism destination for a broad range of associated recreational activities and pursuits. This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	To provide a segregated, substantially off road cycle route from Dublin City to Clifden via Galway City, maximising the use of – where feasible – existing and approved routes and disused railway line corridors and to also use existing plans and/or permitted projects where these have been subject to a consent process that has previously included the carrying out or screening for SEA, EIA and AA.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Transport Plans and Strategies	• Local Transport Plans and Strategies relevant to a particular local authority functional area provide a more granular framework for the delivery of sustainable transport systems in accordance with higher-level plans.	• To promote sustainable transport. • To promote integrated and proper transport planning. • To promote safe travel. • To promote active travel infrastructural development.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental

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		To encourage modal shift.	protection and management.
Water Quality Management Plans	• Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained. • Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope.	• Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards. • Outlines management programmes for water catchments. • Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Port Masterplans (such as Dublin Port Masterplan 2040 and 2017 Review)	• The Masterplan sets out a vision for the operations of the port and land utilisation. • The Masterplan is a non-statutory plan which has nonetheless been framed within the context of EU, national, regional and local development plan policies.	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site • To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives.	• Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. • These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the	Implementation of the Climate Action

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

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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Management Plans	• Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status.	• Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status.	environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans	• Produced by Local Authorities. • Outlines areas local flood risk. • Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level.	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes	Aims to improve water quality and ensure the protection or improvement of designated shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth and contribute to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man.	• Identifies key and secondary pressures on water quality in designated shellfish areas. • Outlines specific measures to address identified key and secondary pressures on water quality. • Addresses the specific pressures acting on water quality in each area.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional Waste Management Plans	These plans (for the Connacht-Ulster, Southern, and Eastern-Midlands regions) give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
			achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Noise Action Plans	The Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The main purpose of the Noise Action Plan 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	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.

FEHILY TIMONEY

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APPENDIX 3

Appropriate Assessment Screening of Plan Revisions

FEHILY TIMONEY

CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

AA Screening Report For Modifications To The Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029

Prepared for:

Waterford County Council

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

Date: **January 2024**

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Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for Modifications to the Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

User is responsible for Checking the Revision Status of This Document

Rev. No.	Description of Changes	Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Date:
1	Final	BF/AMW	AT	AT	12/01/2024

Client: Waterford County Council

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

Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this AA Screening Report for Modifications to the Local Authority Climate Action 2024 - 2029 to Waterford County Council.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This is the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report for modifications to the Waterford County Council (WCC) Local Authority Climate Action Plan (referred to as either the 'LACAP' or the 'Plan') 2024 - 2029.

Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 sets out the provisions governing the establishment and operation of a LACAP. The broad purpose of a LACAP will be to define adaptation and mitigation measures at local level to support the reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions within a local authority as an organization and throughout the local community. LACAPs shall be implemented over a five-year period.

1.2 Plan-making Process to Date

A draft version of the LACAP was prepared. This document was accompanied by a Draft Natura Impact Report (NIR) which considered, evaluated and presented the environmental effects of the Draft LACAP on European sites and presented mitigation measures to avoid or minimise identified effects. This AA process was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive[1] and transposing national legislation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was also undertaken on the Draft LACAP in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive[2] and transposing national legislation. A Draft SEA Environmental Report which considered the effects of the Draft LACAP on the environment was therefore prepared also. The Draft NIR suitably informed this report.

A period of consultation has been undertaken in relation to the Draft LACAP, the Draft SEA Environmental Report and the Draft NIR. Statutory environmental authorities, interested stakeholders and members of the public were invited to make submissions in connection with the Draft LACAP and the associated Draft SEA Environmental Report and Draft NIR.

All submissions made on this documentation have been reviewed by WCC. These submissions were taken into consideration prior to finalisation of the LACAP. WCC have prepared an Chief Executive Report on the submissions received. This document details the submissions received, WCC responses to the submissions, and Plan Action modifications arising following consideration of the submissions.

1.3 Purpose of this Assessment

An AA Screening Assessment must be carried out on all modifications made to the Draft LACAP Actions arising following consideration of submissions. The purpose of this assessment is to identify whether the Plan Action modifications will result in additional effects on European sites not previously considered in the AA process to date, and to inform whether or not a full AA is required on the Plan Action modifications. This AA Screening Assessment considers changes the binding 'Actions' defined within the Plan.

[1] Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
[2] Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

This report documents the AA Screening undertaken to identify the need for full AA in this case. This report accompany the documented Plan Action modifications.

This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

1. The Waterford County Council LACAP 2024 - 2029.
2. The Draft NIR for the Waterford County Council LACAP 2024 - 2029.
3. The Draft SEA Environmental Report for the Waterford County Council LACAP 2024 - 2029.
4. Waterford County Council LACAP Submissions Chief Executive Report.
5. The SEA Screening Report for modifications to Waterford County Council LACAP 2024 - 2029.

2. APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING METHODOLOGY

2.1 Legislative Requirements

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The 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 (Habitats Directive as above and 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 among them. These two designations are collectively known and referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect such sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA. These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

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

Therefore, the AA process is an assessment of the following key concepts:

- Whether a plan or project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site.
- Whether the project will have a potentially significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential impacts.

The provisions of Article 6(3) do not apply where the proposed plan or project is 'connected with or necessary to the management of the site'. Where a formal consent process applies, the AA process is concluded by the relevant competent authority making a determination in accordance with article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

2.2 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (European Commission, 2002).

- This document was updated by Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C(2021) 6913 final;
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010);
- Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2018). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019;
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission 2013;
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator (2021).

The AA screening 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' literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives. The EPA Envision Map-viewer (www.epa.ie) and available reports were also reviewed:

- Definitions of conservation status, integrity and significance used in this assessment are defined in accordance with 'Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC' (EC, 2000).
- The conservation status of a natural habitat is defined as the sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long-term survival of its typical species;
- The conservation status of a species is defined as the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its population;
- The integrity of a European Site is defined as the coherence of the site's ecological structure and function, across its whole area, or the habitats, complex of habitats and/or populations of species for which the site is or will be classified; and
- Significant effect should be determined in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the protected site concerned by the plan or project, taking particular account of the site's conservation objectives.

2.3 Assessment Process and Approach

A Draft NIR has been produced for the WCC Draft LACAP. This report contains the information on the receiving environment, European sites, and potential effects of the Draft LACAP on European sites. The report also defines mitigation measures designed to avoid and minimise effects on European sites. The information contained in this Draft NIR has been referred to during the carrying out of the AA Screening Assessment documented in this report.

This assessment commences with a description of the Plan Action modifications being considered. The type of impacts that are likely due to the Plan Action modifications are then identified and evaluated having regard to nature and characteristics of the Plan Action modifications. The overall AA process will be completed in a revised full NIR at the end of the plan development process incorporating all interim steps, modifications and reports/assessments.

An ecological desktop study has been completed for the AA Screening Assessment of the Plan Action modifications, which comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European sites that may be impacted by Plan Action modifications.
- Identification of European sites pathways.
- Review of the NPWS site synopses and conservation objectives for relevant European sites.
- Examination of available information on protected species.

This desktop assessment mainly involved a review of the Draft NIR produced for the Draft LACAP.

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a plan or a project on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) model. 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 mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

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

In the context of this report, a receptor is an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the Qualifying Interests (QI) or Special Conservation Interests (SCI) of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the Plan Action modifications that is known to interact with ecological processes. A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor[3].

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the Conservation Objectives, QIs and/ or 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 likelihood of significant effects, including in-combination effects, on European Sites is then interrogated having regard to the nature and characteristics of Plan Action modifications, environmental pathways, and the sensitivity of relevant European sites.

Where significant effects are determined to be likely, or where there is uncertainty regarding the likelihood of significant effects, the Plan Action modification must be will be subject to Stage 2 AA and the preparation of a Natura Impact Report (NIR).

[3] Qualifying interest or special conservation interests of the European site in question and the known sensitivities of these key ecological receptors

Having regard to the European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2000) the:

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

This AA screening is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and 'grey' literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives.

3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

A summary of Plan Action modifications arising following consideration of consultation submissions is provided in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1: Summary of Plan Action Modifications

Action	Summary of Modification
2.2	The following text has been added to the action after the word "fleet": Replace fossil fuels with renewable fuel in WCCC Fleet whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced.
5.11	The following text has been added to the action after the word "services": Run waste engagement campaigns through the library services including events such as seed library exchanges, clothes swaps and repair cafes.
4.31	The word "public" has replaced the words "community and employers representatives" in the following action: Create regular Climate Communications to keep the public up to date on how they can contribute to Climate Action in Waterford.
4.16	The word "plan" has replaced the words "devise planning" in the following action: Plan events around 'playful city' principles, E.g. Community Car Free afternoons on Sundays or on days of community festivals.
3.26	The following action has been reworded; the sentence "The Council will identify a sub-catchment where water quality objectives are not being met, and where there is an established flood risk" has been deleted and the sentence "Through advising the farming community and running information campaigns" has been added: Support and inform a climate-proofing programme for natural water resources to manage flooding at the catchment level. Through advising the farming community and running information campaigns.
3.8	The following text has been added to the action afterthe word "spaces": Map green infrastructure (GI) – identify wildlife corridors, conservation and restoration spaces. Under the County Development Plan a Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy is being developed.
2.56	The following action has been reworded: Ensure climate-proofing of heritage funding administered by WCCC, with an emphasis on improved energy performance along with the main goal of conservation of buildings.
2.37	The following action has been reworded: Life Cycle Analysis methodology, consideration of carbon emissions, and consideration of water quality impact to be used in housing and building works planning and for planning permission from 2027 following adoption of National Policy on Life Cycle Assessment.

Action	Summary of Modification
2.36	The following text has been added to the action after the word "County": Carry out a geothermal survey of the county to identify areas with the greatest opportunity for heat production near Council buildings. Survey will include a feasibility assessment for the incorporation of Geothermal into existing heating systems.
2.34	The word "application" has been replaced with the word "decisions" in the following action: Planning decisions process to assess impact of new development proposed in areas determined to have a water supply and quality constraint (i.e., from climate related drought, extreme rainfall events). Assess impact on wastewater discharges and DWWTS and mitigate impacts.
2.8	The words "bus connects" have been added at the end of the following action: Liaise with the NTA to improve systems:- Integration between rail and WMATS (North Quays)- Bus stop facilities- Bus Connects

4. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any likely significant effects to European Sites from the Plan Action modifications, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.

The following has been considered when carrying out the AA Screening Assessment of Plan Action modifications to the Draft LACAP.

- The likely significant effect on the environment and European sites of implementing the Draft LACAP.
- The likely significant effect on the environment and European sites of implementing the Plan Action modifications.
- The mitigation measures defined in Section 5 of the Draft NIR.

Therefore, the Plan Action modifications must be considered in relation to the current Draft LACAP which has already been subject to SEA and AA considerations. All Plan Action modifications are considered therefore in the context of potential additional sources for impacts/effects which were not previously considered.

The first stage of the Screening process in this case involved interrogating Plan Action modifications to ascertain the materiality of the modifications and whether the modifications will result in the occurrence of additional effects on European sites not previously considered in the AA process to date.

4.2 Assessment Criteria

The following parameters are described when characterising impacts (following CIEEM (2016), EPA (2002) and NRA (2009)):

- **Direct and Indirect Impacts -** An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a proposed development.
- **Magnitude** - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.
- **Extent** - The area over which the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.
- **Duration** - The time for which 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.

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines for ecological impact assessment (2016) define: an ecologically significant impact as 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; and the integrity of a site as the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

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

SSCOs have been prepared for a number of European Sites. These detailed SSCOs aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes which 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 Objectives for SACs have been provided as follows:

- 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.

One generic Conservation Objective has been provided for SPAs as follows:

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

EC guidance[4] outlines the types of effects that may affect European sites. These include effects from the following activities:

- Land take;
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.);
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air);

[4] 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, 2001.

- Excavation Requirements;
- Transportation Requirements;
- Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning.

In addition, the guidance outlines the following likely changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Reduction of Habitat Area.
- Disturbance to Key Species.
- Habitat or Species Fragmentation.
- Reduction in Species Density.
- Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.).
- Climate Change.

4.3 Elements of the Plan Modifications with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

An evaluation of the potential environmental implications of each Plan Action modification has been carried out. This evaluation is presented in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1: Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification

Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
2.2	The following text has been added to the action after the word "fleet": Replace fossil fuels with renewable fuel in WCCC Fleet whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced.	This amendment clarifies the text of the action previously considered and mitigated against through the development and Environmental Governance Principle framework. It considers the sources of the energy and fuels to be used by the LA vehicles. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
5.11	The following text has been added to the action after the word "services": Run waste engagement campaigns through the library services including events such as seed library exchanges, clothes swaps and repair cafes.	This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. It adds more examples of engagement campaigns that could be done. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
4.31	The word "public" has replaced the words "community and employers representatives" in the following action: Create regular Climate Communications to keep the public up to date on how they can contribute to Climate Action in Waterford.	This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
4.16	The word "plan" has replaced the words "devise planning" in the following action: Plan events around 'playful city' principles, E.g. Community Car Free afternoons on Sundays or on days of community festivals.	This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
3.26	The following action has been reworded; the sentence "The Council will identify a sub-catchment where water quality objectives are not being met, and where there is an established flood risk" has been deleted and the sentence "Through advising the farming community and running information campaigns" has been added: Support and inform a climate-proofing programme for natural water resources to manage flooding at the catchment level. Through advising the farming community and running information campaigns.	This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. It considers the farming community and information campaigns. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.

Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
3.8	The following text has been added to the action afterthe word "spaces": Map green infrastructure (GI) – identify wildlife corridors, conservation and restoration spaces. Under the County Development Plan a Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy is being developed.	This amendment clarifies the text of an action previously considered. It references the Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy being developed under the County Development Plan, which has been subject to its own SEA and AA. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
2.56	The following action has been reworded: Ensure climate-proofing of heritage funding administered by WCCC, with an emphasis on improved energy performance along with the main goal of conservation of buildings.	This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
2.37	The following action has been reworded: Life Cycle Analysis methodology, consideration of carbon emissions, and consideration of water quality impact to be used in housing and building works planning and for planning permission from 2027 following adoption of National Policy on Life Cycle Assessment.	This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. It considers the National Policy on Life Cycle Assessment. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
2.36	The following text has been added to the action after the word "County": Carry out a geothermal survey of the county to identify areas with the greatest opportunity for heat production near Council buildings. Survey will include a feasibility assessment for the incorporation of Geothermal into existing heating systems.	This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. It details the purpose of the survey and feasibility assessment. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.
2.34	The word "application" has been replaced with the word "decisions" in the following action: Planning decisions process to assess impact of new development proposed in areas determined to have a water supply and quality constraint (i.e., from climate related drought, extreme rainfall events). Assess impact on wastewater discharges and DWWTS and mitigate impacts.	This amended action provides clarification to the text previously considered. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.

Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
2.8	The words "bus connects" have been added at the end of the following action: Liaise with the NTA to improve systems:- Integration between rail and WMATS (North Quays)- Bus stop facilities- Bus Connects	This amendment clarifies text of an action previously considered. It clarifies the focus of the action and in particular how the Council will use its control and influenceto support the Bus Connects programme. This amendment will not introduce any significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against in the SEA and AA process.

4.1 Summary of the Evaluation

The Plan Action modifications are broadly intended to provide clarification on existing information and give better effect to the LACAP having regard to the consultation process. They will not result in any additional sources for likely, significant environmental effects, including effects on ecological processes or European sites, not already considered by the existing NIR for the Draft LACAP.

The Plan Action modifications will not introduce any of the following types of additional environmental effect that have the potential to affect European sites.

- Land take;
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.);
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air);
- Excavation;
- Transportation;
- Construction, Operation, Decommissioning activities.

The Plan Action modifications will not result in any of the following types of change that may occur at a European site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Reduction of Habitat Area.
- Disturbance to Key Species.
- Habitat or Species Fragmentation.
- Reduction in Species Density.
- Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.).
- Climate Change impact.

Further assessment is therefore not required.

4.2 Other Plans and Programs

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 impact upon European Sites. There are no additional sources for effects identified within the Proposed amendments; therefore, there are no in-combination effects.

5. CONCLUSION

Stage 1 Screening for AA of Plan modifications was carried out to determine the need for a full AA for the Plan modifications to the Draft LACAP in this case. It has been demonstrated that implementation of the Plan modifications are not foreseen to have any significant effects on any European Site.

The principal reasons the Modifications to the Draft LACAP do will not give rise to any likely significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, are as follows:

- The modifications are only intended to provide clarification on existing Climate Actions defined in the Draft LACAP and make the LACAP more operative and focussed.
- The modifications are not material and will not result in any additional, likely significant environmental effects, including effects in ecological processes or European sites, not already considered in the NIR for the Draft LACAP.

It is concluded in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of conservation objectives, that the Modifications to the Draft LACAP will not give rise to any likely significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Consequently, a Stage 2 AA is not required for the Plan modifications.

6. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1

Author Details

Author Details

Lead Author - Andrew Torsney is a Principal Ecologist with over 12 years' experience working on major national and local scale projects. Andrew graduated from University College Dublin in 2011 with a B.Sc. degree in Zoology and obtained Master's degree in Biodiversity and Conservation from the University of Leeds in 2012. He has a range of ecological skills which include habitat mapping, ecological surveying, data interpretation and report writing. Andrew is a vegetative plant specialist, who has a wealth of experience classifying riparian habitats and identifying rare floral species. Andrew has a vast knowledge of riparian and freshwater ecosystems and undertakes freshwater surveys regularly. Andrew holds 4 national protected species licenses and has a lot of experience optioning surveying licenses for aquatic species such as the white clawed crayfish. He is also a Bat specialist with a wealth of experience, in acoustic surveying and monitoring of bats. Throughout Andrews's career he has worked on a number of large-scale multifaceted projects such as the Killaloe to Dublin water supply project NIS. For this work, Andrew designed and oversaw all ecological field work relating to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and AA.

Andrew has been the principal ecologist for a range of projects including the AA of the National Wind Energy Guidelines, a number of AAs for County Councils and a range of large-scale infrastructure projects.

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